

THE HESPERIAN STUDENT.

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Editorial.

PARTIES.

"Of the whole sum of human life no small part is that which consists of a man's relations to his country, and his feelings concerning it"—says Gladstone, than whom no living man is more capable of taking a comprehensive view of those relations. Patriotism is the glory, loyalty the safeguard of a nation. But our patriotism if we would make it worthy of emulation must be for the nation as a whole, the converging of all interests toward one grand consummation of good. Thus shall the citizen seek his own interests through such channels as shall lead to the growth and progress of his state; and the states founded upon the integrity of their citizens, a mutual help and protection to each other, may unite in one grand harmonious Union such as the father of our country looking forward into futurity saw as the destiny of America. But when shall this be? Do we of to day see the hand of Time scattering the seeds of union and harmony throughout our land? The south whipped into the traces murmurs continually with undisguised hatred of the north; nor can it be denied that the East is already beginning to look with a somewhat jealous eye upon the West. The sectional difference in the resources of our commonwealth, instead of supplementing the strength of each, leads toward continual dissension. Is the inherent jealousy of man too great to endure the prosperity of his neighbor or is the insatiable love of power so great as to well nigh pull asunder the bonds of unity that have twice been sealed by the blood of heroes?

The observer of our politics sees only a continued struggle between parties. As soon as the spoils of one campaign are divided the plans are laid for the next. Nor is the greatest good to the greatest number always found among the components of the force that moves the vast machinery of our government.

The more earnest student of the politics of our country, he who goes below, must find corruption and fraud everywhere present. The high sounding declarations of love and veneration that one hears everywhere in political circles, are mere mockeries that serve as a cloak for evil designs. Avarice, and ambition in its grossest forms are the objects that lure unprincipled men to gamble for the confidence of the people. It is by no means a common thing to see men of the highest character seeking office; nor would they succeed if they should. Occasionally we hear an eloquent voice lifted in defense of our political honor and integrity. As a rule however we are the prey of charlatans and party schemers. With all our boasted intelligence we are practically lead about by the nose and are expected to vote for such candidates as the leaders place before us. No crime is so great in political life as for a man to "go back on his party." No matter what the needs of the people may be, he must serve, body and soul, the circle of political tricksters who secured his election. Party, and not the people, is the sovereign of America to-day. The only release from the tyranny of this despot is through a more generous education in politics. Let each man be taught to feel that he is responsible for the political evils that exist, and that no party has a right to rule which does not serve the true end and aim of our country. Then will the bonds of our union be strong through intelligence of a sovereign people.

ELOCUTION.

The study of elocution, like the study of music, is considered by many as a mere accomplishment; one of the passports to refined society, and as such should be left out of the curriculum of a state university. When we consider how directly the communication of our ideas is dependent upon the organs of speech, and that the weight of our opinions shall depend as much upon the expression as the thought, we shall realize how important is training of this kind. It gives assurance of manner and elegance of address, qualities which are of importance in securing a position as a schoolmaster, or a clerk, as in gaining a verdict.

It is with pleasure that we observe the interest that is springing up among us in regard to this study. Instruction in elocution has ever been the most obvious need in our work here, and although not yet regularly provided for, as many less needful things have been, yet we trust that the demand now arising may be sufficient to persuade the Regents of the utility of providing the means of thorough elocutionary drill.

It has sometimes been the opinion of the STUDENT that more tendencies to drunkenness and "rowdiness" were tolerated in the University than was for the best interests of the other students, but after reading the last *Berkeleyan* from the California University the STUDENT again congratulates itself that the times are as good as they are. The editor of the *Berkeleyan* devotes several columns to an indignant protest against the notorious debauchery of some of the college stu-

dents and he relates a flagrant act of disobedience in the Freshman class which, not two days after a severe lecture from the President upon the disastrous consequences of their becoming intoxicated again, went immediately and had an other grand "beer bust"—as the *Berkeleyan* calls it—accompanied by a good old fashioned stand-up-and-knock-down fight. If scenes of this sort are allowed to become regular accompaniments of University education, those who favor sectional schools only, will have a most potent argument for their side and one which will be very efficacious with fathers and mothers. The good people of California will not long countenance such proceedings, and either stricter discipline will be insisted upon or the falling off of students will be very great. It is a credit to their paper that it so emphatically condemned the growing evil and persisted in publishing its condemnation in spite of the protests from those who did not at all sympathize with the rioters.

