

say. Many regard the action of the organizers as not only inconsistent and untenable, but as absolutely treacherous and unprincipled, considering the fact that many of them have, in the past, been loudest in their denunciation of fraternities—though it must be admitted this was done only when, by so doing, the denouncers furthered their own private interests. To many, this appears like an entire abandonment of principles, a mere act of policy, a conversion for revenue only. But we recognize the fact that our prospective fraternity friends will easily explain this seeming inconsistency, on the indisputable ground that every man has a right to change his opinion, that they have only experienced a change of heart, that they see the error of their past ways, and so on *ad infinitum*.

But as was said, it is not for these prospective fraternities or their organizers that this article is written. We wish to give a little plain, timely, fatherly advice to our friends the "barbs" in the literary societies. Though it may be true in some, it is not true that in all cases these men are deserting the literary societies simply as a matter of policy. It is more than questionable whether such action is politic. There must, then, be some other and deeper motive; and this is found in dissatisfaction with the work that the literary societies have, of late, been doing. This is not a pleasant admission; but it is a fact, and we might as well face it, and the sooner we *do* face it and act on it, the better for the "barb" cause. Some of these men who now propose to enter fraternities undoubtedly believe that in so doing they will advance themselves mentally, socially, and in other ways to a greater degree than they could by remaining in the open literary society. Whether they will do so or not, it is not the purpose of this article to discuss. Their actions show conclusively what they themselves think. We might as well honestly admit that the work of the open societies has not been up to the standard of a few years ago; that interest in debating circles has almost died out, while interest in the

literary society is on the wane. Now there is one, and only one, way to check this tendency to "fratism." The literary society must do better work in both a literary and social way. Make the student feel that the society offers him more and better advantages than any fraternity can, and he will stay with the society; and under no other circumstances. We have numbers and sentiment with us; which side has the arguments is a disputed question. One thing is sure; in the end the best will prevail. If we barbs do not win, we do not deserve to. It is not, in any way, a question of sentiment, it is one of hard fact to be settled by the principle of the survival of the fittest.

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There is no doubt that the batallion is an important factor in our University. It is important within the institution because of the discipline it affords to the body of male students. It is important without because of the benefit derived within, and because it is known as one of the best disciplined and drilled cadet batallions in the west. The cadets spend a great deal of time doing drill and tactics work. If they derive pleasure from their work, well and good, if they do not, there is no relief for them, for their work is compulsory. There is nothing done through the college year that will give all the cadets genuine pleasure and furnish a land-mark, as it were, by which they will remember their military work. We believe it would be a good plan for the cadets to give a military reception and ball at the end of each year's work, and this would be a good year in which to start the ball rolling. A reception in which all might meet in social converse, would be something which the average cadet would look forward to with joyous anticipation, and look backward upon with pleasure. A military ball might be held in connection, for the enjoyment of those who dance, although this might be left out if the batallion so chose. To make this one of the features of commencement week, would place a premium on the work of the military department, and cadets would more willingly