

# THE NEBRASKAN.

A Weekly Paper Issued at the University of Nebraska.

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MAIL MATTER.

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## EDITORIAL.

Under the caption of "The History of a Crime," this week's *Hesperian* works off a great deal of bile over the late Oratorical convention. If the writer of that article had ever taken any interest in University affairs outside of the barfrat fight, if she had ever been a member of the Oratorical association she might have known something about a subject of which she appears most densely ignorant. But she and nine-tenths of her co-workers have never belonged to that or any other college association. They have never been willing to spend their time or money to aid any college affair, but they are always ready to find fault with what the few enthusiasts we have, may do. They were defeated, when they confidently expected to be victorious, and they are unable to conceal their chagrin. We may safely say that we have more "soreheads" in the University today than ever before. They are "still in the basement of politics" and one of the first things they should learn is how to bear defeat.

One would judge from the *Hesperian* that this is the only fight that has ever been waged in the University, but we remember several others much more bitter. Never before has the defeated party seen fit to give vent to its disappointment in the college papers. We thought it best to throw the mantle of silence over Graham's baseness in the late fight, and for that reason preferred to say nothing about the matter. But the *Hesperian* is badly mistaken if it thinks the "Johnston gang" is afraid or ashamed of anything it has ever done in college politics.

The annual meeting of the local association was held just before the Christmas holidays, as the constitution provides. At least three-fourths of those present favored Johnston for delegate. The men who howled loudest in the late fight were not there, they are not and never have been members of the local association.

It would be useless to follow the article in detail. The writer has always been the rankest of the radical Barbs, and ever since the Johnston boys left the Palladian society, she has been aching for an opportunity to inflict her views on the student body. We have too much respect for the literary societies to think that she expressed the opinion of even a majority of those societies. The barfrat fight has practically died out in the University, and all that she and kindred "soreheads" can do will not revive it.

Last year Johnston was made the candidate of the University for this same position by the unanimous vote of our delegation in opposition to his own wishes.

What has been done since then to incur the illwill of the students? Resigned his membership in the Palladian society! That constituted his sole offense. A mere handful of the most pronounced Barbs and a few "soreheads" whom the students have never seen fit to intrust with any power, made up the active opposition to him.

Johnston was not a candidate until a majority of the delegation had announced themselves for him. Graham had promised to vote for him at least two weeks before anything was said about the vice-presidency. He had pledged himself as a Johnston man before the Wesleyan and Cotner delegations, and these delegations are loud in their denunciation of him, not because he voted with the other side, but because they consider him a traitor.

Why was it, also, that Graham after going to Wesleyan, told the Johnston faction that he thought he had made a mistake by going out to Wesleyan, for he thought the Wesleyan delegation "had it in for him"? Why was it that he told the Doane delegation that he went out to Wesleyan on that night for the purpose of seeing a girl?

Why was it that when upon his return from Crete he left the car going to University Place (notwithstanding the protests of the Fisher faction) when he

saw Johnston and Weaver on the same car, and on the same political mission? Perhaps it was because he did not wish to confront the Wesleyan delegation in the presence of Johnston and Weaver, who were with him when the pledge was made. Perhaps it was because he didn't want the Johnston faction to find out who his girl was.

We will leave these questions to the student body. It was only after he had asked to join the new fraternity and had been refused that his "conscience" began to trouble him. He may have pledged himself to vote for Fisher on Wednesday, but like the "honest man" he is, pretended all day Thursday to still favor Johnston. Had he been the conscientious man that he pretends, he would have resigned on Wednesday and allowed the University to say whom it preferred.

In regard to the petitions, we would like to remind our friends that the sentiment against Johnston had been worked up for at least three weeks, and with all their persistent working they were only able to secure about the same number of signers that Johnston's friends secured on Monday forenoon. In regard to the girls who signed his petition, we beg leave to submit that they knew full as well what they were doing as the immaculate author of "The History of a Crime." If the firm of Fisher, Talmadge, Graham, Montgomery and Bullock knew they had such an overwhelming majority of the students behind them, why did they not call a meeting of the local association and instruct the delegation as the other colleges advised them to do? All these colleges wanted to know was which man the University preferred. But the last thing these purifiers of politics wanted was an open fight. They preferred to go to the denominational colleges and to try to work them with the Y. M. C. A. racket and the barfrat dodge. They discovered, when too late, that a membership in the Y. M. C. A. was not the only qualification necessary to good standing in the State Oratorical Association. The fact that Talmadge and students of his ilk were supporting Fisher gave the lie to his statement that he (Fisher) represented the better element of our students. To use John Randolph's favorite expression, it was a "collusion of the Puritan and Blackleg."

The divines that engineered the other side have not been adverse to a bargain when it would aid them. They howl about deals, only when their own deals have failed. We ask these "purifiers of politics" about their deals in the oratorical affairs of last year. Have they forgotten the document, signed, then relative to the "Essert faction"? If they have, we would remind them of it. We also ask the "Phi" part of the opposition about their deals in connection with the foot ball manager, a year ago. Let the opposition remember, when they accuse us of being the only ones guilty of "deals," that we know pretty well the song of University political deals and when compelled can sing it.

As to their "deal" of the vice presidency, Graham was offered that office if he would support Fisher. This statement has been denied by the opposition, but we have the proof in our possession. They only threw Graham overboard when they knew he could get no support from the other colleges.

