

ment of the right or the wrong side of a question, and a man with such a power can no more help wielding a mighty influence than he can help breathing if he would live. Mighty deeds and good ones live long after one is dead, books, whether of truth or fiction are as immortal as the languages in which they are written, but nothing, to us, is quite so thrilling, so soul-stirring as eloquent speech. True, one only one great generous deed can stand so boldly out on the page of history as to be a perfect beacon light to a selfish groveling world, and a book or poem can be strewn broad-cast over the world, in every country and language and among all peoples and with its earnest words or stimulating, rouse up the dormant consciences and faculties which men have almost ceased to believe are here at all. And yet the human tongue with the varying tones of the human voice, is more effective than them all. Men are moved by impressive speech as in no other way. The destinies of nations even may hang upon the eloquence of an hour. The lives of men every day depend upon the power of speech and alas then for the stammering tongue, the befogged ideas and hesitant fitful language. Simplicity and earnestness and truth are necessary prerequisites to effective speech. "Eschew fine words as would rouge," says an English writer; "love simple ones, as you would native roses on your cheeks." So we send our greeting and good wishes to this new debate as we do to all projects to further effective speech and eloquent address amongst us.

WE can remember, and it is not so long ago either, when the classes for the June exhibitions were determined as the officers of the society were and are. The faction of the society which chanced to have the controlling power secured the exhibition committee, as it was, we think, called, whose business it was to select the class for the society. Members were chosen for important places who were so fortunate as to belong to the party in power; members of the committee not unfrequently put themselves on, and this came at last to be an understood thing that the President should appoint a committee with so little modesty as to choose themselves to represent the society at its annual exhibition. It thus sometimes came about that those on the June programme were there not because they were selected by the society as the most competent to represent it, but because they had had sufficient assurance, being members of the committee in charge of all arrangements, to elect themselves, and by skillful maneuvering to secure the adoption of the desired report by the society, if indeed, this farcical formality was necessary. The absurdities of such

a system are apparent and the evils under favorable circumstances may become great. If the President is on the side of the majority and appoints a committee from the same side, still they ought not to have undisputed authority. And if the President chooses to repudiate his own party and toady, for any reason, to the opposing faction, or if he perchance belongs to the minority in the first place, and so gives the committee entirely to them, it is plain that the society will not probably be fairly represented. Even if the report of the committee has to be adopted before it is worth anything, still the difficulty is not by any means entirely done away with. The point which we are trying to get at is that these exhibitions should come directly under the control of the society in every particular. There is too much of the "spoils system" in this committee business anyhow. Under the old regime we recall now a story which was told on one of these "exhibition committees" to the effect that after the committee had met, chosen the class and arranged the programme, decided upon the style, cost, and so forth, one member suggested that the names of the committee be printed on the back of the programmes, when lo and behold every member of the committee was also a member of the class for the exhibition! And as the chairman pertinently remarked he could see no necessity for printing their names on both sides of the programme!

THE STUDENT has not unfrequently given place in these editorial columns and elsewhere to earnest protests against further curtailing our library privileges and also to requests equally earnest that these privileges of the library be increased and that more time be allowed students in the library room, and even that they should be permitted to take out more than one book at a time. In the opinion of the STUDENT the library should be open during the mornings as well as afternoons, and all day on Saturday. The books in the University library are purchased for the use of the students—at least that is the common supposition—and the students in order to have the full benefit of them must have access to the room oftener and longer than from two to five afternoons in the week. We know that this is an old theme and the fact that the students feel that they are not being fairly treated in this matter is shown by the frequent allusions which have been made to the subject from time to time in the college paper. The public library is open from two to ten P.M. daily and many of the students go there because our own room is not accessible. Yet while we can make the city library do duty very often instead of the University library, still there are some

books wanting in the former which are found in the latter. The University library contains many books of reference which are not to be found elsewhere and to which students ought to have free access. Attention to the whole matter of the library was called by the communication of the Librarian to the Regents in which, according to the *Journal* report, Prof. Howard thinks that too many have access to the room and that the books ought to be better protected—which means probably that the books had better be kept carefully upon the shelves and preparatory students and all others who fail to handle the volumes as they would eggs, be greatly restricted in their library privileges. Of course the books will wear out, but if meanwhile more or less of the wit and wisdom they contain find lodgment in the craniums of a larger or smaller number of students, the end for which those books were purchased will, in the opinion of the STUDENT, have been accomplished. The books which wear out can be replaced and those students whose educations at the University are rounded and polished by means of their free use of a larger library than was ever open to them before are not going to begrudge to the students who come after them the money necessary to replace the books injured in their college course. And, it must be remembered, those who are our students here to-day are the tax-payers, voters and legislators of to-morrow, and the future interests of our institution are largely under the control of its present pupils—interests to be kindly fostered by them or ruthlessly overlooked as their present experiences shall mould and determine their actions toward their alma mater. The rule of taking only one book at a time is far from accomplishing the object for which, in our opinion, it must have been made. It may be that only a short chapter or paragraph or single sentence is wanted by a student from each of two, three, or a half dozen works yet if he cannot find the references needed, while at the library or for some reason cannot remain there long enough and would like to take them all home with him for a few hours or over one night or two possibly, there is that old rule learned by heart ere this to the effect that he can take home only one book at a time. Then supposing he does want only one he may want it longer than two weeks and it is begging the question to talk of the injustice of one student keeping a book longer than two weeks, for we have not unfrequently wanted a book longer than two weeks and brought it back when the time was up only under protest, and to see it stand untouched on the shelf 'till we took it out again! Give us liberty, then, in our library and reading-room and all freedom not inconsistent with order and harmony.