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## VARIOUS TOPICS.

We are now fast approaching the fourth year of our University's existence. Soon we all shall have departed to other scenes of recreation and pleasure, among the blessed associations and sweet attractions of home, or, as will be the case with some of us, to engage in different kinds of labor in other fields. Pause then and glance back over the path you have trod during the year. Have you left any monuments along your course that will ever indicate to your own mind, if to no other, that it has been one of progress in the right direction? Some will contemplate the summary of their year's labor with pride and satisfaction in consequence of the intellectual growth they have attained—the immense widening of their mental horizon's rim, as they have advanced. Others will turn away with a yearning in their hearts and a sigh of regret, at leaving scenes of social happiness and pleasure. But with us the absorbing thought is the reflection that we have made so many painful mistakes—so many failures; that we have missed so many opportunities for improvement. The past is past. We can't recall it by wailing, neither can we recompense its failure with greater diligence; for if we improve each day as it passes the very best we are able, we are only doing our duty; yet for all that in the future lies our hope.

The condition and prosperity of the University during the year has been very satisfactory when all things are considered. The State has been grievously afflicted. The grasshoppers have devoured the fruits of the farmer's toil, and depressed business in all circles. Indeed the pests have not yet finished their ravages, but the corn and wheat are being reaped and gleaned before the harvest time, boding suffering and poverty for another year, perhaps the shock will be felt for many years. Another serious difficulty to which the successful management of the University has been subjected, has been want of means. The narrow and short-sighted

economy of our Legislature has crippled its purposes. Yet notwithstanding these drawbacks the attendance upon the University has increased considerably over that of last year. The present term shows a larger attendance than any previous one, which considering it is the summer term, is certainly encouraging. The Agricultural College, which was really put in practical operation at the beginning of the year, now has fifteen students employed thereon. Many more would have been enrolled in that department, had there been means to provide comfortable dormitories and a sufficient amount of appliances. Prof. Thompson, the Dean, thinks that at least fifty may be expected in that department during next year, if such necessities are provided.

Under these circumstances the lamentable cry of schemers and demagogues for the suspension of the University is very ill-timed. It is to be hoped the good sense of the people will be too strong to be influenced by the unreasonable attacks. We regret exceedingly to see one of our regents playing the part of Judas to these Scribes and Pharisees. It speaks very little for his modesty or his wisdom. We fear that petty local prejudice is at the bottom of all this hue and cry. How long, O Lord, how long must the public welfare be sacrificed to local greed and jealousy!

It may seem untimely and unreasonable for us to urge any further increase of expenditure in connection with the University; especially now, when the two colleges already in operation are so poorly sustained financially, when the cry of "economy," and "relief from taxation" is borne to us on every breeze; when, notwithstanding the fact that the University has prospered as well as any one can expect, and that we have a princely endowment, yet our law-makers have so circumscribed and restricted the disposal thereof, that the speedy and most successful development of the University will be seriously retarded. We freely admit that we are a sentimentalist, an enthusiast, an impractical dreamer, and all that sort of thing, yet it does seem to be a sorrowful condition of society when ignorance is considered the least dangerous evil, and our educational advantages must be curtailed or destroyed, to foster and build up those so-called more practical interest, from which money flows directly, as the immediate reward of labor. The locusts are not merely destroying the corn, barley and wheat of the farmer, and bringing physical hunger to the homes of many, but quite unintentionally by the unconscious insect itself, through man's own stupidity, it is in danger of entailing mental famine, and intellectual want upon the whole community. We raise our voice against this sordid policy—rather propensity of human nature. Let it be the fond boast of Nebraska that, during her hour of gloom and depression, the star of her intellectual growth was swiftly bowling towards the zenith, that while her palaces of Commerce and Trade were crumbling and tottering, her temples of Learning were sending their towers heavenward.

But what we set out to say is this: Can not a college of Law be established at the beginning of the next year? The additional expense would not be great—not as great in proportion to the number who would enter that department, as is the present expense to the number now in the Literary department of the University.

At the beginning of last year we made some inquiry into the matter, and discovered that not far from twenty students were anxious to enter upon the study of law in the University, should an opportunity be offered. It is not an extravagant estimate to say that an equal number will be ready to enter next September. This would certainly be a grand stride in the development of the University, and would afford the opportunity to students, having obtained their literary education in the University, of completing a professional course here also. Our University ought to afford the means of obtaining a complete education. Let us Western students have the opportunity of obtaining a Western education in the fullest sense of the word.

