

THE NEBRASKAN.

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Every student who has had any work under Professor Bates will regret his departure. Professor Bates is strong in the light, story-telling style and has worked hard to knock out the heaviness that pervaded the English department at his coming. Professor Bates has been the life of the English club and will be missed there, no doubt, more than by his classes. Yet we cannot blame him for going. His work here has been of the most laborious kind, with very little time for original work. In his new field he will have an opportunity to develop those powers of criticism and originality which even his little work here has revealed.

There is too much loud talking, too much visiting, too many rete-a-tetes in the library. It should be stopped, and the persons to stop it are the students themselves. The librarian and her assistants are helpless. It would take a well-organized police force to keep order among two or three hundred students when each student has little regard or no regard for the amount of noise he can and does make. If you haven't anything else to do, read the papers, or sit still and watch others study, or take a bench. You can do anything you want to, but do it alone.

The attitude of some of our professors toward Phi Beta Kappa is hardly just from a student standpoint. The data to make the selections is scanty enough, and when one department refuses to make recommendations this difficulty is increased. Besides, some deserving student may lose an honor he has earned from such a refusal. Of course some of our professors do not want to admit that they need to offer a reward to get good work from their students. They do not. But this is not the question. It is simply one of justice to the students. Phi Beta Kappa is here and we must make the best of it. Our professors should set the example and lay aside their prejudices.

If biographers keep on at their present rate, it will not be more than a century before they will have drawn around the form of Honest Abe Lincoln the ridiculous circle of unapproachable etherealism. They already have him much beyond our own field of possible realization, and are still moving. The name of Lincoln should be honored, respected, even revered, but surely not worshipped—not idolized. He was only a man—a strong man in every sense—but still only a man of whose kind there were and are today many another. Unless this tendency to exalt the great liberator finds a limit, these writers will have his memory so far above the common level that no youth will even dare to think that he could be a Lincoln, any more than a Washington; and who ever knew a young man that even dreamed he could be a Washington? Good examples should be kept within reach.

Intercollegiate athletic contests, a subject so all-absorbing in the eastern colleges, are too little noticed in our own college. We have grown to look on athletics to mean the same as football. Baseball has been a side issue and field day almost a farce, and college students have grown to look upon the two months of October and November as the only two, so far as athletics are concerned. This is certainly a great mistake. We know that among the great universities in the east the excitement and interest displayed at the spring athletic contests rivals that in the big football games. It is merely on account of a lack of interest that we

cannot see that in our college. Whether interest is lacking on account of the failure to get good material for a field day contest, or whether our rising young athletes refuse to come out because of the small supply of college enthusiasm, makes little difference. We simply know that the two facts always come together, and if either fault were remedied the other would not be hard to overcome. It may be partially due to injudicious management, but whatever the cause, we should pride ourselves on being able to look at athletics in some way besides the point of view of football.

In view of past circumstances the appointment of Victor Rosewater to the vacancy in the board of regents caused by Henry Estabrook's resignation makes a peculiar combination. The appointment, coming, as it does, from Governor Holcomb, who owes his election to Mr. Rosewater's influence, lends a political aspect to the affair. The Bee's persistent opposition toward the appropriation bill during the last session of the legislature is still fresh in the minds of many. It has made a strong prejudice, which will have to be overcome before the new regent gains the hearty good will of the student body which his predecessor possessed.

But there is no reason why Mr. Rosewater should not make the best regent we ever had. He is a college man, with a thorough knowledge of the workings of eastern institutions, and no doubt he will attempt to place the university upon a much higher level. From an "Omaha" standpoint his disfavor with the preparatory department is well grounded. All the large cities of the state pay taxes to maintain high schools. He argues, with justness, that these cities should not be taxed again to maintain a state high school. This practically was his position in opposing the appropriation bill, and was the source of all the ridiculous statements which appeared in the Bee a year ago.

He has very strong recommendations from the presidents of Johns Hopkins, Columbia and Cornell colleges.

The State Journal says editorially: "College professors are still endeavoring to muddle the minds of the people about the Monroe doctrine." What a mythical notion of the scholar and his function in society! That he has opinions on the subject to which he has devoted a lifetime of thought is certain; for he sometimes has the temerity to express them publicly. It is certainly untimely to avert the discussion of those delicate problems of government which so need the serious thought and sober judgment of the trained specialist. And we say with all candor, the greatest fault of democracy is that it often presumes to decide upon questions which in their very nature belong to the well-disciplined. Why arouse an antagonism between the masses and the man of scholarship? His views are more than theoretical. They surely are in some degree practical.

Many of the eminent professors of the country took issue with the trend of public opinion over the Venezuelan controversy. The two questions involved, one of international law and one of statesmanship, belong pre-eminently to the domain of the scholar. True, his judgment may run counter to a widespread sentiment based mainly upon prejudices and the pernicious zeal of politicians and journalists. What should be the attitude of the fair-minded toward such opinion? Historical scholarship and scientific merit are worthy of some merit. The majority are often wrong, especially on such complicated questions. Do not distrust the pedantry of the university professor. It is possible he may give some valuable information upon the intricate problems of government.

UNION SOCIETY AND PHI BETA KAPPA.

When new business was called for by President Rhodes of the Union Literary Society last Friday night, Ned C. Abbott moved the adoption of the following resolutions, asking beforehand that they might remain without action, being taken until the next Friday, because H. E. Newbranch was anxious to speak on the resolutions but was detained at home through sickness. Unanimous consent was granted the request.

RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas, There has recently been established in the university of Nebraska a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa; and

Whereas, The university Union Literary society has always stood for democracy against aristocracy; be it hereby

Resolved, That for the future our society instruct its members that they cannot remain on its roll and also be members of Phi Beta Kappa; and be it further

Resolved, That these resolutions have no force in regard to the members who are already initiates of the new chapter.

Mr. Abbott spoke very briefly on the last part of the resolutions, saying that he believed the six best students in the senior class had been chosen, that no one could object to the choice, that he was the especial friend of the members chosen from Union society. "But I do believe that we have arrived at a crisis in our society only less important than the one when the anti-fraternity amendment was adopted. Can we not get above the men and discuss the principle? All that we ask for is a hearing. As fair-minded students, you must vote with us, if we are right. We'll expect it. If wrong, you must vote against these resolutions. We expect to abide by the decision of a majority."

It seems that the consensus of opinion in the society is decidedly against the resolutions. There was no action taken except to allow Mr. Abbott the privilege of calling them up for a final vote any time he sees fit. L. J. Abbott seconded his brother's resolutions and different members say that this shows the hopeless minority of their supporters.

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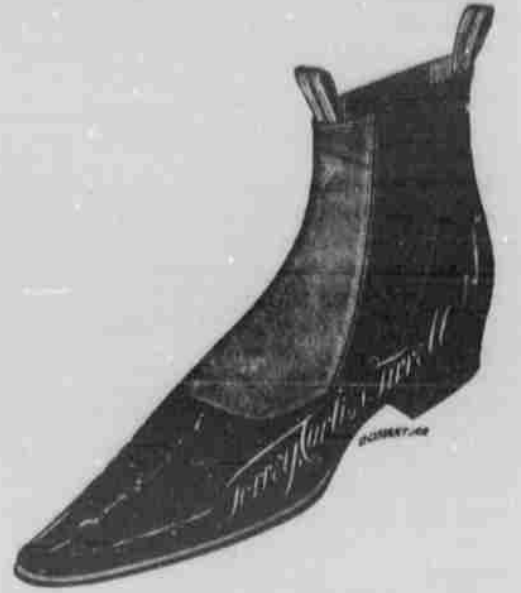
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