

tween him and mankind, which alone can make life happy and worth living. If each one could only realize what poison he is drinking in when he allows himself to become a victim to such influences, sooner would he cut off his hand than receive it.

THE STUDENT rises to remark that it is strange that from one to two years are required by the regents to fill any vacancy occurring in the college faculty. In this scientific age a University without a department of natural sciences is like a presentation of Hamlet without the leading character. Yet it is true that this department has been practically a cipher during the present year. It is a fine sarcasm on students, university, and people to present diplomas and confer degrees to graduates from the scientific course who have done nothing but text book work and very little of that in the class of studies that should be the backbone of their education—and then to cap the climax by withdrawing all instruction in the natural sciences during the two principle terms of the year. It is very remarkable if there is no one to be had who can take even temporary charge of the classes now unprovided for. Some one is certainly to blame and whether the responsibility rests with the faculty or the regents, it is high time something was done. Diplomas given under such conditions convey an idea which is known to be false and the result is detrimental not only to the students of the present, but even more so to the reputation of the University.

THE English opposition has lost its best chance to overturn Mr. Gladstone's government. General Gordon's safe arrival in the Soudan has saved the administration for the present though the tendencies of the times are against it. England is forced by public opinion and consistency alike to resume the offensive in Africa. Without discussing the abstract merits of the case, it is safe to say that if England intended any action it should have taken place several weeks sooner. The unnecessary death of hundreds of men rests now upon the English government, and a mere technicality of official recognition is the one poor excuse it has to offer. As finally aroused, however, the outcome of its policy seems likely to be only good. Much to the surprise of the conservatives General Gordon has recognized El Mahdi as Sultan of the Soudanese and his further action is to replace the oppressive Egyptian rulers with native officers. With the comparative freedom of the Soudan will probably come the subjection of Egypt, at least for a time, to English regency, and probably no better thing could happen to that distracted country. A thoroughly ignorant people is not fitted for free government, and such the Egyptian people certainly is. While it may be difficult to trace England's right in her assump-

tion of authority there, it cannot be doubted that the best interests of all nations demanded that some power should interfere, while England's matured military policy seemed to point out the duty as hers.

THE STUDENT is neither an organ of the fraternities nor of those opposed to them. An editorial which appeared in our last issue however has caused some discontent among the frats, and the following reply has been handed us. We will try in future to avoid the subject as far as possible.

THE University is at present torn and rent over the awful, all-important question of Greek Letter Societies. Whether the strife will reach the proportions of the French Revolution or not is a question. Robespieries are certainly not wanting as leaders. The earnestness with which the question is discussed would imply at least that something terrible is going to happen. Owing to my short-sightedness I fail to see exactly what. As far as I can determine, the purposes of these societies are harmless; they have no malicious end in view, but are simply social clubs. It seems foolish that the peace of the University should be disturbed by such trivial things. If some students are afraid these societies will be the cause of contention, let them be the more careful of stirring it up. Students ought to have a little broader standpoint, than to let such petty considerations as the rivalry of societies have any weight. The best way is to quietly let them alone. Whether or not it would have been best to have kept them out is not the question now. They are here, and it only remains to make the best of it. It seems positively ludicrous that so much excitement should be created over such small matters; we ought to remember that we are not children, but young men and women. If these societies attempt anything in opposition to the interests of the University they will kill themselves, and if they do not there is no reason for attacking them. It takes two parties to quarrel, and if the outsiders do not oppose them there will be no trouble.

THE improvements in methods of study in the University during the last two years is very noticeable. Where text-book work was the rule, it is now the exception. Many of the students now do not feel satisfied with their preparation of a subject until they have read every thing relating to it which our limited library contains,—and this brings us to our text. Not all of our students desire, or are fitted, to specialize the subjects of history and literature; yet our library seems to have been selected with these two studies almost exclusively in view. A proportion of seven alcoves, two of them double, of history and five devoted to literature, to two scantily filled with books relating to all the sciences and mathematics does not offer fair advantages to students who wish to have a thorough knowledge of science or any one of the sciences. Of books on astronomy we have not half a dozen. A few stray volumes from the works of Darwin, Huxley and Tyndall, giving a fragmentary idea of each without a complete set of any, comprise