

to forty, is open both to ladies and gentlemen.

This is a move in the right direction. All admit the desirability of literary work. All who have thought upon the subject, admit the necessity of new literary societies. There are, in the University, about nine hundred students. Of these, less than three hundred belong to any literary society or to any fraternity. We venture the assertion that in no other school of the country will a like condition be found. There is a demand, not only for one new society, but for two or three of them. The new society has been organized at a very opportune moment. Success is assured if the members be but active and energetic. The old societies bid the new one welcome; all students wish it success.

THE friends of the class of '96 had fondly hoped that the class would distinguish itself by failing to observe that senseless custom of carrying canes into chapel. Needless to say, its friends were sadly disappointed. The class, flourishing canes and waving banners, bolted into chapel and, of course, necessitated dispensing with services. The struggle attendant upon breaking the canes was a comparatively fortunate one. Clothes were ruined, to be sure, black eyes and bloody noses were common, but only one young man was seriously injured.

It is safe to say that active members of the Freshman and Sophomore classes waste, on an average, at least one-fourth ($\frac{1}{4}$) of their time from the beginning of the school year until after the final rush in working, planning and organizing for it. It is also conservative to estimate that at least a quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of the members of each class are so wrought up and excited over the result of the contest that they are incapable of studying for the two weeks following the rush.

Not only is time wasted and studies neglected, but in every cane rush life and limb are endangered. Within the last four years, there has not been a solitary rush in which some one has not been seriously injured.

The cane rush is supposed to decide

whether or not the Freshmen shall be allowed to carry canes. As a matter of fact, it decides absolutely nothing. It exists as the relic of a time when it was regarded as the proper thing to "haze" every new student. The custom of having cane rushes was introduced into our school in the primitive days of the institution by persons who had decided inclinations for the profession of pugilism. In some inexplicable way it has come to be regarded as a fixture, even though the great majority of our students have long since turned from a study of the rules laid down by the late lamented Marquis of Queensbury to the more practical, though perhaps less interesting, ones laid down by Allan and Greenough. The new system, by which class distinctions are abolished, offers the most convenient opportunity for abolishing the cane rush also. It is a nuisance, for it causes a waste of time and energy; it is positively dangerous, as frequent accidents prove; it is an incentive to rowdyism; it is a relic of barbarism; it has got to go.

THE present issue of the HESPERIAN begins, probably, a new era for our college paper. Responsibilities always follow a change in any long established custom, and it is with no little hesitation that we assume the important duties that devolve upon us as editors of the HESPERIAN. The HESPERIAN of the past has not been what we would wish it to be. We have been aware of this fact for some time, not only because of own judgment in the matter, but also, because sundry and other persons have, semi-occasionally, informed us of the fact. They tell us the HESPERIAN has been a mistake, that we have had so much spleen to vent that we must necessarily use small type in setting up said spleen in order to get the whole effusion in a single issue. We worked hard to combat such a theory and thus occasioned an effusion of more spleen. What else could we do? We knew our critics were right, but we could never sustain the reputation of our profession by telling them so. Hence, we praised up the HESPERIAN and severely criti-