

THE HESPERIAN

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Life does not consist of *pretenses*.

The base ball score-card and the athletic reprint are indulging themselves in a somewhat unpleasant combat of words. May the best *thing* win.

"The rag," says the official organ of a certain Greek letter society, "is the only paper which makes any *pretenses* to furnish news," and it goes to press with two columns on a practice game of base ball and a ten line local on an inter-state debate.

THE MISSOURI-NEBRASKA DEBATE.—Our second detachment of debaters consisting of Hawxby, Kindler and Taylor will start for Columbia early next week and as this is considered by many our strongest team we expect them to return crowned with the laurel of victory. The question for debate is the annexation of Hawaii and Nebraska takes the negative. Hawxby will open and close the debate; Kindler will speak second and Taylor third. The base ball boys expect to be in Columbia at the same time, so our men will not lack for rooters.

War is at hand. After a peace of thirty-three years, the American people find themselves in a position where they must fight. War is terrible; war is hell; but it is a necessity. Not only is it necessary, but it is natural. It is but the working out of the old law of nature that the fittest shall survive. Before the advent of man, each age had its dominating type of animal. Since man, each age has had its dominating race of men. While the struggle has been to some extent inter-racial, yet it has been in behalf of the great principles which the different races represent. We fight for western ideas, liberty and humanity; Spain fights for eastern tyranny and oppression. We fight for the principle that all men are free and equal; Spain for the old and absurd formula of the divine right of kings.

Many of our boys have enlisted already, and many more are intending to do so. In class-room, and especially in the regiment is their absence noticed. A feeling of suppressed expectation is prevalent everywhere. The University is proud of her sons, but it is with aching heart and faltering voice that she bids them God-speed. She knows that not all will come back again. And of those who do return, the empty sleeve, the sightless eye, the wooden leg, will tell a sterner story than words.

The American college boy is nothing if not patriotic. His is the great, boundless, enthusiastic patriotism of youth and he counts his life as nothing, if, by yielding it up, he may advance the interests of his country. But is there a special need for the college boy to enlist at this juncture? Does he show lack of patriotism if he does not enlist? Perhaps there are but few who would answer in the affirmative. Patriotism is not found solely in time of war. The greatest duty of the American youth to his country is to educate himself so that he can deal intelligently with the internal problems of the nation. Failure to enlist at this time does *not* show a lack of patriotism in the college man. Neither does it imply that he is a coward. He is not especially needed in the field. Thousands of Americans who are not in school are eager to go. Then why should a college man ruin his

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