

allow fraternity people to become members, so long will their societies be troubled with "indifference." So long as they allow their societies to be dominated by an element whose tastes are social rather than literary, so long will they find "a lack of interest" in literary work. Literary culture in its highest and best sense cannot be obtained through banquets and balls and social functions. And that is what is the matter with Alabama. The Nebraska literary societies acted more wisely. They declared open war on the fraternity idea and method, and forever barred all "frats" from membership. And the beneficial result is seen in the prosperous and flourishing condition of our literary societies at the present time. We are doing a literary work which, THE HESPERIAN honestly believes, is not excelled by that of any organization in the West. We are working hard and intelligently; we are working together and with a will; we are promoting literary tastes and inclinations, and doing all in our power to encourage and promote literary talent. And we are succeeding. With a very few exceptions, the student writers and speakers of the University today are members of one or the other literary societies. That this is true, the membership of the "English Club," and the literary productions appearing from time to time in college and local publications tell but too well. And we are troubled with neither "indifference" nor "lack of interest." And so we say to our Alabama contemporary, "Brace up; expel all fraternity members from your literary societies, if you would do good, honest literary work." Do this, and you will not make such pleas as the following in vain:

"At no institution of learning in Alabama can a more intelligent body of students be found than here, and yet they are neglecting one of the most important branches of their education. We venture to say that at least a third of our students here intend to enter into public life or the practice of law some day. But besides these, nearly every one here will some time in future life have occa-

sion to speak in public or in some assembly. As we are in college to prepare ourselves to meet the responsibilities of life, why shouldn't we improve ourselves along this line. There is no more highly appreciated accomplishment than to be able to express one's thoughts with grace and ease. A few have this power as a gift of nature, others have to cultivate it, and the literary societies are the places to practice one's self in the art. Even if a student has no desire or ambition to be an orator, the information and mental improvement is a sufficient inducement for a man who wishes to cultivate himself. Some are doubtless led to avoid societies because they feel conscious of an inability to speak in public, but this is an absurd reason for none of us are brilliant orators or debaters. We are not expected to be, but our object is to better ourselves."

Reception to Chancellor MacLean.

"It is too bad—too bad." So said a Senior as, in the wee sma' hours after the street cars has stopped, he was trudging out to No. 10000, corner of Nobody avenue and Nowhere street. The reception tendered Chancellor MacLean by the Seniors was over. When a HESPERIAN reporter asked the aforesaid Senior what was too bad, he replied: "Why the unwritten law that causes Freshmen boys to accompany Senior girls and Senior boys to accompany Freshmen girls. See how it was tonight. *Hamlet* was in town; the Seniors had made arrangements to go and couldn't break their engagements. That's why there weren't more out at the reception tonight."

We think the Senior had the reason in a nutshell. Those who attended the reception, however, had a delightful evening. The conservatory had been most daintily decorated with flowers and draperies; ices were served throughout the evening. President Almy made a nice address in behalf of the class; and the chancellor made a fitting response. After the more formal part had been finished, which, by the way, was most informal, the members of the class enjoyed themselves in games and dancing.

Taken all-in-all, the reception tendered to Chancellor and Mrs. MacLean was entirely a social success.