

in the monastery, in society among the rich as well as poor, shall we heap all the blame of their existence upon their heads, or shall we lay part of the blame where it seems to belong, upon society? If so we must then set to work to remedy the evil by removing the cause. While I do not want to uphold the tramp in any sense whatever, it seems to me that those of us who are in more favored circumstances, should not always curse; we should pity; sometimes we should aid, sometimes we should strive to elevate them for we must remember they are men after all. If the view I have taken is correct, they are not wholly responsible. You and I, as members of society, have some blame; hence duty bids us help elevate and ennoble, help raise from their present unfortunate condition. Self-preservation also calls upon us not to despise them, but to educate them, and lift them up into the pure sunshine of true manhood. Walt.

THE HESPERIAN STUDENT.

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Editorial.

OUR SALUTATORY.

During the past two weeks we have been the gratified(?) recipients of any quantity of advice, from the dignified Seniors who are already beginning to "pose" for commencement day, to the "flunky Freshie" and the large-headed Prep who thinks he is more competent to run the STUDENT than any editor yet elected. Thankfully have we received all suggestions, and one especially we shall do our best to act upon: to write little and publish less. This, for the present, is almost a necessity. The wisdom of the Board of Managers in cutting down the size of our college paper none will deny. Our new form gives less space for editorials as well as abstract matter, and for our part we would gladly have the editorial columns still shorter. A college paper cannot be representative while two, or at most three editors are expected to do all the writing. The college students in the past have permitted the members of the preparatory department to distance them as contributors to the literary columns of the STUDENT. This is scarcely a credit to those farther advanced in their college course, while it speaks well for the ambition and talent of the Preps. It has often been a just complaint against the STUDENT that

its principal contributed articles were essays or orations which had been delivered in society or at exhibitions. This is certainly a great mistake. We ought to take enough interest in our paper to give it our best productions fresh from the pen, and not content the begging editor with a warmed-over thesis already listened to once by an audience which is to constitute the majority of the STUDENT's careful readers. The hatchet, we trust, has been buried forever, and the last echo of the war song died away. For the future, the best energies of all should be directed towards paying the debt of the STUDENT and establishing it upon a secure financial as well as literary basis. To do this the Board and editorial corps need the help of all. The STUDENT ought to be our common property, the pride of us all. It must be an exponent of the experience thought and life found among us. In dealing with college matters the STUDENT will take off its gloves and talk quite plainly. The STUDENT will also endeavor to be just and open to conviction, let others do the same.

SCANDAL.

Newspapers have been said to be the mirror of the public mind. If that be true the avidity with which journals seize upon every bit of scandal that happens to float on the current of gossip, indicates a diseased condition of public sentiment. That is the best newspaper which is the most popular. That one is the most popular which contains the most palatable news. Now what class of news is most eagerly relished by the generality of newspaper readers? The average business man sits down to the breakfast table, morning paper in hand; he sees in bold letters at the head of one column: "Damaging reports against the character of Mr. B.," beside it in the next column, "An enterprise for the relief of the needy in our city." The chances are ten to one that the former is read aloud and discussed before the whole family, while the latter remains unread. No man can bear so strong and upright a character that he is not liable to the damaging reports of malicious tongues. A vicious scandal against an honorable fellow citizen reaches the ear of the reporter. The morning paper puts it in everybody's mouth, adding, perhaps, "we hope Mr. B. may be able to prove himself innocent." It becomes the topic of conversation on the street. Opinions are at once formed as to the truth or falsity of the statement. A lifetime of noble deeds, and benevolent actions are placed in the scale against an idle breath and yet he must establish his innocence through the medium of the newspaper, or his reputation is gone, and he is ostracised by society. And although one thus wronged may vindicate himself to the fullest extent, and all allegations be retracted through the columns of the press yet the impression upon the people cannot be fully eradicated. Another similar report would be more readily believed, and the injury is permanent.

There is certainly an increasing demand for scandalous reading, more dangerous to the future welfare of America than would be a million armed men menacing her borders. This demand is promptly met by the current newspaper

of the day. The most disgraceful scenes, enacted by the out-casts of society, are described with a minuteness of detail, that would have shocked the sense of propriety of our grandfathers. No good can possibly come from such reading. It offers efficient aid to those who are ever ready to pull down the great and good, it lays bare the plague-spots of society that disappear upon exposure, and renders impure the whole moral atmosphere of social life. Just where this evil arises, it is hard to determine. Whether the demand of the reading public for scandalous reading is the cause, or consequence of the increasing amount that finds space in our journals, the reader is left to determine, but certain it is that it would be far better if all such matter were excluded from the columns of our newspapers altogether.

