

One of the fiercest parliamentary contests that ever took place in the Union occurred upon the proposition to change the name to Adelpian in recognition of the property rights of the members of that society in the fixtures and furniture. Charges of rapine and spoliation were freely indulged in a plea was made for the rights of those who had been Adelpians but had not consented to the transfer of the property. The proposed change was defeated, but we orphans succeeded in having spread upon the records of the Union a resolution recognizing lineal descent of the Union from the Adelpian and redeeming the constitution and records of the latter from the waste basket.

In consideration of the property obtained from the Adelpian the Union made all members of the honorary members of the latter and preserved the records of the parent society. So by adoption rather than by right of birth the Union is the heir of the Adelpian. It was in these early days of the Union that there occurred an impeachment trial worthy of a larger place in history than has hitherto been accorded to it. In order to give the exercises a practical turn, formal charges of "high crimes and misdemeanors" were filed against the secretary of the society and he was regularly put upon trial. The history of impeachments from that of Warren Hastings to that of President Johnson was drawn upon for precedent. The brilliant constitutional arguments would have excited the envy of a Webster, while the Philipics delivered against the honorable society were worthy of a Burke. Venerable and imposing sheep-bound tomes from the university library served *pro hac vice* for law books.

The manner in which the contending counsel quoted convenient law from books of general literary, encyclopaedias, scientific reports, etc., gave earnest of their future ability to make the worse appear the better reason. The trial resulted in an

acquittal. The impeachment trial of Secretary Hart is still remembered as one of the most interesting and amusing sessions of the Union.

It was about this time that one of our country recruits furnished a unique example of polite correspondence. Having doubtless been urged by the Professor of English Literature to write with studied exactness, asked one of our newly admitted lady members "for the pleasure of her company *to* and *from* the Union society on next Friday evening." Not to be out done in exactitude in diplomatic correspondence she accepted his proffered escort "for the *round trip*."

The literary societies of twenty years ago formed an important factor in university life, and it will be a matter of regret to me if they shall ever be suffered to lose their influence. While I have often doubted if any practical benefit came from some of the studies pursued in my college days, no such doubts have ever existed as to the practical value of the training received in literary societies.

*Henry H. H. 78*

"AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING."

I have been asked to speak of the University of Nebraska in its earliest stages—to recall appearances and events at its very beginning. It is yet too early to indulge in personal reminiscences—to speak freely of the actors in the making of the University. I shall be content therefore, to refer only to circumstances and conditions.

On September 7, 1871, the University of Nebraska opened with an enrollment of seventy-five students. That was a promising event for a state only a little more than four years old, with a population of about 130,000 people scattered along its eastern border, with practically no schools above the primary or common grades. The ratio of