

## EXCHANGE.

The *Northwestern* in its latest issue is clad in mourning. President Cummings, D. D., is dead. This is a heavy loss to Northwestern.

It is announced that the great new Baptist university at Chicago has been secured. This institution will start out under favorable auspices if ever one did, for it has \$1,000,000, besides a site of ten acres.

The Brown university minstrels have, according to our exchanges, introduced some innovations upon the regular program of college minstrelsy. A burnt cork jollification and a ballet dance are said to have been the noticeable features on their programs. What next? This is worse than the Wisconsin State university minstrels did. Verily the effete East leads!

The *College Student* thinks it can admire the spirit that pervades THE HESPERIAN but that this spirit often develops into daring and audacious effrontery. It feels that "when THE HESPERIAN chooses to be everlastingly damning, fraternities, it is wasting its spleen". We are happy to say that we have been d—d much more than we ever d—d. And some of the d—ning too has come from papers representing each colleges as the *Student* does. It is sad but we still live and hope.

The *Free Lance* is laboring under the impresson that if it were to judge from THE HESPERIAN it would conclude that the theory, that there are two sides to every question, was fallacious. That is barely true. But if the *Free Lance* will kindly consider that for several years hardly a word was given on the side we take, and that today but few college papers dare to say a word for the side we champion, then it may perhaps perceive that its gibe falls flat. Moreover, Mr. *Free Lance*, this is not simply a petty misunderstanding, but a matter of principle. Nor are principles always settled by "peace and good-will" but often by war.

Often of late the question has been asked, "Why are there no orators now like those of fifty years ago?" Many reasons have been assigned for his lack of real orators. It has been said that the materialistic tendency of the age is not conducive to oratory, and again that there is no great moral issue of overshadowing importance before the people, to inspire the impassioned eloquence of the orator. But another reason, greater than at first sight appears, may be assigned. Before giving this reason, let us lay down a proposition that will have a direct bearing upon it. It is this. If the colleges of this land do not train orators, there is little reason to hope that any other source will furnish them. From the colleges orators have come; from the colleges they must come, if they come at all. If colleges contain within themselves influences not only not conducive, but positively detrimental to the growth of oratory, orators will be a rare college product. In proof of this note the fame of some colleges for oratory—colleges that give special attention to that branch of work. The influence for oratory within the colleges produces and develops the orator. About a year ago, the president of one of our literary societies made the remark, in his inaugural, that he believed that the reason for the lack of orators at the present day is the decay of the open literary society, destroyed by everyone knows what. It was a bald statement, but there was much truth in it. Some time since, the *Shurtleff Review* contained an article lamenting the lack of oratory. Likewise the *Tuftsian*, shortly afterward, spoke in his exchange column of the small amount of enthusiasm over oratory felt in its section of the country. And so the college press generally recognizes that

oratory is a minus quantity. Oratory is lacking, and there is a reason for it. The great colleges have changed from the open literary societies to secret societies which are far from having oratory, or any literary work, as their aim. Their chief aim seems to be that revealed in the *North American Review* article entitled, "The Fast Set at Harvard." Our great universities, being dominated by non-literary societies, do not produce orators. That is the long and short of it. But "There is a tendency to return to the old method," says the *Boston Advertiser*. And on this subject the *New York Tribune* has this: "Discussion has already been provoked as to the influence which fraternities exert on the purely literary phase of undergraduate activity. The experience of Princeton, which has tried both systems, would seem to indicate that a large college can easily get along without adjuncts whose identity is veiled in mysterious symbols and letters." Oberlin and Monmouth also are flourishing with only open literary societies. Other institutions of prominence have seen fit to prohibit fraternities. Upon the fraternity, then, which has destroyed in so many colleges the open literary society, we may lay the blame for the lack of interest in college oratory and hence in oratory in general.

The *Muhlenberg* jumps at the conclusion that Mr. Ferguson is a student of the U. of N., and makes various unkind remarks about THE HESPERIAN. It accuses us of jealousy because it thinks we don't denounce our Nebraska plagiarist in sufficiently strong terms. Now the *Ecritean*, at Nebraska Wesleyan University, where Mr. Ferguson hails from, (please note your egregious error, *Muhlenberg*), is howling mad because we are bringing unjust charges of plagiarism against said Ferguson. Somebody is traducing our fair name. We did not swallow the "unconscious absorption" defense any more than you did, *Muhlenberg*. In view of these facts, we fail to see the necessity to 'change the cut on our cover,' by 'clipping the wings of the angel,' or 'putting under a cloud the star.' The *Muhlenberg's* most ridiculous statement is that it "comes to the conclusion that Nebraska's 'would be' orator is a 'barb,' for had he been a 'Greek,' THE HESPERIAN would have heralded the news to the college world with all the rhetoric and satire at its command." Now before this nonsense is copied as sober fact by all the frat papers of the country, we wish to say that we never inquired into Mr. Ferguson's opinion on the frat question, and furthermore whether he is frat or barb would make no difference in our attitude toward him. Because we see evil in the fraternity system, and therefore fight it, it does not follow that we are unreasoning bigots. Our sole reason for not exhausting our "rhetoric and satire" on Mr. Ferguson, is that we thought he had been sufficiently "roasted" by the city papers that made the exposure, and as we had been unjustly charged with stirring up the fuss, we thought to let the matter rest. The publication of a lot of falsehoods by the Wesleyan paper at last brought forth the mild rejoinder printed in the fore part of this issue. The *Muhlenberg* owes us an apology for its wild accusations.

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