The delegations are fully able to answer for themselves the slurs of the *Hesperian*; but we wish to say that throughout the whole fight they acted the part of Christian gentlemen. Their only wish was to do what was right. They knew that Graham's "flop" in no way changed the sentiment of our University. They knew that Johnston had had a majority of the meeting that elected our delegates, and after careful and impartial investigation believed that he had a majority of the students on his side. They had seen Fisher as a delegate from the state sit through that five hours fight of last year without saying a word, and they concluded that a man who could do nothing in a state convention would do less than nothing in an inter-state.

We do not believe that they broke a single pledge made. Every time a delegate smiled on one of our "embryonic politicians," he undoubtedly took that as a pledge.

That a girl was chosen to write the "history" shows one of two things. Either the leaders of the opposition could not write a suitable article or they were ashamed to sign their names to such a senseless tirade.

We are still of the opinion that the least said about these fights the better. We know of no one of the "gang" who wishes the details of the fight to remain unknown. From the long faces worn by our opponents since the election, we

would imagine that they are the ones "pining for forgetfulness." They are much crestfallen and we extend to them our sympathy, but we cannot help but smile when we remember their confident and insolent bearing in the halls of the Wesleyan University as they boasted of "the fine piece of diplomacy that had been enacted in Essert's house."

THE NEBRASKAN at the opening of this college year, emphatically declared itself a supporter of those measures which would promote the interests and welfare, and inure to the substantial benefit of the University. The position THE NEBRASKAN has taken on questions that have come up thus far, is evidence of the fact that its principles are broad enough and its judgment liberal enough to enable it to overlook minor differences and minor considerations for the purpose of securing to the University the greatest good. And it has not yet found it necessary to change this line of policy. It has not yet found it necessary when the interests of the University were in the balance, being weighed against the interest of any other institution, to cast its influence against the University. THE NEBRASKAN, however, does not feel that there is credit due to it for this, for such was its plain and simple duty. Nor does THE NEBRASKAN feel that the time has come for it to retrace its steps—to change its policy. It is satisfied with the victories that have already been won, but it is not content with them alone. When Adam McCullen won the State Oratorical contest, the students, as a body, rejoiced over his victory, and THE NEBRASKAN rejoiced with them. And now Adam McCullen needs more than ever before the loyal support and encouragement of his friends. In May in the Inter-state Oratorical Contest at Indianapolis, the "mettle of his pasture" will be put to a severer test. And if he wins laurels in that contest for himself, he likewise will win laurels for the University. Victory for him will be victory for it. But the "representative paper," so called by itself, *The Hesperian*, which has only a single eye to the interests of the University, at this time when if it had a grain of loyalty in its composition or a spark of patriotism in its being, it would be found supporting McMullen, Nebraska's representative in the Inter-State Contest. It would lend what little strength it has, and what little encouragement it can to aid him, and to add to his chances for victory. But this jealous mistress of the interests of the University, this self-styled "representative paper," is found openly fighting him. It is found criticising him unsparingly and unfairly, too. Indulging its spleen and hatred and malice toward him in a manner almost unworthy of respectable comment. Such conduct should be as unsparingly condemned.

THE NEBRASKAN is not surprised, however, for it has known the poor old *Hesperian* so long and it is so well acquainted with its conduct in the past, that it feels no occasion for surprise. The poor old paper doubtless feels badly since its chosen orator was defeated by McMullen in the local contest, and the poor old thing can't brook defeat. It must give expression to its dissatisfaction and disappointment, and by its methods has made itself contemptible in the eyes of every fair minded student. Who witnessed the State Oratorical contest that will not say that McMullen was an easy winner? Who will say that he did not well deserve the victory that was awarded to him? His manuscript was the product of his own mind, and it reflects credit upon its author. His delivery was peculiar to himself, and his great strength was in his delivery. A glance at the names of the judges assure us that only merit could win, and it did win. And the poor old *Hesperian* is heart broken over the victory.

Those who are best acquainted with the history of the local oratorical association know, that it was seriously considered whether it would not be better, in the interests of the University, to withdraw from the State Oratorical Association. Our orators had met so repeatedly with defeat that there seemed no hope for victory. Our standards had gone down so repeatedly in these contests that it seemed that we could not win. And if Tom Wing had not added victory to our score last year, the first victory, the State University would have withdrawn before this year from that association. And now this year McMullen has added another victory to our score. He will represent the colleges of the State, and especially the University of Nebraska, in the contest at Indianapolis, and he goes into that contest with brighter prospects for success and victory

than any orator the state has ever sent to represent it.

But the poor old *Hesperian* is first to make war against him, and if THE NEBRASKAN did not know that it was entering upon its second childhood, disgruntled and defeated, it would say that it's nothing but a blubbering baby.

We are glad to note the hearty support given the Glee Club by the members of the faculty. Every attempt to organize a glee club in the past has met with a failure. It was not until Mr. H. A. Reese threw his energies into the work that anything was accomplished. By his constant and untiring efforts we have a club that the University may well be proud of. A club that compares favorably with any similar organization in the West. It is a source of much gratification to Mr. Reese to know that his labors have been appreciated by the University. As many as eight or nine of the faculty purchased tickets to the recent concert.

No doubt the boys will be delighted to again participate in Charter Day celebrations or any other "day" celebrations as a labor of love.

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