

Instinctively we laid our *dextram palmam* upon our lank pocket-book and tenderly fingered a nickle, almost resolved to bestow it on such a worthy object. But, alas! for human resolves! This benign intention was never carried to a successful termination. Either some accident called us aside before we reached the object of our proposed benevolence, or, mayhap, the cord of sympathy which bound us to this last solitary nickle in our wallet (put aside for a "seed coin") was too strong for us. At all events the soldier's cigar box was not the receptacle of our lucre. That night, as we reflected with Bible in our hands over this neglected opportunity, the throes of our troubled conscience were unutterable. We resolved to arise at early morn and make meet reparation.

But alas, the cruel shock our patriotic faith in the spotless virtue of our wounded "boy in blue" was destined to receive! We found that he had sold his body, soul, and, more horrible still, his divine art(?) to the proprietor of a groggery, at four dollars per diem, to resist the cause of temperance. He stood with sublime fortitude in the presence of a band of fair Crusaders, trying to drown their sweet accents of song and prayer with the clangor of his machine! Ye gods, what an incubus was lifted from our burdened conscience!

Yet your law-and-order moral man says this soldier did his duty by himself. It was a legitimate business contract. He had a right to take money for the work of his hand from anyone for any purpose.

We have seen more transparent sophistry, in the last two months, advanced against the temperance war, than ever before in a third rate debating society; but this last argument is the climax. It reminds us of a legitimate business transaction of a certain Hebrew named Judas when he speculated on the life of his Master and Saviour.

SOCIETY LIBRARIES.

We learn from our Normal correspondent that the Philomathean society of that institution has laid the foundation for an extensive library. We commend the enterprising example they have set to the careful consideration of the societies of the University. We have witnessed a considerable degree of emulation and zeal displayed both by the Adelphean and the Palladian society, during the past year, in decorating and furnishing their respective halls. This was desirable and necessary; for tasty and elegant surroundings are no small element of success in securing a larger membership, and a higher degree of culture, by imparting a refining influence to all the operations of the society.

But we have no excuse for inactivity. Let us arouse from the lethargy which is apparently oppressing us, and prepare for a new progressive stride.

We have decorated our tabernacles and put them in order, let us now lay up some lasting treasures therein which shall not only enrich ourselves and those who follow us, but be a worthy monument of our energy and wisdom. Allow us to be the index finger pointing the direction in which one long stride should be taken. We need a society library.

True, we have a fair library of choice volumes connected with the University; but there are thousands of books bearing directly upon our work, which we need, that the State has not furnished—text-books upon criticism, composition, rhetoric, oratory and debating; biographies

of statesmen, orators and essayists; histories, encyclopedias and hand-books.

Besides, we ought to lay the foundation for a choice library of general literary works which would be at the control of the members of the societies themselves, and not to be interfered with by the ordinances of the University.

We would suggest two ways in which it will be practicable to make a commencement: Establish a joint library for the two societies now existing, or let each society establish one exclusively its own. Let each society set apart a fixed sum, say fifty dollars annually, for this purpose, which shall not under any circumstances be violated. This of itself would soon create a good library; but we should then have another source of continual increase—liberal donations would be made by friends of the University, "for unto them that have shall be given."

Previous to taking such a step, however, it would be wise to have the several societies incorporated. This would be a politic measure in any event, as we then should enjoy all the privileges of a body corporate to buy and sell, contract, give and take deeds &c.

In many other respects this step would give us dignity, stability and strength. We apprehend that it would be a sure safeguard against mutations and irruptions in our society government.

What say the thinking men of the societies?

A BOOK FOR STUDENTS.

We are personally indebted to the kindness of Thomas Scholes of Leavenworth for a book entitled, "The Art of Extempore Speaking," published by Scribner, Armstrong & Co.

The title of the work, and the name of its eminent and scholarly author, M. Bantain, Vicar-General, and Professor at Sarbonne, attracted our attention and led us to expect in this work to find a valuable aid to the extempore speaker. Our hopes have been more than realized. The work is a systematic and philosophical treatise upon this art so necessary to an American, so much used, but whose careful study is so universally neglected.

It is not a text-book on rhetoric, nor composition. It may be considered a treatise upon a particular branch of psychology—a mental philosophy of all the attributes and faculties brought into action by the extempore orator. Since reading it, we hardly see how a student could dispense with the thorough study of such a work during his college course. It is just as necessary for him who expects to become a member of the bar or the pulpit as is a text-book of Rhetoric, Ethics or Psychology to a writer, speaker or reasoner in any field.

The argument is thorough—the analysis of the subject complete. The thought is couched in elegant and eloquent language. The illustrations are original, varied and forcible.

A thousand thoughts which had often suggested themselves to our own mind vaguely, as to the best manner of cultivating the mental faculties, and the kind of knowledge necessary to be most earnestly sought after, in order to become a successful and ready speaker, we find here clearly and beautifully defined and illustrated.

The careful study of this work will richly repay any person, whether student or professional man.

THE CAMPUS.