Once more the graduating oration, like the old man of the sea, sits upon the shoulders of the Seniors and again, sinbad-like, he wanders to and fro vainly seeking rest and—ideas. Once more the photographer is compelled to obtain a larger and more powerful camera, and to strengthen his instrument throughout that that he may impress upon perishable cardboard the genius and talent of our Seniors. The bright June days are to bring forth white dresses, flowers and degrees, and cast upon a long suffering public realms and realms of foolscap, alive with the immature opinions of conceited boys, upon politics, religion, science and immortality, while the air will be white with the daintily ribboned essays from girlish pens, touching upon Spring, beauty and the ideal. To us—the despised under-graduates—June will mean cramming, cheating, fear and examinations.

"Farm Schools for Girls" the Chicago *Inter Ocean* tells us was the title of a very interesting paper read before the Michigan Convention of Superintendents of County Poor. It told all about the education of girls in France: They were taught to read, write, and cipher up to long division, and then they learned how to plant corn and drive the plow. These girls are allowed to have only two dresses a year with no trimming on them. They have no shoes in hot weather and are obliged to wear a sunbonnet! There is some talk of introducing such a state of things in this country! Let every girl in the United States rise and object who believes in the good time coming that Gail Hamilton tells us about, when the men will do the work, and the women devote their entire time to aesthetics and literature.

The orthography of some of the students of the University would be a disgrace to a backwoods, district school. With the library provided with an unabridged dictionary and little pocket compendiums to be bought for a mere song there is no excuse for murdering the English tongue. In studying each lesson a student should carefully look up every word in regard to whose pronunciation there is any doubt and he will be surprised to find what a vocabulary a rigid observance of this rule will give him and

that too in a very short time. A similar rule in regard to spelling, Richard Grant White tells us, was the beginning of his critical studies of the English language.

We have lived long and suffered long, and now, as the time comes for the annual meeting of the Regents let us all go to them and show them our empty heads and beg them in the name of learning, vacant brains and inert ideas to provide the means of opening the library all day long. To many of us—compelled to spend the afternoons of the week in study or work—the library is no benefit whatever, while the privilege of spending a vacant hour there every forenoon would be of an advantage to us which would bring forth fruit in better essays, more learned orations, more investigating and better read students.

Some of the eastern colleges have been entertained lately by a series of lectures upon cooking. We hope the fashion will come west. It would be jolly to turn the chapel into an immense kitchen and all the students come with their frying pans, rolling pins, cookey cutters, pattitins, and try all sorts of receipts, and bake any amount of good things to eat. When this course of lectures begins we speak to be chairman of the tasting committee.

The preparations for the society exhibitions are going forward and the STUDENT wants to whisper this little word of advice in the ear of each one who is to take part, and that is to be brief and interesting. Let each exercise be reasonably short and the evening interspersed with plenty of good music and the June exhibitions of this year will be a success.

Editor's Table.

The *Collegian and Neoterian* is the most interesting paper on our table so far. The opening paper, "Portia of Belmont," is an appreciative review of one of the most beautiful characters of Shakespeare's creation. A short but concise article on Conservatism and Reform contains the following sentence: "Advancement has ever been the resultant of two antagonistic forces,—conservatism and reform. Like the centripetal and centrifugal forces of the universe they determine the path of the world's progress." An editorial has this: "The looseness in the use of language so prevalent even in cultivated society threatens to seriously injure our dialect unless some means be found to stop its progress. The press is the greatest opponent to purity of diction. There is scarcely a newspaper in existence that is not a disgrace to our language. Editors strive to be popular, to write so as to suit the street, and the result is their papers abound in errors and vulgarity of the worst description." With what the editor says further of the practical importance of a "well of English, pure and undefiled" and a knowledge of the nice distinctions of words we heartily concur. But we think that the article would be better by such a command and knowledge, as well as by a more just appreciation of the work the press is doing for our language. The word dialect is doubtless