

## OUR PROSPECTUS FOR 1874.

This year we make the attempt to publish an EIGHT-PAGE Journal on first class BOOK PAPER. It is the design, as soon as everything is in good working order to make the STUDENT a model of the printers art in taste and typographical execution.

The association has heretofore considered that the former style and quality of the STUDENT was all that our limited patronage would warrant, and it has been with some degree of hesitation and anxiety for the result, on the part of a few, that the present step has been taken. We look to the friends of the University to support us in this enterprise. This they can do by INCREASING OUR SUBSCRIPTION LIST, and filling our advertising columns.

While the expense of publishing the STUDENT, in its present form, is more than double its former cost we have increased the subscription price only one half—it being now seventy-five cents per annum; and the former advertising rates are retained.

We believe that a college journal should be peculiarly the students' paper—an exponent of their wishes, their literary ability, their power to protect and enhance their own interests and institutions. But our readers and patrons at large have claims upon us which we must endeavor to meet. They expect value received for their money. To satisfy this reasonable demand we have secured on our corps of contributors, who will occasionally contribute, the various members of the Faculty, and several others of eminent ability. Some of the very best literary talent of the State will be represented in our columns. We solicit the hearty and generous support of the friends of education throughout the State.

## PROFESSOR THOMPSON'S WORK THIS TERM.

An attempt was made in the beginning of 1873 to open the Agricultural College in such a manner as to afford the advantages, at least, of a theoretical agricultural education to all students entering this department of the University.

But, thus far, very little has been accomplished even in theory. There was no model or experimental farm, with the necessary appliances for successfully conducting it, yet provided. No special inducements or advantages were offered to students to encourage them to enter this College; consequently the number of students was very small.

S. R. Thompson, our Professor of agriculture, thus fettered and circumscribed in his efforts, has doubtless keenly felt his utter inability, under existing circumstances, to make this department as successful as might be desired.

At the last meeting of the Board of Regents the initiatory steps were taken to provide for the opening of a model farm with dormitories thereon for the accommodation of the students. The success of this plan depends upon the sale of some of the Agricultural College land.

In the minds of many of our best educators the success of agricultural colleges is well established; but among the people at large it is by no means universally admitted. It is thought by very many, and very generally by farmers, that the ends sought to be attained are often defeated. With a view to awaken an interest on this subject, among the people, and to labor in the general field

of education, Prof. Thompson has been relieved for the term from his labors as an instructor, and sent out into this important field, for which he is so eminently qualified.

In pursuance of this purpose, he has inaugurated a series of Farmers' Institutes, to be held in various portions of this state. He has already held institutes at Palmyra, Dorchester and Seward with far more flattering success than hoped for by the most sanguine. Everywhere the kind words of encouragement and good cheer, offered, even by those heretofore skeptical on this subject, betoken the awakening interest of the people, with regard to the importance and necessity of scientific agriculture. The Prof. is also assisting the State Supt. of Public Inst., Hon. J. M. McKenzie, in his Normal Institutes, usually of two weeks continuance. These institutes have also been recently inaugurated by the Supt. They are conducted on the plan of normal schools, and are designed to elevate the standard of teachers' qualification in the state. The Legislature, prompted by a spirit of blind and narrow economy, refused any aid for this purpose; consequently the State Supt., nobly seconded by Prof. Thompson, Gen. T. J. Morgan of the State Normal school, and Chancellor Benton, has undertaken to accomplish this great work, which the State ought to have provided for, by sending men specially for this purpose into the field. We are only stating the opinion of those who know him best, when we say, that Prof. Thompson is a gentleman of high scholarly attainment, and wide and valuable experience as an educator. This is especially true of him as a lecturer, on education, and an institute laborer. The interests of the Agricultural College have been wisely entrusted, and we feel that they are safe. Few men have ever in so brief a time established so wide a popularity, and aroused such a warm friendship in the hearts of the people as Prof. Thompson. Success to his labors.

## STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

## EDUCATIONAL PROSPERITY OF NEBRASKA.

The annual session of the State Teachers' Association held in Tecumseh, commencing on the evening of the 23d of December, was the most interesting and profitable meeting of that body ever held in the state.

The exercises were opened with an address by the President, Hon. J. M. McKenzie, Superintendent of Public Instruction. It was an ably written and instructive paper. The Superintendent has kindly favored us with a copy of the same, from which we take the extract given below. In speaking of the contrast between the condition of the Association at the time of its organization in 1867, and at present, he gave the following valuable summary of statistics: "Just at this point, it may be well, for the sake of contrast, to compare the *then* with the *now*."