Spring is here again. The velvety verdure, the delicate flowers and the budding leaflets will soon breath forth their vernal fragrance. Soon, the glad songs of the birds, returning from their southern flights will be heard among us—at least wherever nature, somewhat stingy with her gifts in these latitudes, has provided a leafy bower for their reception; or where man, even more improvident and niggardly than dame Nature, in this treeless prairie land, has not neglected to do likewise.

Don't be alarmed. "Spring" is not now the burden of our song. We like the subject. It has been our favorite topic for years—we flatter ourselves that we can handle it with elegance and precision—"but this not now." We simply wish to remark that our campus is likely to remain as cheerless and voiceless as the arid sands of Sahara, unless something is done by somebody to vary its present dreary monotony, in the way of planting shade trees &c.

We like to woo the muses, and walk with Minerva in the shady groves. The fragrant waters of the Pierian spring lose half their sweetness when drank beneath the pitiless shadows of Nebraska's unsheltered sunbeams. We believe in making the path up the "ragged hill of science" as pleasant and shady as possible. We do not intend to reproach the powers that control the temporal affairs of the University, for want of energy. We are aware that they have a world of vexing cares weighing down upon their weary shoulders. But we think that they can ill afford to neglect to beautify the campus for another year.

Beautiful groves cannot be bought in a day, when we are richer. They must grow. Now is the time to plant and water them. Let the Regents set us a broad, generous example, in setting out a goodly number of forest and ornamental trees this spring, and we, as students, will do our share to assist in making the work a success.

OUR PROSPECTUS.

We are glad to acknowledge the liberality of the business men of Lincoln and elsewhere in filling our advertising columns.

Our journal, as it should be, is devoted to the interests of the State University in a special sense; yet if all our space were devoted to its operations, progress and prospects, the people could hardly consider the STUDENT a local paper. The University belongs to the people. What effects or interests the University ought to affect or interest everyone in the state. However we have made arrangements to add several features to the STUDENT, which will make it of more apparent general interest. Besides having secured talented contributors outside of the ranks of the students, to insure a first class literature, we shall have a special correspondent from the State Normal School, so that we can record events transpiring in that Institution. Also, we shall keep our readers posted in regard to the operations of the State Department of Education, giving statistical information and otherwise. We trust the people of the State will find the STUDENT worthy of their attention and money. We believe we may reasonably hope to greatly enlarge our already increasing circulation.

Our subscription price is only seventy-five cents per annum.

A CALL.

The chill atmosphere of our lonely sanctum, during vacation, was cheered into genial warmth by the appearance therein of our valued friend, and sometime fellow traveler, Lucius Pratt of Tecumseh. He was returning to his home from a visit to his relatives in Iowa. He did much to dispel dull care brooding o'er our gloomy brow. Come often, Pratt, and stay longer.

Remember that we always have the STUDENT for sale at ten cents per copy. Back numbers can be obtained. Heretofore we have issued a large number for general distribution; we shall henceforth keep within our necessary limits.

Those who receive copies of the STUDENT marked with an X will please understand, by that same token, that their time of subscription has expired, and that we will be greatly pleased to have them renew the same.

OUR EXCHANGES.

The *Bates Student* has a fine sketch of the life and character of Jonathan Swift.

We have received the *Packer Quarterly*, Brooklyn, again. It is full of pleasing and original matter. Its humor is lively and refreshing.

The *University Missourian* is a racy and interesting paper, but the typography is not as good as the matter—a fault more tolerable than the reverse, however.

The March number of *The High School*, Omaha, is an improvement on the first issue. The editorials are able and show a better appreciation of the work of a college journal.

We have received a copy of *The Christian Standard*, Cincinnati Ohio. The handsome compliment paid the STUDENT, coming from so high a source, is appreciated and accepted as sincere.

The *Qui Vive* is after its delinquent subscribers. The editor seems to be afflicted with his due portion of the inevitable ills that editors are heir to, even in the bountiful news-paper-loving West.

We have read with considerable interest the address delivered by H. C. Adams at the Galesburg Inter-Collegiate contest, contained in the March number of *The College News Letter*. We consider it by far the best article that has appeared recently in that journal. The article, though meriting some criticism for affected style, is a fine production.

The Chronicle, Michigan University, is acknowledged to be one of the leading college journals of the country; but the uncourteous and rude manner in which it answers a mild criticism of the STUDENT, is not in very good taste, and inclines us to more firmly believe that the said criticism was well timed. Insolence is a poor token of sound moral character.

Since our last issue we have received several new and valuable exchanges.

Among them is the *Illini*, Illinois Industrial University. We give the journal a hearty welcome to our files. It is a neat magazine and well edited. A large portion of the March number is given to the inaugural address at the dedication of the main building. The *Illini* keeps within its proper sphere, as the exponent of the interests of its college.

Another exchange received for the first time is *The Register*, Hedding College, Ill. It is a creditable religious journal, and has an interesting article on "Ante-Nicene History," and another on "The Relation of Church-Building to the Success of Church Work."