

as those other colleges. In these colleges literary work and oratory (if it will be allowable to call it by that name) is about all they have with which to arouse enthusiasm. And in Crete, which will account for the great percentage there, it is not only all they have in the college but all they have in the whole town.

Here we have several other courses, equally prominent with the literary, scientific clubs equally as attractive as a literary society, two theaters almost every night, and frequent addresses by prominent men, to say nothing of numerous other diversions of which students in the other colleges know little or nothing. It certainly cannot be reasonably expected that we should have as great a percentage, even of our literary students, in the local oratorical association.

Mr. Williams says that all the university asks is "that you place yourselves where defeat shall not overtake you." In other words "If you cannot be at the head, whether right or wrong, withdraw and don't play with them." I have yet to hear of a single complaint from university authorities and think none has been made. The assertion comes from Mr. Williams as an individual and his language imports that he is not a member of the association he addresses. Supposing that he is a member for the sake of saving him from the ridiculous position of telling somebody else what they should do, it would seem that a university student ought to be above talking "sour grapes"

But the real trouble Mr. Williams seems not to have overlooked simply but not to be cognizant of. He says "It is folly for you to labor to win a state contest with the ideal you have in view, etc." The real folly rests in seeking to win a contest with that ideal while our co-contestants have a different ideal. Our man enters the field with a good oration. The students of the other colleges enter with good essays, biographies, eulogies, panegyrics, anything but orations, and we say "All right. Let the game go on." The judges are not directed to distinguish between orations and other productions, they therefore commonly make none, and thus a good scientific paper or a flowery harangue may rank above a fair oration. In like manner, grace in action is put ahead of force in delivery. I am decidedly opposed to putting our good wheat in the balance against their straw and chaff. So long as we continue to do so we shall only serve as instruments to raise them into greater prominence and honor. Take for instance the essay which took first place in the state contest two years ago. It had none of the elements of an oration in it and its reputed author should never have been permitted to come upon the rostrum to deliver it. One of the orations in the last state contest should have been disposed of in like manner. If we enter the northern league and choose our judges from university men only, under equal conditions, we have no assurance that the honors will be more satisfactorily placed. Take for instance in our last local contest where two of the judges on manuscript were university professors and the other a university graduate. I am informed that one of those judges declares that there is no difference whatever between an oration and an essay. One of those judges ranked one of the orations five points above any other entered, while another one of the judges marked the same oration somewhat below the others. The judges on delivery differed almost as much in their markings. The oration may have been good or bad, I do not here undertake to say, but such extremes in marking is positively ridiculous. The copies of the oration submitted to the several judges were exactly the same and it is evident that the cause of the difference in markings was the difference in the minds of the judges as to what constituted an oration and proper delivery. This is a greater difference in marks than has

been made by the judges on any of our state contests where Mr. Williams suggests we have not always had things exactly to our taste.

Let us, instead of crying for "sympathy" and "offices", contend for a well defined standard of oratory. If the local associations refuse to agree to this, then I am willing to withdraw. But assuming that they will agree to this, then let us rigorously enforce the rule, instruct the judges to rule out all manuscript which does not come within the definition of an oration, and in delivery to look not to the beauty of gymnastic performance but to the tendency to carry conviction of the truth of the principle advocated by the orator to the minds of the audience. Also give the judges a common basis on which to grade. Under such conditions there will be no occasion "for the honest grangers of the state to smile and say the university isn't in it", and we may safely undertake to send an orator to the inter-state contest the year after their adoption. If we withdraw from the state association for no better reasons than those indicated by Mr. Williams in his article, I venture the assertion that 95 per cent of our "six hundred students will rise up and call you chumps."

H. W. QUAINANCE.

LITERARY.

Monument Light.

BY ERNEST WHITING.

"There's something wrong at the lighthouse bar,
A bad night coming, and yet no light;
The sky is murky, with never a star,
And the fishing fleet comes in tonight.

"Look at the whitecaps, how they spout!
And look at the breakers, mad with spray!
They can never steer in, if the light is out,
And they never can live outside the bay.

"Four rough miles to the old rock tower,
And not a minute of sight to spare,
The Devil would miss it in half an hour!
Now who'll risk a life for the lives out there?"

Four stout fellows were ready then,
And pulled away in a burst of cheers;
'Twas the one last hope for saving the men;
And the hope was little and heavy the fears.

Half way over the daylight ceased,
And a sudden darkness fell over all,
Without a sign of life in the east
Till a rocket shot through the midnight pall.

Another, another, and many more,
And we thought, as we waited in helpless pain,
Of the horrible rack that would strew the shore
And the four brave souls in their struggle vain,

When a sudden the flash of the lighthouse ray,
And the bay with a path of glory paved!
And we shouted, and sobbed, as children may,
For we knew—we knew the fleet was saved!

Yes, the fleet was saved, and a hundred men,
And every craft in the fleet afloat;
But the light in the tempest went out again,
And the waves rolled back an empty boat.

We buried them there, in the old Light's wreck,
With the new Light above for a monument;
And there's none of us here on dike or deck
But's a better man for the lives they lent.

The Last Work of a Great Statesman.

[We publish this week the winning oration, delivered by Miss E. C. Field, at the Delian Annual Oratorical Contest.]

A republican government is founded upon certain fixed principles. These principles are inherent. That they could be withheld until the spirit of liberty has entirely disappeared, or the people have become so servile and debased as "to be