

*A U. of N. Alumnus at Harvard.*

Some of the readers of the HESPERIAN will remember George W. Botsford of the class of '84. He has won much praise for excellent work since his graduation, and especially within the past two years for his splendid monograph on "The Development of the Athenian Constitution," which was commented on very favorably by German scholars. This letter, or part of a letter to me, under the date of Nov. 15, will interest his friends.

JAY AMOS BARRETT.

"I am giving a course this year [Harvard University] in Athenian Constitutional History to graduates, and a course in Roman history to undergraduates. Both are by lectures and both new. I have again to work up a lecture every day in the week. This keeps me hustling. Then I had to work up a special lecture on the Roman Historians for a more public occasion, and this has taken an enormous amount of time, but it is now off my hands. Then I had to get quite a long article ready for the press \* \* \* on the Alcmeonidae and the Cleisthenian Constitutional reforms, and am now looking over proof. It will appear in this year's Harvard studies in classical philology. I have also just finished a review of a Greek historical monograph by Whibley, for the American Historical Review. It is a short review but took lots of time. So you see how crowded I am. I like my work much better than anywhere I have been before, tho' I have to work harder. \* \* \*

I should like ever so well to come out to Nebraska, but I know not when I can come. If I can get a few miles out into the country for a few weeks next summer it will be all we can expect to do soon. I shall spend a considerable part of vacations for a few years in working up my subjects, as this will relieve me a good deal. \* \* \* You must plan to come and

see us. \* \* \* I always set my heart on living in the west, but fate has brought me farther and farther east almost against my will."

*The Societies.*

The vocal solo contest of the Union society was a success from every point of view, except, possibly, the musical. Our musical critic has not yet recovered so we can do no better than quote briefly from the decision of the judges.

Mr. Kinton gave first place to Miss Mickey; second to Mr. Kuhlman; Mr. Shreve marked Miss Dempster first, Mr. Searson second; Miss Prey gave Miss Monroe first place, Mr. Rhodes second. The judges defended their decisions with elaborate arguments—especially Mr. Shreve from whom we quote:

"Mr Searson did so well I hardly know what to say. He seems to be able to carry a tune with great ease and smoothness, but falls down somewhat in unloading it. His voice is metallic \* \* \*; indeed the metallic in his voice is very noticeable—giving evidence of much brass in his constitution and a good deal of irony in his fervent efforts. Mr. Searson's volume and expression would have moved stones and things and broken window glasses. His slurs, accents, swells, rests, breathing tone-coloring and other things were above criticism. I should give him first place on effort, at least. His efforts were painful."

The Palladians had an exceptionally good program. Miss Philbrick read an artistic sketch and Mr. Tucker discussed the ins and outs of college life. Miss Alderman captured the audience by her recitation. "The Vision of Monk Gabriel." Miss Alderman has elocutionary abilities of no secondary order. The feature of the literary program was the debate on the foot-ball question. Mr.