

THE HESPERIAN

(HESPERIAN STUDENT.)

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE double number contemplated for Commencement week will not be published. It would have been necessary to omit this number had we issued a double one June fifteenth. That number will, however, contain the promised programs and Commencement exercises. Beside a full report of the events of that week we contemplate publishing a short summary of the year's happenings, by which we hope to revive and continue such customs and influences as have tended to arouse among us the college spirit. A portion of our space regularly devoted to other work will have to be sacrificed for this purpose, but we deem the events of Commencement week of sufficient interest to warrant such a disposition.

The contribution by a friend of the University in which he asks for some explanation of the disrepute into which the Agricultural Course has fallen, is certainly worth a brief notice. Perhaps he has failed to consider all the circumstances which have tended to destroy the interest of the student in that department, perhaps he has somewhat overdrawn the matter or is misinformed; if so, he should certainly be allowed some explanation since he is undoubtedly sincere in his views. There is indeed some cause to ask for improvement. Whether or not that improvement is now being made, and time only is needed in order to prove it, is the question. The charges, as he says are not new ones, and it is a question whether or not sufficient time and opportunity has been given to remove

the causes of these old complaints. This is truly a matter of moment to all and in particular to students of the University. In accordance with our announced policy we publish all such articles as this would seem to be, asking only that all statements, all criticisms, all exceptions taken, be fairly stated, and charitably discussed. Here you have an opportunity to express your opinions, provided you are truly honest in those views. The chronic fault-finder shall find no place in these columns, nor any sympathy among our readers so long as we may be able to discover him. But a fair and open discussion will soonest relieve us of smothered discontents, and will soonest right all grievances.

WE sympathize in no small degree with Sans Detour concerning the importance of the work done by our literary societies, and the seemingly needless restrictions laid upon them. But we are not "all wise" and shall make no complaint on that score. But if the work of these societies is really valuable and worth encouraging, why are they so seldom visited by members of the faculty? Some few of the professors and tutors do visit them and speak encouragingly of the work done. Knowing the value of their time we do not feel like asking them to attend oftener, but we do feel like saying to other of our instructors that we take it to signify their approval or disapproval, accordingly as they attend or stay away from the Friday evening programmes. We believe that the presence of members of the faculty would bring about two good results.

In the first place it would tend to raise the standard of the productions offered, since the performer would exert himself the more, knowing that he would be favored with the presence of his instructor. We believe, again, that in order to understand fully and to sympathize with our literary societies in their worthy attempt to attain to the proper standard of excellence, such knowledge of their workings is necessary as can be gained only by repeated visits, and by a closer acquaintance with the members. There are few so busy that they cannot find time to visit them once a term,—and we are authorized to say that all will feel encouraged rather than embarrassed by their presence.

In another column of our paper there appears an article the purpose of which is to ask of certain newswriters fairer statements of our merits and of our defects. We make a note of those reports in this column because we would not be misunderstood or misquoted in our opinion. We do not hope to silence all adverse critics, nor do we wish to encourage flatterers. One who has but lately completed a course of study here, and passed through those troublous times

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