

upon the programmes, and but little variation is to be made in the variety of productions. To remove the monotony of these performances, is a difficult task. Since it is naturally expected that here will be found the progress made by the students in the University from year to year in their literary pursuits.

The essential caution to be given, is the danger of so many performers upon each programme. If these entertainments are to be made attractive, they must be made reasonably short. And if so many performers are to be permitted to appear, it is well that the committees in charge see that productions do not exceed a proper length. For there is no greater misfortune in these exercises than to weary an audience, with a continual transition from oratory to music and music to oratory.

Let, then, the exercises of the approaching entertainments produce an example that may induce others to follow it. Let the programme be concise, and the preparation be perfect from beginning to end. And if the exercises are to be opened at a fixed time, let that time be rigorously observed. By such a mode of procedure, we may win back the good reputation that we have lost by conducting, in a careless and loose manner, these exercises.

UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE.

Notwithstanding the remarkable increase in the population of our state during the last few years, the attendance at our University seems not to have kept pace with it. The numbers of students have fluctuated in a way not altogether easy to interpret. And now, at the end of the eighth year of the existence of our school, the attendance seems but little larger than at first. Few have persevered to the end of a course of study, and the proportion of floating or transitory students has consequently been very large. In view of the improved facilities of the University, we see no sound reason for

this meagre attendance. It will certainly become more inexcusable with each successive year.

A prominent reason is our lack of academies which characterise the older states. Perhaps our state will always be preeminently agricultural, and therefore less thickly dotted with towns than some others. Hence the imperative need of good intermediate schools in all of our villages that are large enough to sustain them. Parents are not always willing to send their sons and daughters to the preparatory department of a distant college, when, at no greater expense, they may keep them nearer home. At the same time, they can be pursuing the same studies that are taught at our Latin school. Intermediate schools are the natural feeders of a college, and unless they are numerous and flourishing, we may expect our attendance to consist chiefly of transient preparatory students. A preparatory department in connection with a college, is an expedient justified by necessity only, and is dispensed with when possible. It is not good economy to hire a professor at a high salary to teach common school branches.

We have many inducements, that are tempting, to enlarge the June number of the *STUDENT*. Containing the Commencement news, together with a review of the years work, it will be interesting to both the students and the patrons of the *STUDENT* in general. But one and the greatest inducement has not yet occurred. Our books are not yet balanced, our delinquent subscribers have forgotten their indebtedness. We need the *small* sum to balance our accounts and then we will have a little courage to proceed.

It must be remembered that even college journals cannot succeed without funds. For, however ambitious may be the Editors, their individual purses may not equal their generosity of soul. Hence if there are those among us who wish to see the June number of the *STUDENT* a