"Then very few actively engaged in the cause of education, were members of the Association; now we have very few who are not teachers or school officers. Then the whole number of children in the state did not exceed 16,000, for the census of 1859 showed less than 21,000; last April the returns showed 63,108. Then there were less than 25 organized counties; now we have more than 60. Then there were not to exceed 150 organized school districts; now we have more than 1800. Then the whole number of teachers in

state was less than 200; there are now over 2,000. Then 100 would include school houses of every sort; last year alone, there were built 386 good, substantial, and many of them, elegant, expensive school buildings. Then the school fund distributed was less than \$50,000; this year we sent out over \$175,000. Thus we might proceed with the comparison showing a truly marvelous improvement during the past six years."

We have no need to boast of the unparalleled advancement in educational prosperity exhibited in our state. A bare table of statistics reads like a fabulous exaggeration. A modest statement of facts wears the appearance of romantic fancy.

The success of all our higher institutions of learning depends upon the perfection of our common school system. Then what a bright and happy future of prosperity, power and usefulness is reserved for our *Alma Mater!*

## OUR SOCIETIES.

THE PALLADIAN for the last two terms has been very prosperous. The energy displayed by many of its members is truly commendable, and has brought a meet reward.

Their large and convenient hall is now neatly and elegantly furnished and tastefully decorated. Their numbers have greatly increased so that, with this important element of success, together with increased talent, the Palladian is a strong society. We have observed the evidences of more thought in their literary productions—of more care and research in the preparation. The discussions, which too frequently in college societies are merely frothy effervescence of meaningless bombast from under-graduates, of which they would be ashamed anywhere else, are more dignified, logical decorous.

The same may be said in many respects of the

## ADELPHIAN SOCIETY.

especially in the large increase in working members this term, among whom are several of their staunchest members and most talented speakers. The union with this society of large number of ladies, former members of the Pierian, has made this term an interesting epoch in its history. The higher and more refined tone imparted to all the literary exercises—the greater care shown in preparation, and the more chaste and polished style of expression, shown in all the literary productions, attest the superior benefits, which we believe "mixed" societies always possess.

While we are a strong advocate of "mixed" societies, we wish to say in reference to the Pierian, that its former members have just reason to be proud of its success during its short, but interesting career. Some of the pleasantest hours we ever passed in the society hall, were those spent in listening to the entertainments of the Pierian—which for variety, beauty of sentiment, and grace in delivery have seldom been excelled.

The ladies have shown their ability to conduct a first class society, and if, in the course of events, they should see fit again to organize an exclusive society, the other societies have great reason to tremble for their laurels.

We mail extra copies of the STUDENT, this month, to various educators and friends of the University throughout the state, hoping that they may favor us with their subscriptions.

## APPROPRIATIONS.

Liberality and wise generosity characterizes the policy of the Board of Regents. The Adelpian Society was recently the recipient of one of their substantial favors in the shape of a snug appropriation for the purpose of furnishing their hall.

But a short time before, the Palladian Society was similarly remembered by a liberal donation. We are as students sincerely grateful for such favors; yet we do not make our acknowledgements as as one who has accepted a gratuity at the charitable hands of another; but rather our gratitude is the proper and necessary courtesy required between parties upon the completion of a business transaction, mutually beneficial.

In no way, perhaps, are the interests of a college promoted more, than by the popularity, strength, and usefulness of its literary societies, its news-paper and other institutions conducted by the students themselves. These are the matters invariably enquired after by the best students before entering into any relation with an institution of learning. The Regents fully understand this. They simply make us their agents for the judicious investment of the funds entrusted to our care. It becomes us, therefore, by our zeal and earnest effort in building up these institutions, to reward their confidence, and to return their "talent" with usury."

## A PLEASANT VISIT.

We were extremely gratified by a call from Messrs. John Dundas and Plin Ford, two most valued friends and classmates of old Normal days. Plin and John are now playing the role of the staid benedict. Without, in the slightest degree, wishing to disturb the equanimity of their gentle and confiding dames at home, we would quietly hint, that we observed some traces of their old school-day predilections for "fun and music" still unsubdued by the galling fetters of Hymeneal slavery. Come again and come often, boys—bless my soul! excuse such irreverent familiarity—but, in memory's looking-glass, I see us boys together still.

## JANUARY (?) NUMBER.

"You did not send us the January number!"

Of course we did not. The labor and time required in making our new arrangements and in procuring the necessary appliances, have made it expedient to skip this issue. We are ready now, however, to be promptly on time with each issue, at the first of the month. Our friends will excuse our first delinquency, we feel assured, in consideration of the enlarged and more valuable paper we are now able to furnish.

## NOTICE THIS FACT.

Our advertising rates are very reasonable—only a little more than one half as large as those of other college journals of the same size and material, with no wider circulation. Also our terms of subscription are one quarter less than the rates charged by similar journals.

Don't refuse to subscribe for the STUDENT, because your brother or room-mate takes it. If you don't need it yourself, send it abroad to some friend, and advertise your college.

For common humanity's sake don't borrow! If you are really a proper object of charity, call at our sanctum and we'll bestow a copy on you gratis.