

you strike for his subscription. This is a small matter to the subscriber but far from small to the business manager. The past year has been a hard one for newspapers. It is only right therefore that all subscribers should pay up. The HESPERIAN has given the students more to talk about and think about and fight about, in one issue than any other paper has ever done before in the University. We like to stroke the cat's fur the wrong way, only when we get pay for it.

Now is the accepted time to withdraw from the State Oratorical Association. The students of the University will never be in a better position to judge of the honor they annually derive from membership in the state association, than they are at present. The whole scheme of local, state, and inter-state contest is nothing more than a scramble for glory, and cheap glory at that. There is scarcely a contest but some participant complains of unfair dealing, either in selection of judges or in the decision of the judges after they are once selected. No contestant enters an oratorical contest, believing that if he has the best oration and delivers it in the most acceptable manner, he will be certain of the victory. On the contrary, he thinks that he runs the chance of winning, and to win, is to wear an imaginary laurel wreath and have a little halo around the head. If in an oratorical contest, there were some sure way by which the best man or woman could be picked out infallibly, then the HESPERIAN would be the least to say a word against a test of merit of that kind, but an oratorical contest is almost never a test of merit unless all the orators but one be manifestly inferior. When it comes to a close race there is no judgement that is not open to the charge of partiality.

The political aspect of the case presents another objectionable side. There are but few offices to be filled and any number of people to fill them. The officers of the state association, have charge of the state

contest, and there has not been a contest since the year one when trouble or hard feeling was not caused in the selection of judges. The amount of wire pulling done, no matter who does it, is amazing to one not acquainted with student politics. Students come to school to study, or should come for that purpose. The training they get in putting their best feet forward, in oratorical scraps, may develop their nerve but it certainly does not increase their ability in anything but political lines.

#### COMMUNICATED.

To the editor of the HESPERIAN: During the recent oratorical circus a serious charge was made against those desiring to sustain the good name of the University. It was claimed that their action was due largely, if not entirely, to personal prejudice. I desire to state briefly what seemed to me to be the student attitude I admit that the Nebraska representative to the inter-state contest had enemies at the mass meeting who wished to 'down him.' They were few in number. I admit that the resolutions as carried were probably too severe, as were perhaps also those passed by the faculty. This is to be regretted. Nevertheless I do not hesitate to say that fully 500 of the students present were there to see justice done; to give our representative every opportunity to defend himself, and to clear him and the University, if possible. They realized that the charges were exaggerated, but they also realized that the reports sent to the colleges and the newspapers of the whole country would be exaggerated still more, and merely wished to say "we do not endorse or approve the deeds which silence has admitted."

As several of the faculty have said the great mistake made by the accused was his refusal to defend himself before the students, whose representative he was. Up to this time most of the students did not doubt that he had defense. As it is, let us bury the whole matter.

F. F. TUCKER, '91.