

THE HESPERIAN

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INTER-STATE ORATORICAL ASSOCIATION.

Contest of 1899 at Lincoln, Nebr., May 4.

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THE resignation of Miss Cora Parker as director of the Haydon Art club, to take effect at the end of this year, is received with regret in University circles. Miss Parker has been connected with the Art department of the University for several years and in her efficient work and instruction has shown her ability not only in her chosen art but in the art of winning many friends.

ONE week from tonight, March 10th, an event will take place in the chapel that deserves not only the interest of students and faculty, but also their attendance and loyal support. The local oratorical contest, which this year includes thirteen representative students, will determine who shall represent the University of Nebraska in our State inter-collegiate oratorical contest to be held at Omaha. Next May the inter-state oratorical contest will be held in the Oliver theater, where the same contest was held ten years ago. This contest will have representatives from ten states, from Minnesota to

Missouri and from Ohio to Colorado. It will be the great University event of this year, and to make it a success in every respect we must win for our University the honor of representing Nebraska in this contest. For two years past we have had this honor. We have not, it is true, reached as high a rank in the inter-state as we might wish, but heretofore we have been competing decidedly against odds. The University has not in the former years shown the interest which oratory rightly deserves; the University has not been as ambitious along these lines as it should, but this year there is a genuinely interest taken, not only by the contestants but also by their friends and students in general. Now that there is considerable enthusiasm and spirit shown, let it be the duty of every student to help add to the total amount and make the contest a financial success. The financial risk incurred by bringing the inter-state here this year is very considerable, and the state executive officers are exerting every effort possible to meet the demands. The association is required to put up a bond to the amount of \$500 to guarantee expenses, and in order to keep the association from losing this amount, or a part of it, we must bring every means to bear to insure a large audience. The greater part of this responsibility rests with our representative in the state contest. If we lose this contest it will be many times more difficult to get a crowded house. This year, above all years, college spirit and enthusiasm should be aroused in oratory. Let us begin by blowing our horns next Friday night at the local contest.

THE near approach of the final preliminaries suggests to several of the debating contestants a matter which has caused considerable embarrassment in the contests the past two years. In the midst of the final contest last March, the electric lights went out while one of the strongest debaters was on the floor. There was no janitor present to provide for the adjustment of the gas jets. One of the students attempted to manipulate the gas fixtures, and after a painful interval of nearly five minutes he succeeded. The man who was speaking lost the attention of his audience and the judges, for every one was laughing at the fumbling movements of the student experimenting with the long staff used to turn on the gas.

All this was very entertaining for the audience, but the speaker was obliged to sit down until the laughter ceased. He never got into the spirit of his argument after that, and lost a place on the list. The University was the loser, as every one conceded who knew the circumstances.

This year the secretary of the debating association was assured at the executive office that the lights would be provided as late as necessary for the preliminaries. On the evening of the last contest in the chapel a similar incident occurred; the lights went out; a speaker was left in the dark; no janitor appeared for several minutes; and the attention, which an able speaker deserves, was lost.

These remarks are not made in the spirit of a chronic pessimist, but with a view of preventing further embarrassment.