

er meant that the "society" element of the University must inevitably collect in the fraternities, where they exist, we emphatically agree. We have always held that the frivolous, the shirking, will naturally tend to associate themselves in organizations that have for their main objects, social, rather than scholarly, ends. Experience in our own institution proves this to be true. Do not understand that we mean to condemn, as "frivolous" and "shirking," all fraternity members. A few do not have these characteristics; many do. Take up any college paper from an institution where fraternities are strong, and your eye is met, at every glance, with notices of dances, parties, and banquets. Such frequency of social events can not fail to be detrimental to sound scholarship, and to earnest endeavor. Enjoyable they certainly are, but to compare their benefit with that of regular college work is absurd. No real student can afford to regularly devote more than one evening a week to social enjoyment, besides the occasional evenings demanded by entertainments and class socials. If the frequency of indulgences of this kind is left to individual desire, and is increased by the competition of various organizations devoted to social ends, scholarship must suffer. The literary societies offer all the social culture that is necessary, and all that is best during a college course; for social culture, though important, should be subordinated, during this period, to mental development. The social element of literary society work is so combined with literary work, that it is practically impossible to extend it at the expense of the more beneficial part. There is thus a check upon the tendency to neglect school-work for more alluring pursuits. In the fraternities the whole tendency is to give freer rein to the social instincts. Every thinking student should consider these things, as well as many others, before deciding between the fraternities and the literary societies.

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LITERARY.

The Russian government offers a prize of 2,000 francs for the best essay on the part played by John Howard in the history of prison reform. George Kennan, who is a writer of ability, should compete and should add to his production an appendix, setting forth how much is left in Russia for a second John Howard to do.

The *Critic*, speaking of the *Century*, well says that the latter is a magazine for all time. The character of its subject matter is such as to give it a stable reputation. Some people seem to think that periodicals, especially well known ones, are not worth consideration; when in reality it is only by the presentation of ideas when they are current, that any lasting effect can be produced.

Those students who are engaged in the study of the history of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries will be glad to hear of "France under Richelieu and Mazarin," by James B. Perkins. The great cardinal is too little known. Most people have only a dim idea that he lived some time ago, that he had a great deal of power, and that he was a very fine man. Anything that will increase our information regarding him will be very welcome, particularly as there is, in English, no full account of his period.

Ad. F. Baudelier, in the *Nation*, discusses a topic of interest to all Westerners since it deals with the first exploration of what is now Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado. Quivera, in the Southwest, is one of the best known terms, although just where Quivera was is not definitely known. It was supposed to be a country very rich in minerals, and as such attracted the cupidity of the Spaniard. But the expedition of Coronado in 1541, dispelled all these dreams. That leader reached a place on the plains, according to this writer, about 200 miles northeast of Great Bend in Kansas. Another expedition in 1585 reached the borders of Kansas and Colorado, only to perish in a prairie fire. Another expedition in 1599 reached the same point, or the country a little beyond. Several more attempts to reach the supposed promised land were made with less success. The writer says, "Not one of the Spanish expeditions in search of the Quivera resulted in more than positive increase of geographical knowledge. In that respect we are largely indebted this phantom of the Quivera. It carried the Spaniards into Colorado, Kansas and probably Nebraska." Another writer on this subject, a Nebraskan, has thought that the expedition of Coronado penetrated farther than northeastern Kansas, and that a point in southeastern Nebraska was reached. The matter is unimportant but interesting, as it marks the first appearance of white men on the Great American Desert. If Coronado really ever saw Nebraska, then Nebraska's history may be said to date from his expedition.

One of the latest magazines to be found in the library is *The Nationalist*. This is devoted largely to problems of social reform, and consequently will be in demand among Sophomores until November 15. *The Nationalist* knows no party and no politics but humanity.

Among many German writers there is a fantastic vein that is quite pleasing. One of the most entertaining books showing this that has found its way hither is a little production of Baumbach's—"Frau Holde" by name. It is a poem made up of folk songs, and is almost wholly descriptive of