

HESPERIAN STUDENT

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OUR CRITICS.

Everyone in the State feels that he has given something to support the State institutions, and hence a person or paper that can point out a defect in any of these institutions is looked upon as a public benefactor. This circumstance, of course, produces a multitude of fault finders. Now, adverse criticism can not materially lessen the attendance at the asylum, the reform school, or the penitentiary; but with the university the case is different. The university must compete for patronage with other institutions of learning, and those who wonder why so many students are leaving the State to attend distant colleges, may find some explanation in the fact that denominational or private schools do not have to contend against such a vast amount of misrepresentation and fault-finding. The professors and students in denominational schools have a great interest in telling of its merits, while no one is particularly interested in pointing out its defects. What wonder that such a school should be freer from unfriendly criticism than our own? Perhaps we ought not to complain since eternal grumbling seems to be the price at which the State gives the money to support the school. Perhaps also we ought to be philosophical enough to recollect that kicking is the only way by which a jackass can attract attention, and hence we ought to let him kick. As it is not possible to stop the grumbling, we would only ask those who may read any article in reference to the university to remember that fault-finding is an easy but often effective way of gaining popularity.

We were lead to write the above partly by the notices that have appeared in some of the papers in reference to the Palladian entertainment on the evening of Charter Day. To be sure the programme was somewhat unusual for a literary society to present, but the object was fun, and the performance had been advertised for exactly what it was. Those who wished to listen either to professional minstrels or to a well-prepared literary performance should have stayed away. If there were any poor jokes cracked, the Palladian society repents; if the exercises failed to interest those who witnessed them, we are sorry; but aside from these things the society's conscience is clear. The performance could be justified by numberless precedents in other colleges. Nothing was done that could offend the "most fastidious," unless these same fastidious persons were also chronic fault-finders. The *State Journal* does not have to grumble for a living and generally has most excellent judgment in regard to such matters. In this instance the editor-in-chief knew how to take the joke, and said the proper thing about it. But the all-wise and over-moral local department rolled up its eyes and shook its pious locks very gravely over the terrible juxtaposition of the words "minstrel" and "chapel."

People who have had means of judging say that the

students of this university are an unusually peaceable and hard working lot; but it seems impossible for us to get the name of being even decent because of the vast number of dyspeptic newspapers in the State. We wish that we had here for a short time a few of the students from some of the eastern colleges that they might teach the editors and others what really wild college boys are like. It may even seem advisable for us to set to work in cold blood and haze the Preps., duck some of the professors and knock down a policeman or two in order to make the journalistic grandmothers of the State appreciate our usually quiet behavior.

WE APOLOGIZE

An editorial appeared in our last issue censuring Senator Butler in the severest terms that the *STUDENT* could think of, for moving to close the State University and Normal School. Of course it is unnecessary to tell a person of average intelligence that the honorable senator never did any such a thing; but for the benefit of any among our readers who may be so unfortunate as to have no more sense than ourselves, we would say that he not only never did it, never thought of doing it, never could have been induced to do it; but that on the contrary he worked hard for a liberal appropriation for these institutions. A veteran politician like ex-governor Butler would not of course be much affected by such a notice, but we are most sincerely sorry that through a total misapprehension of circumstances, we should have given him cause to think that we were such a lot of ungrateful idiots. Let us breathe again the old, old prayer, "From willful errors we can guard ourselves, but from mistakes, kind heaven deliver us."

In committee of the whole Saturday P. M. notwithstanding the opposition of the chairman of the committee on Finance, Conkling and of the honorable Senator McShane of Douglas, the appropriation for the University, for the two ensuing years was fixed at \$75,000. The *STUDENT* wishes to thank those who championed the measure and would especially mention Senators Butler and Kin, kaid for their disinterested work in behalf of the University. To any who may repeat the old cry that this money has been taken from the many and given to the few we would suggest a way by which each one of the injured parties may get even. Just send your young people here to school and so become one of the favored few. If you have no children of course you are free from a great tax upon time and money and can afford to help educate some other person's child.

The appropriation for the completion of our state house, which has been some four years in erection, was passed on the day before the legislature adjourned.