

orators have always come out second. While it has been attributed to the difference in the style of delivery, yet it behooves us this year that uninterested judges shall be chosen to decide upon this question. Pastoral delivery has upset us before, but the University still adheres to its style, which we believe to be superior to that of denominational schools.

### The Chancellor's Column.

ON "THE ANNUAL."

The NEBRASKAN (was it?) recently called on the Junior class to bestir itself in the matter of "The Annual"—by which was doubtless meant a publication similar in general scope and purpose to the *Sombrero*. The call was certainly prompted by loyalty to the University, indicates plenty of spirit, and has back of it very unselfish devotion to class interests. It recognizes the creditable character of the *Sombrero*, believes it to have attracted favorable attention to the institution and to the class, knows that much matter that would not otherwise see the light is thus brought before the public, and sums the whole matter up in the assertion that "it was a good all-around ad." All of which is true.

But there is another side to this matter which ought to be carefully considered. No man goeth to war without first counting the cost—unless he courts defeat; and as carefully as the cost was counted last year, defeat (financially) would certainly have come but for the assistance of the Regents, and some pretty heavy personal subscriptions. These can scarcely be secured annually. It costs a large sum of money to carry such an enterprise through to success; and the greater part of this must come from our students. Now it so happens that the crowning glory of this institution is its democratic character, that it exists for all alike, and that its opportunities are freely offered to all. This is the reason that such a large proportion of our students are more or less self-supporting; and that a still larger number come from families in which all are making great and

positive sacrifices that the one may be well schooled. Such students have no right to spend a dollar unnecessarily; nor must we establish customs of subscriptions or expense that will burden them in giving or humiliate them in refusing. It is easy to say that it is but a single dollar; but the single dollar sometimes looks very large to a man who has worked hard to get it, and has thus far saved it by much self-denial.

Again, all experience and observation prove that the burden of editing, publishing and disposing of the edition falls upon very few—no matter how good the intentions nor how many the promises of associates and others. This burden can rarely be carried without serious loss in other directions—loss rarely compensated by the editorial or business experience gained. It is not infrequent that a man is utterly broken in University work by such an experience, and is obliged to withdraw with an incomplete education.

Further, it is rare good fortune and the happiest concurrence of all lucky stars when such a publication is carried without friction, irritation, wounded feelings, broken friendships and bitter heart-burnings. Custom—custom, so often fatal to all that is pleasant and good—decrees that such a volume must have within its covers some personalities. And when have personalities been free from at least subacidity? Of course it was only "funny"—but the hurt was there; of course it was all very plain to us; but somebody misread it to our sorrow. Of course no one thought how it would "sound to others"—but when it is all too late the enemy to the institution has the excerpt in his pocket-book for comfort to himself and as a text of warning to others. It is doubtful whether any other form of published matter has so frequently and so sorrowfully illustrated the painful truth of the Chinese proverb: "A word once spoken, a coach and six horses cannot bring it back."

What has been thus hastily written has been a caution, not a protest; advice, not disapprobation; a call for serious reflection, not an unfriendly criticism.