

ally solicited by Mr. Ferguson to such contest, and waived any supposed right by stating clearly that he neither had the right to demand, nor desired such arrangement." When THE HESPERIAN read the article, it was incredulous, knowing that Mr. Collings had said he was willing to contest if Mr. Ferguson proposed it. The following telegram was accordingly sent to Mr. Collings:

Lincoln, Neb., May 25, 1890.

DARLEY R. COLLINGS,  
NELIGH, NEB.

Did Ferguson invite you to a second contest after the state contest? Please answer by wire.  
JOHN B. FOGARTY.

In reply to this came the following brief answer:

Neligh, Neb., May 26, 1890.

JOHN B. FOGARTY,  
State University, Lincoln, Neb.  
NO.

D. R. COLLINGS.

Think of the *Ecritean*, the representative of a Christian college. But there are several more statements as inconsistent with facts. In the April number of the exponent of Wesleyan morality, appeared the following: "According to the HESPERIAN, the ball under the direction of the inter state executive committee will take place at the inter-state contest, notwithstanding the protests of all the colleges of Nebraska, with the one exception of the U. of N." Again, "It now appears that the students of the Christian colleges of Nebraska presumed too much when they supposed good sense, decency, and sobriety would mark the action of the State University upon this matter. We will be slow to recommend the above institution in the future when moral issues are involved. We trust it is not the intention of the State University of Nebraska to join hands with the same Godless elements which manage public entertainments in the State Universities of Iowa, Missouri, and Ohio." You never found such "news" in THE HESPERIAN, *Ecritean*. All that is wrong with the first statement is that it never was decided by the students of this University to hold a dance in connection with the contest, THE HESPERIAN never said so, and, thirdly, the U. of N. was not "the one exception" in not protesting against the dance. At the first proposition from the committee, the dance was done away with, and at two subsequent meetings the action was sustained. You desire to contrast yourself with the "Godless element" of certain state universities. Really, there must be a leaf torn out of your Bible, for you repeatedly violate the commandments which forbid lying and stealing.

But let us turn to the *Ecritean* for May. "For days, Brown of the U. of N., one of the state executive committee, haunted the Wesleyan, and tried to get some action taken by the local association towards removing our orator before he had even been informed of the charges—much less had answered them." Mr. Brown was at the Wesleyan on two different days, and for a short time only each day. He never spoke of Mr. Ferguson to any Wesleyan except Mr. Stuff. He made no attempt to get the local association to remove their orator. How truthful is the *Ecritean*!

"Brown should have been debarred from sitting upon the executive committee. He had personally worked against Mr. Ferguson, and to sit upon his case as judge was the height of impudence. His vote against Mr. Ferguson was predicted correctly, hours before it was made public." 'Brown' had not personally worked against 'Mr. Ferguson.' As regards the prediction that Mr. Brown would vote against acquitting Mr. Ferguson, everybody knew that Mr. Stuff would vote for 'acquittal.' Seeing that there were only two ways to vote, and "predictions" were made both ways, it is not so very aston-

ishing that some of them turned out "correctly." But really we are growing weary of correcting the false statements of the *Ecritean*. We have devoted considerable space to giving some of the facts of Mr. Ferguson's past life, and also to showing how much dependence can be placed on the statements of the *Ecritean*. We should much prefer not to make these disclosures, but the false assertion that we had worked to do Mr. Ferguson harm, together with the abusive language which the Wesleyan paper hurls against us, has compelled us to furnish these "cold facts." We advise the faculty of the Wesleyan to examine carefully the career of Mr. Ferguson. Let them search the truth, and do justice accordingly. Let them remember that by permitting such glaring falsehoods to appear in the college paper, and allowing it to shield dishonesty, they are injuring the reputation of the Wesleyan university.

In conclusion, we advise the *Ecritean* to be careful in the future how it attacks the State University. We advise Mr. Ferguson to muzzle his over-zealous friends. Let the man who has stolen speeches in the whole range of literature from the orations of Ingersoll to the sermons of Talmage, beware lest his career be more fully brought to light. Let him lay the blame for the disclosure of these "cold facts" upon friends who trusted too much in his honesty.

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#### CURRENT COMMENT.

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George S. Peter, president of the academy of fine arts, in Philadelphia, Penn., lately deceased, bequeathed the sum of \$1,067,000 to be divided among public institutions; the most of it to be used for the benefit of education. This is only one of the numerous legacies that are being left, to advance educational interests. With all the funds available, and with the vast sums that are constantly being added from outside sources, to advance the great cause of education, it would seem as though our system of enlightening the human race should be the very best. But is it? The defect is not a lack of funds, surely. What then is the trouble? It is the fact that education does not reach all the people. Under our present system one does not need to attend school unless he so desires. The schools are, however, open to all, and it is the fault of each individual if he does not take advantage of this opportunity. There is too much indifference on the part of many. They do not care whether they obtain an education or not. The result is they grow up without knowing how to read or write. They know nothing about the world outside of a limit, perhaps, of twenty miles square. They are unable to sign their names to any legal document, or to read and understand it for themselves, thus becoming easy victims for all sorts of confidence men. The best interests of the state, as well, as the best interest of the individual, cry out against such illiteracy.

The situation is bad enough, in the country, among native born citizens. It becomes much worse on account of the immigration of foreigners to our shores. The chairman of the House committee on immigration said, in his report, that the inspection of immigrants at Castle Garden was nothing but a farce. Instead of the undesirable element decreasing it is increasing, and the quality of immigrants is deteriorating while the quantity is rapidly growing. If then it is impossible to prevent these hordes from landing, it is just as impossible to keep them from settling upon portions of this fertile country of ours. If they are allowed to build up homes for themselves it will not be very long before they become citizens. But are they desirable citizens? In a majority of cases they are ignor-