The University has followed the example of older schools in forming class organizations, holding Junior exhibitions and so on, but we are still behind the times in being without an "Ugly Klubb." Let some of our enterprising students take hold of this matter without delay. We have an abundance of material to work upon and the list of members would be large we are sure. The STUDENT offers its services in any way that may be thought desirable. The whole editorial staff, business manager included, are willing to be made presiding officer or any other kind of an officer and to devote their talents heartily to the work. One of the most enjoyable things we have read lately was the account given in the *Student Life* of an exhibition held at Wesleyan University under the auspices of their Ugly Club. The programme was outrageously ugly and unspeakably funny. The chapel was draped with mottoes punning upon the names of students and recalling to mind jokes which had been played upon them. As the members, dressed in most ridiculous costumes, made the "Grand Entree" a burlesque of the great musicians was played. The exercises consisted of speeches and songs, none of them vulgar or silly but in perfect good taste and yet full of fun. The programmes were bogus and the evening ended with a "Grand Potpourri." Let's have one.

One exchange devoted some space to complaining of the easy way in which the degree of A. M. is obtained in western colleges especially. In the East as a rule much care is taken to prevent the conferring of this degree unless it is well merited. If this degree is not always given only after a post graduate course or a literary career it will soon become a farce as far as any additional honor is concerned. Some colleges make one year of study sufficient, others two and some three. The more the better. As a people we have too much affection for titles—empty titles too—which can not possibly bring any honor to the recipient. The A. M. degree at present is fast sinking to the level of the A. B. and the ease with which the higher title is gained is flooding the

country with titled professors and quasi literary men whose attainments and scholarship do not at all merit the honor.

It has been over two years and a half since the STUDENT has been able to chronicle the results of a good contest between the two societies. It is about time to have another. This is the longest term in the year and gives abundant opportunity for preparation on the part of the societies. We are sure that such a contest would give a literary impetus to the members of both societies and result beneficially to the societies financially. Let the challenge come on.

Editor's Table.

Vol. I, No. 1, Sept. 16, 1880, is the first number of a new college daily, from Cornell University, called the *Cornell Sun*. It is the third college daily, the *Yale News* being two years old and the *Harvard Echo* one. Its first issue contains eight pages but it takes pains to state that this is not with any intent to deceive, as they intend to have only four ordinarily, but is because of the great amount of news. It asserts, a little paradoxically, that the *Sun* will come every day but Sunday, and thinks it can be demonstrated that the *Sun* never sets.

We congratulate the Students of Cornell on the expected return from Berlin in the spring, and resumption in the fall of his University duties of President White. It has been widely rumored that he would resign his position as President, and in that case Cornell would have lost a man to whom vastly more than to her rich endowments she owes her remarkable growth and high position among the institutions of the country. Founded but twelve years ago, she holds no second place in respect to the thoroughness and comprehensiveness of the work done, or the enlightenment and progressiveness of the spirit in which it is done. In accordance with the aim of its founder, that of founding an institution where any person could find instruction in any study, a large number of courses are provided and the elective system prevails more widely than anywhere else. "The fact seems to be established" says President White "that a large number of young men who show little interest in the studies of a general course have become energetic students when allowed to choose after their own tastes and aims." He it is who has done more than anyone else to awaken an interest in the question of education in politics, the relation of the scholar to politics, and the wisdom of having special college courses in political and social science, history and jurisprudence. His words on the subject are golden. "These studies are usually crowded into the last few months of a college course, while for the special course they should be made the staple for the entire four years. Political economy is taught only in a few of our colleges and universities except from a text book. The results are constantly before us. There is certainly no lack of talent and genius in our country. Foreigners are struck with the number of men of ability among us, and the power they possess of presenting their ideas to their fellow citizens. But they get their