

nearly all the books relating to the central theory of modern science. Even the very text book of evolution—Darwin's *Origin of Species*—has not been replaced since its disappearance some three years ago. Of the latest works of science giving the results of the past two years of research we have absolutely none, except in the single line of chemistry; yet every few months sees a new shelf of histories, which, while valuable to the specialist, are very little used by the student—in fact they will still be new when the few scientific books we possess are quite worn out. The two departments spoken of have absorbed the strength that should be divided among the different subjects. We do not wish to be interpreted as blaming those who have developed their departments, but only those who have not developed theirs. It is of course the duty of each to do the best of his ability what is placed before him, and what we need is not less active men in our better departments, but men that are more active in the poorer ones.

### *Charter Day.*

In this number we occupy the space usually devoted to purely literary work with the exercises of Charter Day, in order that the students may have a visible reminder of a most successful and appropriate celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the existence of our University. The sentiments of the students were represented by A. G. Warner's "The University from a Student's Standpoint;" J. H. Holmes' "Address of Welcome," and Miss Painter's "Charter Day Poem." The first two are given below, the last on the first page. The excellent address of Chancellor Manatt, which treated of matters of practical interest to every teacher and student, is omitted for want of room.

#### *THE UNIVERSITY FROM A STUDENT'S STANDPOINT*

The western college is pre-eminently a citizen factory. To be sure in America citizens are born and not made, but nature is often a bungling workman and the natural man bears no more relation to the kind of a citizen that is needed in this country, than a pile of iron ore bears to a locomotive. Especially do we need an intelligence mill in this state, for whatever of value there may be in Nebraska more than is found in the dirt that fills its borders, exists in consequence of the intelligent activity of man. In other states natural commercial advantages, or mines, or forests, or water-power, or what-not, aid man in his attempts to live. In this state nature simply mixes up for him a loess deposit and literally invites him to go to grass.

To go back to the beginning—which is a highly improper thing for a ten minute speaker to do—I would say that nature (if we take the word narrowly) is a green horn. She did a good work in plastering the soil over this country, but when that was accomplished seemed at a loss as to what ought to be done next, and so did

nothing. For thousands of years she farmed this state and during the whole period produced nothing but Indians, buffaloes, buffalo grass, cottonwood, coyotes, rattlesnakes, and grass-hoppers.

If, then, it devolves upon man alone to answer the great question of the utility or the uselessness of this state it may be repeated that its great need is brain-power. So far we have necessarily imported from other states; but, whether the political economists approve or not, the fact remains that it is the tendency of all governments to become protective. While the aforesaid economists have been pounding away with no more success than they deserve on the tariff question, the central government and all the state governments have been advancing along other lines to the protection of the weak against the strong,—to the protection of themselves against destroying tendencies that have hitherto been called laws of nature.

The blind, the dumb, the criminal, the insane, the studious are now provided for, or aided by the government. So, in this institution—by the state and for the citizens, the ultimate aim must be worthiness of citizenship and this end may or may not be reached through scholarship. There are some three hundred students here at present, and for many of us scholarship is a thing that is unattainable. Perhaps for many as for myself, a course here is but a six year's vacation from farm work. It is no possible for those whose earlier years are taken up with manual labor and who are not able to begin studying anything but the common branches before they are sixteen or seventeen years of age, to acquire the thorough scholarship that is possible for one, who through his whole youth has had nothing that he was compelled to do except study.

I think it was Oliver Wendell Holmes who doubted if any one could obtain as thorough an appreciation of books as he who, as a boy has been tumbled about in a great library. There is certainly a vast difference between such a boy and one who has been tumbled about among the difficulties of a western life. In the acquisition of refinement and scholarship the former has an advantage which nothing but great superiority on the part of his competitor can overcome; yet if he fails to find that there are difficulties in this world, fails to learn the eternal needfulness of work, his advantage is a disadvantage.

The state has taken upon itself to provide for the needs of all, and rightly; but American colleges, more especially state institutions, and most especially western state institutions should provide first, and most carefully for those who are little able to achieve as good an education as they desire to except the state furnish the opportunity.

It is useless to say all this, for, consciously, or unconsciously our higher schools have already shaped themselves to this end. In a college in which a student has to be working his own way, at least in part, in order to be considered as one of the upper ten, it was long ago discovered that a set of cast iron rules was but a nuisance, and that there was no longer any use for the old fashioned president with white hair, a prominent chin, and a gold headed cane. Where outside work was necessary and thorough preparation for college work impossible it was also wisely concluded that a loose course, was bet-