

THE HESPERIAN

Jerry Rebmann Writes from Manila.

MANILA, Nov. 16, 1898.

DEAR FRIEND: I received a Hesperian last evening to my surprise. I read it carefully over and found a great deal of good news in it. I am especially glad of the news that the good old University has opened its doors to a larger number of students than ever before. But how can it be otherwise? More and more are the people awakened to the fact that a higher education is necessary even to the common people. The time where kings and princes can not read and write has passed. The time when the common people can earn their bread—like human beings ought to—with a common education, is passing, and the time is coming when every healthy person can, ought, and must have a higher education in order to fulfill the proper duties of life. Of course, the time when all people receive a higher education is yet distant, but the time when all people will and can fulfill our duties is farther distant yet.

Oh how little I feel! Every day I find out more and more that I know mighty little, and that a person like me is a very insignificant thing in this world of action. When I was twelve up to twenty years of age, then I felt as though the world was hinging on me. But now I feel that I cut no figure and that I am but loosely attached to the world. I wish I were young again and knew enough to start out aright. But lost time can never be recovered, as it seems. It simply may caution one to use the future time more profitably. My eyes opened a little too late. But since they opened I have done as well as I could in my yet half drowsy condition. I was twenty years of age when I came to the U. S. A. I worked one summer and one winter on a farm near Milwaukee. Then I came to Tamora Nebr. and worked a few years on farms about Seward. I picked up a little English here and there, and at the age of twenty-four and a half years I took a notion to enter the U. of N. as 1st Prep. I took the entrance examination, and luckily passed. I really knew not what I was doing when I attempted to enter the U. of N. but my ignorance in this case was my salvation. No! if I had known the requirements of the U. of N. and the immense difficulties I had to overcome I would never have dared to enter or seek entrance. But my ignorance allowed me to try it; my pluck supported me; and kind professors helped me through. Ah how thankful can I be to America, to the state of Nebraska and especially to the good professors and regents of the University herself to offer me such a great opportunity as they did. Not even Germany my native land, would offer me that opportunity to get an education as good as the wealthiest of her sons. And one thing leads to another as they say. If I had not attended the University I would not be in the Philippines today. I would even have missed this immense opportunity to widen my mind.

Say, Mr. Edgerton, I am sorry I have to saw off here, I intended to write you a good letter but the mail closes in a few seconds and I have to hurry up to get this part there.

What I want to say: Send me the Hesperian at reasonable price. I will make it all right with you.

You know my address

Co. B. 1st Reg. Neb. Vol. Inf.

Manila, P. I.

My respects to all.

JERRY.

The Debates.

The preliminary debates have been held, and the following sixteen have been chosen to again contest in another preliminary, from which nine will be selected:

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| 1. Weaver, | 5. Griffith, | 9. Motis, | 13. Barr, |
| 2. Wilson | 6. Craft, | 10. Landis, | 14. Hawthorne |
| 3. Hawxby, | 7. Talbot, | 11. Warner, E. F. | 15. Bollenbach |
| 4. Stull, | 8. O'Connell, | 12. Nims, | 16. Henry. |

Questions will be sent to Missouri and Colorado, and when they have made their selections, two sections will be formed from the sixteen chosen, as given above, and they will again contest, and the speakers to represent the University of Nebraska against Kansas, Colorado, and Missouri will be then chosen. The debating clubs have not been very active for a couple of weeks on account of the preliminary debates, but now that the first contest is over, they will again become active. The four clubs will meet Saturday night and it is probable the attendance will be very good.

The decision of the judges in the preliminary contest this year has, as usual, been questioned. Their judgment in no wise should be questioned. Each debater, of the seventy-two that entered, registered with a full knowledge of the system that would be used. Now, the judges marked according to instructions. Perhaps some of the judges may have used higher standards, but it is difficult to see how that could be, when they all heard the second speaker of the first section and used him as a standard. They were privileged to mark above or below this man as they, in their judgment, thought each debater either excelled or was excelled by the speaker. There can be no fault found with the decorum of the judges. If injustice has been done, the system, and not the judges, is at fault.

CONSIDERABLE discussion has been caused among many of the debaters by the result of the system of marking which was employed by the recent preliminary debates. Some dissatisfaction has been expressed, and the rumor is abroad that an attempt will be made to readjust matters, if possible, by allowing the first twenty-five on the list, instead of the first sixteen, to compete a second time for the first nine places on the interstate debates. It cannot be denied that the system employed was not perfect. It certainly was very imperfect and unsatisfactory. But, the debaters entered the contest with the full knowledge of the system employed. They were willing to cast their lot—for it is casting lots—under such a system. The result was, that many who had been considered sure winners of places were sadly neglected when the shuffle was made. Some even of these predestined prospectives fell below twenty-fifth place. Now, the question is, shall we change the ruling to