

The Daily Nebraskan.

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Editorial Remarks

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ing semester to all present subscribers.

Charter Day.

The natal day of a great institution marks a stage of its development. The evolution of our University from its inception and foundation has been a series of changes all working for the best and to an end in which the ideals and hopes of a great commonwealth are centered. As we look back over thirty-five years of history we are strangely impressed. We stand like beasts in the forest, dumb with awe and wonder in the presence of some new found sympathy. We wonder at the past and we grasp at the future, not with the tenacles of the past, but with the arms of faith reaching out into darkness to grasp the forms of light that flit and play about us.

In every age some men have carried the torch of progress and handed it to some other, and it has been borne through all the dark ages of barbarism and had it not been for such men we would be rude and uncivilized today, with beads and charms about our necks and with pictures of wild beasts tattooed on our skins, dancing around a circle of captives, or fleeing from our homes before some conquering host. It is from the troches of these men that we trim our little candles, that we may explore the hidden things of Nature and bring to light some new truth, or that we may guide some little company of our neighbors or perhaps some great host as a nation into closer harmony with God.

There was a time when culture and refinement were the luxury of kings and the toys of heathen gods and whatever culture was encouraged among the people was the training of mind and body to withstand the fatigues of hard campaigns and long sieges. The higher things of art and science were thought to be above the people. The attempt to train the people in them would be regarded as impracticable as to plant an orange grove on the slopes

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of an Alpine glacier. But the world has changed since then. False gods and cruel monarchs no longer rule the earth, and popular education has come down to us as the handmaiden of personal liberty. Today liberal education is the foundation of all our social and political systems, and every move to gain permanence and command respect must appeal to reason and not to brute force.

Education first of all looks to the material and no man can avoid it. Our first duty is the present, and the man who lives for the future alone will fail in that future when it becomes the present. The present demands action and not theory. The highest type of man or woman is the one who is independent and self-supporting, and to such we must develop and be firmly built very close to earth before we can hope to soar among the stars. And while we love to look beyond the veil we hope to pierce, it is only by a mastery of what is below that we can hope to rise above it.

The time has come for the Sophomores to act. The petition for the election of the editor and business manager of the Sombrero has gained great headway, and it is evident the great body of the class desire that a meeting be called. If the class does not care to endorse the present appointments, there is nothing to compel them to do so; for the constitutional point that has been raised can be settled definitely only by the class. It is not necessary that the approval of the lesser number be obtained before the majority is free to act in regard to this matter as best suits it. It is necessary that the men have charge of the book whom the class desires to see there. Even if those already appointed should be endorsed by formal election, no objection could be raised. But the wishes of the class must prevail in this matter and they should not be side-tracked by any technicality that might be brought forth.

REARRANGES COURSES.

**American History Department
makes Important Changes.**

Students in American history next year will find several rather radical changes in the department when the new catalogues are issued. A process of grouping that has been under way for several years takes definite form next fall, and unless still more radical changes now meditated should be adopted, dividing the present department into two departments, courses will hereafter be arranged under the sub-departments of American history proper, Politics and Political Science, Public Law, and Jurisprudence. In history proper it will be attempted to make three two-semester courses cover the general work in the department, allowing the remaining courses to be more highly specialized and more devoted to advanced work of the graduate type. Also instead of practically all the courses in the department being given each year, only the three general courses will be thus given, and the others alternated, half being given in 1904-05, and the other half in 1905-06. This will permit the members of the department to raise the standard of class work in the specialized courses, and to devote a little of their time to lectures and other methods of popularizing history work throughout the state. The changes will by no means lessen the work of the department, but will enable it to spend more time on important phases of its work and less on the details of class-room instruction.

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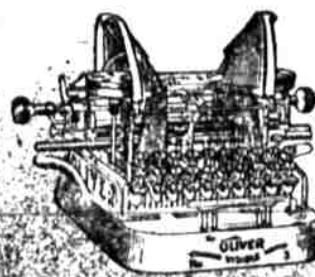
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