

THE HESPERIAN

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Last spring the university saw over a hundred of her stalwart youth throw aside their books and take up the musket to fight the battles of the nation. These men were not wild and reckless, seeking vent for their daring spirits. They did not enter the army for mere love of adventure. They were men whose ambitions were boundless and whose prospects were brilliant. For years they had been struggling to round up their education in college. With this end in view no work was too menial, no discouragements were too great. They knew that the men who are to mould the thought of the nation and be its leaders would be the college men. They knew that each one must carve out for himself his own destiny, and they wanted a college education before they should begin the struggle.

It was no little sacrifice for such men to give up their ambitions and enlist in the army. Many considered that their duty to their country, their state and their university left them no choice but to enlist. To the nation and the state they owed their education. If educated classes should stand back and urge others to the front, well it might be said, that universities are failures and that higher education does not make good citizens. And so, college men sprang into the service. They served as privates and as officers; they served on land and on sea; everywhere, their service was intelligent, and their discipline was perfect.

Until this week, no University of Nebraska man had died in the service. But on Sunday came the news of the death of Thomas Lunn and on Monday from Camp Meade, Pennsylvania, that of the deaths of August Foss and Roy Johnson. The flag over the University has drooped at half mast in their memory; the great living heart of the University has stopped for a moment its ceaseless throb and by its hushed stillness has spoken the sentiments of sympathy for the dead that thoughts cannot express and lips cannot utter. Fate did not grant them the boon of dying on the field of battle when impassioned manhood approaches divinity. For them was reserved the worse fate of sinking beneath the withering touch of disease. Yet they are no less heroes, and an earthly immortality shall be theirs equalled only by that of the men who died on the field of battle.

The Junior Annual Board will begin work at once on the Sombbrero which will be issued some time in April. The members of the board have come back filled with new ideas and plans for making the annual exceed all former publications of the kind in our University. Regular weekly meetings of the board will begin at once and the work will be pushed forward to completion as rapidly as practical and possible. There are four places in the board of associate editors which will have to be filled at an early meeting of the junior class, as four members who were elected last year have not returned to the University. Care should be exercised by the class in the selection of these members, and ability and fitness for the place should be the only qualifications considered.

Dr. H. K. Wolfe, formerly at the head of the department of philosophy in this University, has just accepted the position as superintendent of the public schools of South Omaha. South Omaha is especially fortunate in securing Dr. Wolfe for this position. He was for many years connected with the University of Nebraska, and to him is due the credit of building up the department of philosophy and making it what it is. From a department of little importance both in the number of students registered in it, and in the work offered, he raised it to one of the largest, strongest, and most popular departments in our University, and made for himself a reputation of national extent. He is accepted as authority in this country in many lines of his work. The Hesperian joins with his many friends in this University in congratulating the people of South Omaha in their good fortune in securing Dr. Wolfe to superintend their public schools.

OUR EASTERN PROBLEMS.

Address of Dr. Fling on the Complications in the East.

Dr. Fred Morrow Fling gave a short but very interesting address on "Our Eastern Problem" at the Plymouth Congregational church last Thursday evening. Quite a good many University students turned out to hear it. Dr. Fling spoke entirely without notes, in fact, it was an extemporaneous address. He said, in substance: The most remarkable thing about our eastern problem is that we have it. I made the statement at the beginning of the war that the nation had entered upon a great crisis in history and that the more difficult problems would come after the close of the war. This has proven true.

This problem was forced upon us. It was an accident to us as a people. It seems almost an accident to our government, but it seems to me that there is evidence that the government has long had its eyes on the Philippines. The government acts and doesn't talk much before it acts.

When the battle of Manila was won, we began to realize the difficulties before us. The question as to what was to be done with them became paramount. It seems to me that there has been a distinct change in public opinion since then. In the beginning the general public seemed in favor of giving up the Philippines, but now opinion favors the retaining of them. The great majority of newspapers today favor expansion. This question cannot be a party issue. It is a national issue.

I think we will keep the islands. Why? Some say that the American flag should never be pulled down where once it has been raised. There is a great deal of feel an indelible thrill of pleasure when they see the stars and stripes waving. This sentiment about the flag carries men a long ways. Others find it hard to let these islands go because our men have fought and died to win them.

Give the islands up to whom? Shall we give them back to Spain? We are fighting to drive Spain out of Cuba on grounds of humanity. Spain has been just as cruel and tyrannical with the Philippines as she has been with Cuba. We would not be true to our principles if we should return them to Spain. Shall we sell them? If we do we will run up against the constitution and our own Declaration of Independence. No, we are not going to sell the islands.

The Philippines are one of the keys to the oriental world. This can be seen by the birds of prey that are gathering there. Germany, France, Japan, all want them. England says for us to keep them because she does not want any of the other European nations to have them. The real reason for our holding these islands is a commercial reason. People that are interested, who have money to invest and schemes to push forward are busy all of the time working for the continuance of our sovereignty in the Philippines. The Paris commissioners are very likely to hold on to all of the islands.

What are we going to do with them? How shall we connect these islands with the United States of America? Shall we make their in-