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## THE HESPERIAN

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A. H. BIGELOW, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.

ASSOCIATES:

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### EDITORIAL NOTES.

Who is there who regrets the little difficulty over the control of The HESPERIAN? It is as a general thing, best to maintain peace and harmony among students; yet, a good earnest contest, if not carried too far rebounds to the ultimate good of all students. Let the young active man pass his year of study in a student community which is not agitated by anything save friendly class rivalry, and he comes out possessing no particular interest in the doings and workings of that community, no such a feeling as that denominated as college spirit. It is true that such contests are not the sole causes of the growth of such a spirit but they certainly contribute their share toward relieving the monotony.

THE meeting of several of state associations in our midst, during the last fortnight, should have been hailed with more interest by our students, in general than was evinced. The State Historical Society presents papers which should not only be of interest to

members of the literary course which embraces so much history, but should interest students of all courses as concerning the history of their own state. Of equal importance to all, but more especially to the members of the Scientific and Agricultural courses, should be the proceedings of the state Horticultural and Agricultural Societies. It is certainly the right thing for these societies to meet with us, as the state institution which labors to advance their cause, and we, as students should encourage their meetings with us, by not only doing them the simple courtesy of attending, but by doing all in our power to make them feel that the University has an interest in the work and that, an earnest one.

AN old subject yet one which is capable of considerable discussion as yet, is the matter of oratorical contests. The contest of last Saturday evening afforded every opportunity for observation. There were at least quite a number of the competitors who spent the major part of last vacation upon their productions and it is certain that a large part of their time during the week preceding the contest was consumed in practice. This is a fact in all such contests and the question arises, can we as students, afford to use so much of our time which if not necessary to class work, should be devoted to needed recreation, in preparing for such a contest? Even granting that the time used is not taken from study hours, and I venture that most of it is, can it be policy to sacrifice our wonted amusement. As members of a society, it is a question as to whether or no, the society would not be benefited more if some of the energy were spent in the regular society productions, making the real contest as to who is the best orator, in the regular society work. There is no doubt that in a years work a far more reliable decision could be reached. On the other hand a student who is to be brought before the public as a contestant for oratorical honors is apt to be benefited greatly by the fact that he acquires practice in close application and concentration, besides acquiring accurate knowledge of the subject in hand. There is of course an element of encouragement to excel in literary work, and it is probable that this incentive would balance the loss of the energy of the few contestants from the regular programs. But we would still maintain that, where encroachments upon regular class work and upon