

EXCHANGE BRIC-A-BRAC.

The *Aurora*, from Ames, Ia., put in its appearance this month for the first time in a year. Both in form and appearance it is a decided improvement upon the paper of former years.

The *Swarthmore Phoenix* has lately been added to the number of our exchanges. It is one of the handsomest papers on our list, and the numbers we have seen indicate that those who have it in charge are men and women of more than ordinary capacity.

The *Wesleyan*, from Iowa, tells of a contest in which three of the four participants chose subjects from Shakespeare's characters. We must confess our inability to see anything of the oration in a mere characterization of, for instance, King Richard III. We doubt if an oration can be written on the subject. Certain it is, the Iowa gentleman who tried it went far wide of the mark.

The co-ed who handles the exchanges for our much esteemed contemporary, the *Simpsonian*, is quite inconsistent. She protests against a remark we once made concerning some orations printed in her paper, and in the same column gives as her belief substantially what we stated, viz: that the average college oration is an abomination. Perhaps, however, we ought not to censure the lady for what is not so much her failing as that of her sex.

A recently received exchange is the *Haverfordian*. It is what might be termed at present a typical eastern college paper. Whatever it is we unhesitatingly pronounce it one of our best exchanges. It may be that a paper which is devoted almost entirely to athletic sports does not approach very nearly to the ideal, but the tone of the *Haverfordian* is so mature and so entirely business like that it easy to account for the high rank it holds. Its exchange matter presents a surprising contrast to the rot which the majority of papers call by that name.

One of our flock confesses a childish curiosity to make our personal acquaintance. Well, we are not naturally of a frigid or even reserved disposition, and very likely, if you take the right kind of measures you can accomplish the desired end. If the distance from Topeka to Lincoln is too great, or the walking too poor, for you to come up, we will do our best to accommodate you by exchanging tints. No doubt we would receive our share of the benefit arising from such a transaction. The likeness of a more or less fair Washburn co-ed pasted upon the glass door of the old cupboard which serves as the receptacle for our exchanges, would certainly be an immense inspiration to us in the lonely hours when we bury ourselves to the neck in "college journalism."

The impression commonly prevails among the people of the northern states that when the late civil war was ended all those causes of contention which gave rise to it were buried forever. Yet there are people in both sections of the country who seem not to realize the fact, and who proceed as though the cessation of the strife of arms was no reason for complete reconciliation. The utterances of such persons find their way into print, and while the chances are that such seditious will fail of re-awakening the animosities of thirty years ago, nevertheless they are one of the most disgraceful features of American newspaper literature. Perhaps we might well begin nearer home to mention specific instances of the practice; but our attention has more than once been called to articles of this character printed in southern exchanges. Undoubtedly grave considerations why the United States cannot profitably remain undivided must be taken into account by statesmen. It is very true that as time passes on the diverse interests of East and West will prove an almost insurmountable obstacle to the continuance of national unity. No doubt the opposing interests of North and South are causing more trouble to tariff reformers than President Cleveland's message; and it may well seem questionable if compromising legislation will always prove as satisfactory as now. But these dangers belong entirely to the future, when sectional interests shall have become permanent. They are not at present reasons for the dissatisfaction of southern sore heads. But the South has no cause to continue to commiserate itself upon the unhappy fate which necessitated its defeat in the War of the Rebellion. Its cause was not dishonorably lost, and the humiliations which usually fall to a vanquished combatant have not been its lot. But we do not believe that what we refer to—mistaken and inexcusable railing against some of the best and greatest men of the north, or of the nation—represents the position or belief of the southern people. It is

the work of men of small mind, with a misconception of the spirit of both North and South. These men should be made to realize that they can do harm; they should, further, be shown that there is no place and no sympathy for those who are recalling the issues which resulted in so much destruction of life and property. The man who at this late day persists in waving the bloody shirt deserves to be branded as a public enemy—a traitor to the best interests of the whole nation. It is the duty of college papers of both North and South to permit no such literature to appear on their pages, for they have an influence greater than they know.

The college public has long felt the need of a paper devoted especially to its interests. After much waiting the necessary article has been supplied, and a weekly journal has been issued from the city of New York bearing the very appropriate name of *University*. We have waited some time before passing any comment upon it, and we confess as a reason our doubt that it could maintain the standard of excellence set by the first few numbers. But so far each paper has been an improvement upon its predecessors. The *University* makes it a point to give accurately and impartially all interesting college news obtainable; although we are far away in the west from the big end of the college world, we can appreciate the advantages thus given to the disciples of culture in the east. A more important feature of paper, however, is the discussion of the live questions which occur to every student. Opinions upon these by men of experience and authority in the educational world are of the highest importance, and the *University* has done much to secure such testimony. The paper has our best wishes for success and long life.

The *Coup d'Etat* for the present month does not contain much that is worthy of favorable mention beyond an editorial or two. One thing, however, it does contain that we are constrained to speak about. Many times in our labors with the fruits of "college journalism" we have felt like preaching a sermon, more forcible than elegant, the burden of whose theme would be the utter barrenness and fruitlessness of the callow college intellect; more than once we have been minded to ask oneself if there was really any legitimate excuse for the existence of college papers. It is very true that the college editors of this generation will be, many of them at any rate, among the leading men of the next, but we make this statement only because such is the probability, not because they ever produce anything that foreshadows future greatness. One of the best illustrations of what we have in mind—the results of straining endeavors to do something worthy of a Macaulay or Carlyle—with only a second class biography, the encyclopedia Britannica, and an untutored though vivid imagination for authority—is an article which the *Coup d'Etat* prints under the head "Mirabeau," and which the author, no doubt, flatters himself considerably upon. Presumably the article in question is an oration, although no foot note is present to give us definite information. Again we wish to protest against such work being put forth as the fruit of college training. It does not matter that the article, which purposes to characterize a man of some note, gives an unwarrantably imperfect estimate of its subject. We believe that in such literary productions truth and a knowledge of a subject are matters of small importance. The "oration" is an undigested mass of flashy language which its author has picked up in his reading. He uses it to show off; it is not his own, and it is unnatural to the last degree. Indeed, much of the thing is nothing but bombast, pure and simple. Nevertheless, we can imagine that with a commanding presence and a delivery like the motion of an old-fashioned Dutch windmill, its author has held an audience, spell bound, enraptured with his eloquence, and filled with awe at the sight of so much undiluted genius. Will there ever come a time when those people in college who have brains—and this gentleman certainly has his share—will be content to let them be seen upon a background of common sense? When Mr. Ingersoll says that American colleges are places where "diamonds are dimmed," we are many times given reason to agree with him, but it need not be so; and one of the first best ways to refute the statement is to cease doing literary work of a character which takes away the last spark of originality or individuality from its author. No doubt this Knox gentleman, who, by the way, is a senior, could give us many profitable lessons on the art of writing, but he is sadly in need of one pointer himself. Get full of your subject and write just what you think about it.