

the proportionate smallness of their numbers is unnoticed. The law men are an integral portion of University state. They are entitled to the best the institution affords and show a disposition to take advantage of the opportunity. Last year the disciples of Blackstone made themselves felt in forensic, literary and athletic lines and their influence will doubtless be no less potent during this year. The HESPERIAN welcomes the law men, their musty precedents and innumerable citations, their readiness in debate and facility in politics, their bellicose club meetings and drastic constitutional methods. There shall no longer be a division line between academies and laws; we are all one living, expanding student body.

#### Democracy on the Increase:

The attendance and programs at the various literary societies and debating clubs at the initiatory meetings argue well for the year's work in literary and forensic lines. The societies without exception rendered thoroughly good programs. The class of students in attendance indicates efficient work, social refinement and literary culture. There was no lagging. The spirit of the meetings was apparent in the uniform excellence of the productions and the intense interest manifested by the auditors. The social influence of these organizations is broad and liberal. It is the right sort, elevating, equalizing and refining. The four debating clubs represent a membership of at least 200 men. Here is a live, enthusiastic, energetic assembly of men who have brain power and propose to use it. The University cannot but feel their influence and in the days to come the state will have cause to be proud of the work of these clubs. They are stronger than ever before; they touch living issues; they grind mind against mind; they produce not alone thinkers but conveyors of thought; they foster liberality and crush narrowness; they are for equality and against exclusiveness.

Altogether the societies and clubs are the strong bulwarks of the University. No young man or woman who desires to be something in the world and for the world can afford to forego their advantages.

#### Athletic Election.

There seems to be some dissatisfaction at the outcome of the election of officers in the athletic association, held Saturday morning. The fact that the new officers were elected by a rising or *viva voce* vote furnishes ground for the charge that the election was unconstitutional. The letter of the constitution gives color to the charge. By-laws may be laid aside by a two-thirds vote; but a constitution can hardly be disposed of in that manner. The constitution is the fundamental law of the organization and can be changed or amended only in a prescribed way. It would seem that it can hardly be over-ridden even by unanimous consent and in this case unanimous consent was not asked for. In fact the point was not raised at all, as to the illegality of the method of election. The article in the constitution referring to elections reads as follows: "All elections shall be by roll call."

The election, by the body of the association, of two of the faculty members of the University Athletic Board was certainly beyond their power and so void. Article III of the "Constitution of the University Board of Athletics" reads as follows: "This board shall consist of ten members, five of whom shall be the Board of Directors of the Student Athletic Association. The remaining five shall be members of the faculty chosen as follows: Three by the general faculty, and two by the Board of Directors of the Student Athletic Association." It is to be hoped that a satisfactory adjustment of the matter may be made equitable to all parties concerned. The student body should control this organization; it should also control its legality. It cannot afford to neglect the letter or spirit of its regulating law.

#### Prof. Franklin.

Prof. Franklin is a graduate of Cornell university class of '87. For three years he studied political science and history in the university of Chicago. He comes here as an assistant in American history. He has had three years under Prof. Von Holst of Chicago and two years under Moses Coit Tyler at Cornell University. Prof. Franklin has had seven years experience in Wisconsin and Kansas as a history instructor.