

great an influence over them, by means either of downright bribery or by the use of political prestige. In the case of the judges of the supreme court it would be much better and the court would be much more incorruptible if they were elected to their positions by means other than popular vote. When a judge knows that he has been elected by the open machinations of a railroad corporation, as one of our present judges was, it may be expected that his actions will not be of a pure, unbiased nature. It would be far better for judges of all kinds to be appointed in some way by the executive department, so they would be free from local popular influence or political work of any kind.

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*EXCHANGE.*

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It is the duty of an exchange editor to criticise. He must peruse carefully the exchanges as they are sent in and must render a verdict according to the evidence before him as to whether or not the papers are fair samples of college journalism. One should be fair and impartial, freely expressing one's views according to the merits or demerits of the papers before him. Holding such views we were somewhat surprised, and perhaps sorry, to notice among our exchanges, THE HESPERIAN. We are unable to understand why it confronted us in this manner. Our first thought was, "It will not do to criticise our own paper," but then came another thought somewhat weightier than the first; "Why not? It will surely do no harm." Again we thought that we might be bringing the matter too near home. We do not mind having a wordy battle with persons representing papers published at a considerable distance, but when the distance of separation is perhaps only a few blocks and the persons interested, athletes, we thought long and carefully before we decided to venture on such a perilous step. Finally, maintaining our principle of fairness, we entered the arena determined to attack the local column as that seemed to be the weakest place in the lists. As far back as we know anything about it, with, of course a few exceptions, the local department has not been what it should be. We do not wish to reflect discredit upon the present editors for they are no worse than their predecessors. If they have absorbed former ideas in regard to the local department, and are still following along in the old ruts they have done and are still doing wrong. The style should be changed and the editors themselves are the only ones to change it. A little original work might be a pretty good thing in this department. We almost said personal work but corrected the mistake in time. The fact is the principle fault is that there is too much personal work, that is, too many personalities concocted and perpetrated. The jokes, if there are jokes, are written carelessly and are altogether too glaring and blunt, thereby losing a great deal of their force. If they were written up more carefully the writing would reflect more credit upon the writer and perhaps more discredit, if that is the purpose, upon the victim. One thousand and one puns are most too many to have in one issue. Two or three of the best would be sufficient. Events are taking place among the students every day that are entirely ignored, and the space that should be used for mentioning these events is reserved for puns. We do not wish to have the idea conveyed that THE HESPERIAN is the only paper at fault in this respect. Far from it. Nearly all the exchanges are more or less careless in regard to this. Some more but a majority less than THE HESPERIAN. The next paper that came to our view was *The Chronicle Argonaut* from Ann Arbor. Upon reading this paper we soon became aware of the fact that we were not alone in our

belief in regard to the local column of THE HESPERIAN. Our local department was handled without gloves by the *Argonaut's* representative who devoted to it exclusively about half a column. The article commences in this manner: "There is another phase of college journalism which cannot be too severely condemned. We refer to the use of personalities in strained efforts to be facetious. The following items taken from THE HESPERIAN, of the University of Nebraska, will amply illustrate the point." Then follows a few very pertinent examples which we need not mention here. "A word to the wise is sufficient."

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*ALUMNI AND FORMER STUDENTS.*

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St. Louis, May 8, 1891.

*Editor Alumni Department, HESPERIAN:*

Your request for a letter is I hope a sufficient explanation or excuse for the following rather incongruous statement of "my case" if I may so term it. I am pleased, however, to place before the readers of THE HESPERIAN a short description of the Missouri botanical garden and Shaw school of Botany, institutions with which I am connected as student and instructor.

The school of botany, endowed by Henry Shaw is a part of Washington university. It is at present located in a rather dingy, three story brick building near the university. The building was formerly a dwelling house and is poorly located and modeled for its present use. The first floor contains the lecture room, pressing room, and store room. The second floor the general laboratory, herbarium, and library, dark room, and work room. The third floor a special laboratory. The outfit for work is fairly good.

Of the "university life," that of which I know, Nebraska students would be most interested in hearing I can say but little. Washington university is strictly a local (St. Louis) institution. It is located in the center of the city the several departments on almost as many different blocks, conditions not fostering a lively college spirit. I very much miss the hilarious U-U-U-n-i or Pie-canis-pie, and vainly sigh for one of the old time pie-feeds. I cannot tell you with what pleasure I review the old times. How we sci's before going home evenings would catch and toss some unsuspecting lit and then adjourn with a sonorous yell. Things are changed. Instead of jumping out of the door to seize and toss a lit, I may now be seen when evening comes stealing out of the laboratory and down some by street to my train, attempting to avoid the "men in blue" who eye suspiciously my bloody hands (Safranin or other stain.) Several times I have been "held up" by these amiable men while rushing to make connection with my train and thoughtlessly swinging freely my red stained hands. Such are St. Louis police. The students are under the heel of the city. It is too large a town for college spirit.

The botanical garden is beyond description. One must see it to realize its beauty and magnitude. Here, almost in the heart of the city of St. Louis, one may in a few minutes view the noteworthy plants of the tropics and the Arctic, the old and the new worlds. The garden is not what it will be, but it is now grand. I have seen I believe all of the best botanical gardens of the U. S., but none of them compare with this one in magnitude and scope. Yet it is but in its infancy. The endowment, yielding last year a net income of \$120,841.93, is daily increasing in value. I think I can truthfully say that fully half of the endowment is as yet merely an expense for taxes, etc., being entirely unimproved. What the ultimate yearly income will be can hardly be con-