

ers declare we excelled them in delivery. A defeat under those circumstances is no disgrace. We have every reason to be proud of our representatives to Missouri.

While having local and, it has been intimated, incompetent judges may account for the defeat at Columbia, it certainly can not account for the defeat last Friday evening. Chancellor MacLean is to be congratulated for securing so able a set of judges on such short notice. All were from Council Bluffs. Mr. Sims is a prominent attorney, Mr. Hisey, superintendant of schools, Mr. Bender editor of the *Nonpareil*—a decision by such a set of judges must mean something. How then shall we interpret it in order that we may profit most by it?

One of the judges said to a Nebraskan after the debate, "You had argument all right, but the Kansans were more familiar with their manuscripts." *Manuscripts! Great Scott!! Manuscripts in a debate!!!* In view of this frank admission some students are advocating that we do away with our debating clubs, that we amend the constitution of the debating association to allow set speeches in the preliminaries, that hereafter, in our interstate debates, some one be assigned to write the speeches of all three of our debaters(?) and thus insure continuity of argument, fluency of speech and save any possible loss of time in refutation.

This is the merest nonsense. To adopt such a policy would be to make *the winning* of debates the one great end and to sacrifice everything to that end. It would defeat the very purpose of such contests. If the evil can be remedied in no other way let us adopt inter-state rules against set speeches. Familiarity with manuscript could not then determine markings. But this is a minor point. The HESPERIAN believes that the one lesson we should learn from the Friday night defeat is, that not more depends on *what* is said than *how* it is said. An audience demands something more of a speaker than that he be logical and argumentative. We must not look upon stage presence, self possession, gesticulation and quality of voice as non-essentials. They may be such before a supreme court; they are not before the average audience. We must give more attention to deliv-

ery; let us not try to deceive ourselves, let us acknowledge the fact that we have been deficient in this in the past, but, let us endeavor to remedy it in the future. *Oratory has a place in University life.* No one who has listened to our debaters can deny the fact. The University Oratorical Association now has an insignificant position; it deserves a place in the front rank of University organizations. Are we going to give it that place? Or are we going to continue to apologize for our debaters' appearance and lack of polish?

#### The Frying Pan.

Remember me and my best wishes  
When in the guard-tent, or digging ditches.

A soldier is just an ordinary biped; genus human; species, boy, chiefly. He is rigged out in Nebraska sky blue trousers, dark blue coat, brown leggings and a cap like a policeman's, two sizes, at least, larger than the biped wore when he was one of ordinary people, and still a perfect fit. But what a charm, what a superior atmosphere, what a calm suavity surrounds the creature. How wonderful he succeeds in making people believe he is.

About the first thing that will be pounded into the heads of the University enlisters will be the understanding that there are some people in the world besides University stars, that they know lots of things without carrying degrees or epaulets on their shoulders, that contact with them is not contaminating. "The vulgar mob" may show that it is fitted for other purposes than to be a machine run by men who are "born to rule." What a sight it would be for all the ages if the men who enlisted would say, "I'll take my place with the rest. I'll try my strength with others before I step up. And may the best man rise to his proper place." But that spirit is not abroad in the land. Great men's sons must be brigadier-generals, sergeants or corporals — anything but privates. And I suppose college people are the next worse offenders in believing themselves corporals, lieutenants, majors and chief cooks by the divine right of men who have conjugated a Latin verb. But the big world never takes kindly to this idea of superiority. Let re-