

morning. Let us therefore continue to tread in the good old path in which our alumni have gone. Let us not change from that which has served us so well. Let us let good enough alone.

ALUMNI AND FORMER STUDENTS.

OMAHA, February 20, 1892.

Editor Alumni Department, HESPERIAN:

After having withheld comment on THE HESPERIAN for many years because comment would not be favorable, it gives me real pleasure to tell you how much better the paper looks and "reads." A little heavier paper and THE HESPERIAN will rank with any college publication. It surprises me, however, to still observe the old arguments being printed concerning military drill that were prevalent in my day, and which I thought had been disposed of after a long and bloody war. Some of the incidents and accidents of that warfare, which took place when the drill was first made compulsory should be related for the benefit of later students. I am rather pleased than otherwise to ascertain that hereafter no cadet will be allowed to wear any part of his uniform when not on duty unless he wears the whole. To my mind, nothing looks seedier than to see a neat blue jacket with brownish or yellowish or even black trousers; or a little cadet cap on the head of a man the rest of whose dress does not carry out the military idea. Second, while not familiar with your arrangements, I can scarcely believe that your lieutenant and some clothing house in the east have entered into a combination to do you up. Where you have so many in the battalion you will find it much cheaper to buy your suits by contract than to get them here and there. It is the experience of all military, masonic or uniformed orders.

Regarding the more general proposition to drill or not to drill, my advice to the boys would be, after four years out of my six at the university, in which I was a member of the battalion, to drill by all means. I have seen so many of the fellows go into the school with slouchy gait, rusty clothes, and a general appearance that would detract from any effort they may make in the world, who, after a few weeks' drill, were seen to be straighter, more precise and more active, who had lost their indifferent air by donning a new and perfect fitting suit of blue, so that I cannot imagine why any should oppose so capital a plan to make men quick eyed, graceful, bright, and healthful. To be sure you plead the gymnasium; but that will not accommodate your present numbers, nor will it be patronized unless compulsory and if so, which is preferable, the dangers and excesses that attend athletes, or the even, carefully prepared out-door maneuvers? Bless me, when I look back at the thirty straggling boys whom we thought a great company, I cannot see how one of you can esteem it anything less than a privilege to be one in a battalion of 200, with guns, equipments, and an armory, of which we never dreamed.

One more word. I understand there is a chance of a drill corps coming up to Omaha at the time of the national encampment. That is good, and will advertise the university for a solid week here; but don't stop at that. On the day of the great parade of national guards and other crack companies from all parts of the United States send up the whole battalion fully equipped and with your heavy guns. I will see that you have horses to drag them, and it will do more than anything I can imagine at the present moment to attract the boys of Omaha to the university, and result in a larger attendance there from Omaha, a state of things greatly to be desired.

Believe me, I will do all I can at this end of the line to

aid the battalion in such an undertaking, and to make it pleasant for them while here. Faithfully yours,

CLEMENT CHASE, '83.

'91—T. E. Chappel writes from Harvard divinity school to a student of the U. of N. as follows:

"Yours of late date very gratefully acknowledged. I should have obeyed your behest sooner but mid-year examinations were on me, and not knowing what to expect from a Harvard final examination, I very naturally was applying the spurs to my ponies with redoubled vigor, preparing to run the gauntlet. I stormed the last battlement this afternoon, and doubtless feel as Grant did after the capture of his Vicksburg.

As you are probably aware the year is divided into two parts here, each closing with a final examination. But the final examination here at the end of the second half-year covers all the ground gone over during the year. You doubtless envy us the exquisite pleasure of such an experience. Harvard examinations are not what one might be led to expect from such a college. I don't wonder that tutors prosper so well here. A man has better opportunities here than perhaps any other place in the country in many lines, but it is possible to get through by systematic cramming for a few days before the examination without having done very much work. Most of the teaching is done by lectures; in many courses no recitations whatever are required. They mark by letters here which are A, A minus, B plus, B, B minus, C plus, C, C minus, D plus, D, D minus, E plus, and E. E plus is required to pass. A minus means a little less than A, B plus means a little more than B, and so on.

The examinations are given up largely to details, giving little scope for real scholarly treatment of subjects. It seems to me that such a system must foster narrowness rather than breadth and depth. I would not have you think that it is not possible to do good work here, but some of their methods are a little mossy.

We have had some interesting newspaper discussions over the question of college fraternities, and the admission of women to Harvard college. Not long ago Wm. Lloyd Garrison published an open letter to President Elliot in the Boston Herald against college secret societies. It appears that a son of his who is attending college here was recently admitted to a fraternity called D. K. E. Every candidate must be branded on the arm with a lighted cigar in several places, and submit to other barbarous practices. But the society is so very popular that nothing seems to daunt the would be candidate for admission. Mr. Garrison's son took sick soon after the ordeal and blood poisoning was the result. Wherefore, Mr. Garrison walks upon President Elliot rough shod for allowing such a barbarous institution to exist among the students; to all of which Mr. Elliot answers that the faculty have no authority in the premises, and every thing depends upon the attitude of the students towards the societies. And so the ball rolls merrily on. During the scrap, other matters have come up for review, and Mr. Garrison calls the faculty and directors of Harvard college a remnant of medieval monasticism and other undignified and galling names for not admitting women to their college, thereby making it possible to elevate the moral tone of the college by association with the gentler sex. He further likened them to a boarding school and a monastery, etc., all of which in this connection I believe is quite true. There is little doubt but that the moral tone at Harvard is very much below that at the University of Nebraska."

'91—J. B. Fogarty has closed his school at Hermosa, S. D., and will engage in newspaper work at Hot Springs, S. D.