

CURRENT COMMENT.

The work of the debating clubs has been unusually spirited so far this term. Students who have hitherto been indifferent are beginning to see there is something in them more than the name. The questions brought up for discussion are such as are agitating the minds of men at present, and no man can help becoming interested and taking an active part. We are glad to see so much interest manifested by our girls by their auxiliary clubs. The work done by them is such as to stimulate more active work on the part of the boys. Indeed the clubs seem to vie with each other in their work, but it is a friendly rivalry and portends a healthy growth for all. There is no place where students can benefit themselves more than in the debating clubs. We are inclined to place them even ahead of the regular literary societies for preliminary work. They may justly be styled the training schools preparatory to the higher work of the literary societies. Let us keep up the good work that has been begun and at the close of the year, when we sum up our gains, we shall find that the time spent in the debating clubs has been the most profitable part of our year's work.

The great tariff discussion that has occupied the attention of congress so long, has demonstrated to the people of this country that we are drifting into a species of class legislation—discriminating between the industries of men. This debate was inaugurated in the interests of relief, and hence was not strictly confined to the tariff on imported goods, but embraced those other tariffs that are inflicted upon the masses of this country in the interests of special lines of industries. The sovereign power of the people is no longer theirs but has been let, leased if you please, to the manufacturers and to the railroads of this country, who fix prices to suit themselves, regardless of the rights of others. But the time has at last arrived when the toiling classes of the great west have opened their eyes only to see that they have been misled by the greedy, avaricious leaders. They are beginning to demand an equalization of the burdens so that all sections of the country may be equally secure. We believe this question will be met in this state and in this nation by all classes, regardless of parties, and that the sentiment of the people will be written in ineffaceable characters upon their ballots, and from them transferred to the statutes of our land, to stand as monuments of equality and justice erected by the people of this generation, to benefit not alone themselves but generations yet to be.

The subject of a geological survey of Nebraska is one which should be of much interest to us. In no other way can the resources of the state be brought out. Such a survey has also much that is important to the farming class, as the work would necessarily embrace many things concerning the condition of the soil, crops, drouths, etc., in which they are directly interested. The study of depredating insects would be well carried out; and the question of forage plants, a question which is already causing much anxiety, would be well discussed. This is also a subject of much importance to the University, as the work would probably be done under the direction of the heads of the several departments. Such a work, if well done, would have much to do in giving our University a position among the other schools of the country, especially the scientific schools. This work would make our University better known by the people over the state, and consequently it would be better appreciated. The people would know that we are doing something to benefit them

directly, and would be more willing to give the money for buildings, apparatus and books which the development of the school makes necessary. A good survey of the state can be made at very little expense. The work in geology, botany, chemistry, etc., can be superintended by the professors at the head of these several departments. These are now paid by the state and will be willing to do the work if expenses are paid. Of course assistants would have to be paid, but this would be but a small item of expense, as much of the work of assistants can be done by students who are making specialties of the different lines of study, and who would be willing to do such work if their expenses are paid. The legislature will probably be asked this year for an appropriation for the survey, and each student should make it a point to use all his influence in the right direction.

THE HESPERIAN is glad to note that the many business men are becoming cognizant of the fact that such a thing as a college paper is published at our University. Until recently, business men, in seeking for some way by which they could better advertise their business than by a sign over the door, did not know that such a thing as a college paper existed, and wholly ignored us. The fact is, a student is usually wide awake and will bestow his patronage when he can get something in return. Hence it is that when a purchase is decided upon the students glance over the pages of the college paper and go to the man that advertises to exchange his cash for goods. Students have an interest in the college paper and they are determined to do what they can towards supporting it, and in no better way can this be done than by supporting the business men who are desirous enough of our patronage to advertise. Why, but the other day, a business man approached the editor with a melancholy look and wanted to know if the students had all deserted the university. He was promptly informed that there were more students in attendance than ever before. "Then," said he, "how does it happen that I do not get more student trade if you have more students;" and continuing he said, "I used to have a big student trade." Then, seeing that he was really grieved because the students had forgotten him, ye editor began to press him more closely and finally learned that he used to advertise extensively in the paper but recently he had not done so thinking that he was so well known that to advertise longer would be a waste of capital. He was soon made happy by being informed that students usually patronized men who were willing to do something in return for their patronage, and immediately "caught on" to the error he had made, and will advertise from this time on in the college paper. If a business man desires the trade of the students let him not be as unwise as was this man, but step up to the business manager and give him an advertisement and we will guarantee that trade will be diverted from other channels towards him; that he will rejoice in the fact that such a paper as THE HESPERIAN exists, and that prosperity will attend him on every hand.

About this time the indulgent parent of the college young man is puzzled by the following contradictory correspondence:

"DEAR SIR.—I regret to inform you that your son is too fast for moral atmosphere of the college, and unless he puts on the brakes he must not return next term.

COLLEGE PRESIDENT."

"DEAR SIR.—Inclosed find your son's bill for seven suits, English style. The young man is too slow for this place, and unless he spudges up, I will run him out of town next term."

COLLEGE TAILOR."—Fx.