

HESPERIAN STUDENT.

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Editorial Notes,

During last spring term we read an article in the "N. Y. Tribune," describing the Harvard Student's Cooperative Association. Its object was to enable its members to procure whatever they needed, from text books to senior hats, at wholesale prices. Any student could become a member by paying a small fee. It is about time that some such association should be established in the University of Nebraska, and that we declare our independence of such book-sellers as will agree to furnish a class with books at eighty cents but when the books come, often three weeks late, a dollar is charged for them. If any one has presumption enough to suggest that the books were to cost only eighty cents, he is politely told to "allez au diable," or get the book somewhere else, which of course cannot be done, as said book-seller now has a monopoly. Students can easily find out two or three weeks in advance what books they will need, and, by ordering a large number at once, can get them at wholesale prices. Let us agitate the matter, and if we do not order our own books we can at least buy them from those who deal in a straight-forward manner.

SOME of our students think that if a person belongs to either literary society "patriotism" requires him to place his society work first and his regular studies second in the scale of importance. We must ac-

knowledge that our "patriotism" is so weak that we think otherwise. We believe that the society was made for the student, and not the student for the society. We believe that an active part in public literary exercises may be of as much value to the student, and sometimes even more, than an equal amount of other work, and yet a student's circumstances may be such that he cannot take an active part. In our regular college course we are required to do a given amount of work in a given time. We may be able to accomplish that and have time to spare, or we may not. Now the question hinges on this—does a student's duty to his society require him to neglect his studies in order to give him time to prepare an essay or an oration? We think not. A student who joins neither society does neither any injury. If he joins one and pays his dues he helps to the amount of his dues. If he is an entertaining writer, speaker or musician, and chooses to take part, he benefits himself and the society so much. If he does not choose to take part, no one except himself is at all affected. We admit that when a student has his name on the list of active members, and as such the secretary places his name on the program, "patriotism" demands that he should notify the secretary of his inability to perform, in time to procure a substitute. It is natural for a person to be partial toward his own society, and to do all in his power, both with his money and his ability to make it prosperous, but if he is unable to do "his share" of the literary work no blame should be attached to him.

HORACE MANN will be remembered chiefly on account of his labors in the cause of education, but none of his efforts were so profitable to the masses as the lecture-system, he was instrumental in founding. His aim was to make it the medium for conveying instruction and entertainment to the masses. At first twenty-five cents would secure a "reserved seat," and from twenty to fifty dollars would be considered a high price for a good lecturer. In this age of improvements we have risen above all that, we now pay two dollars for a seat, and often as high as five hundred per night to the speaker. It often happens too, that the merits of the lectures follow some of the laws of physics—they are in inverse ratio to the cost. Lecturers, like every other modern thing, are under the control of monopolies. Opera house managers engage them of a third party. The consequence is that in lectures we have the counterpart of the drama. We have the comedy in "The Rise and Fall of the Moustache, and to gratify the taste of the largest class of patrons we have the sensational Dr. O'Leary lecture, as well as the sensational play. We have numbers of good lecturers in the field, but aside from those who already have a national reputation, it is