The *Bates Student* takes us severely to task for allowing an article entitled "What is a Book, and What it is to Read," to appear in the columns of a recent issue of the HESPERIAN. The editor condemns the article as an example of plagiarism of the most inexcusable character on the part of the writer, alleging that it was taken from Dr. Noah Porter's work on Books and Reading.

We freely acknowledge that the rebuke of the *Bates Student* is merited; for, upon examination we find this article to be almost a *verbatim* copy of portions of that work. Plagiarism is a crime so contemptible, that we desire to offer no word of extenuation wherever it may occur.

We have never had the privilege of reading Dr. Porter's work until recently; hence our *ignorance*, not our *intention* will account for the publication of the article. We presume we might safely state that there are many valuable books which we have never read, and perhaps we would be equally safe in saying that we are not the only one among college editors that might make the same confession. It has been our earnest desire, our pride, to establish a reputation for the HESPERIAN for originality. In this desire we trust we have not been utterly disappointed. We very deeply regret that an imposition so damaging should have been perpetrated upon us. We desire to say one word however in exonerating the author—now deceased. He was a young man of reputed high moral character and rare talent. We are persuaded that he himself would never have suffered the article to appear before the public as original. The weight of blame should fall upon his instructors. Had we not supposed the article had passed under the eye of Gen. T. J. Morgan, of the University of Chicago, then Principal of the State Normal School, of which the writer was a student, we should have been more cautious in testing its authenticity.

It was then the policy of the Normal instructors, (we have since learned) upon which much stress was laid, to advise students to read particular works before preparing their themes, and then to assimilate the thoughts of the author. This, to say the least, is a perilous method of instruction, and one calculated to destroy all independence of thought. Students are not apt to read more than one work, and the chances are that an attempt to assimilate the author's thought will result in plagiarism. Of course one should read, and read much. It is a safer policy to read several authors upon the same subject or kindred subjects, before writing, and then it will be possible to preserve individuality of thought.

The painful position in which we have been placed, will, at least, teach us a valuable lesson—to exercise greater caution editorially in future. [Ed.-in-Chief.]

## DEATH OF CASSIUS M. CROPSY.

Again we are called upon to record the last sad chapter of a human life—the chapter which reads so much alike for all.

"Died, on the morning of June 7, at his home in Lincoln, Cassius M. Cropsey."

Cassius was for several years a student of the University, also a charter member of the Adelpian Literary Society, of which he was one of the most talented workers. Thus a second time has the Society been bereaved of one of its most honored and beloved members.

His departure was very sudden, but not unexpected, for that fell and remorseless disease, Consumption, had long since marked him for her prey. About a year ago he went to Europe to join his brother, Consul at Chemnitz, Germany, in hope of recovering his health by traveling there and among the mountains of Switzerland. Vain hope. A few weeks since, wan and emaciated, he returned to his native land to die. His ashes are now laid to rest beside the grave of his mother, who preceded him only a few weeks through the Dark Valley, while her beloved son was absent in a foreign land.

It is unnecessary to pause to adorn the memory of one so well known and universally beloved, with lofty praises or flattering eulogies. It is enough to say, that he was a young man of manly, and remarkably well-developed character, a genial companion and a faithful friend. He was one among the few who really appreciate the aim of true education. He felt that the object of all study should be to develop character and true manhood, "to be something" as well as "to know something." He was ever actuated by noble ideas of "life and living." His untimely departure has cast a gloom of sadness over many a heart. Many an eye is dim, many a cheek is moist with the tear of grief.

But he has only anticipated us all in the fulfillment of a destiny which we can none of us escape.

It is hard in youth to yield up the cherished plans of a noble life-work which every aspiring mind designs. Yet for all that, Death abridges a long catalogue of troubles and anxieties, together with the bright hopes and anticipation he destroys.

Let us shed a tear over the memory of our friend, and then bow in meekness to the will of Providence.

## THE NEGLECT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, DANGEROUS.

The greater the privileges which an individual or a nation enjoys, the more perilous are the dangers to which the individual or the nation is exposed. This statement is a truism which will bear repetition and reflection. In a republic, like the United States, the people have far more reason to dread the evils that constantly threaten them, from the abuse of the most sacred rights and privileges which their very constitution insures to them, than the invasion of hostile armies or the dispensations of Providence. We Americans feel that the right of universal suffrage is just as much an inherent prerogative of human beings as the right to breathe the bountiful air of heaven.

Yet this very privilege of suffrage is the