

## A COMMERCIAL COURSE.

It is evidently the aim of every educational institution supported by the state to meet, so far as possible, the demands of her citizens. And as the various occupations of life make their respective influences felt throughout the state, it is but justice, that their interests should be represented in the halls of learning as well as in the halls of legislation. Imbued with this spirit of republicanism, nothing is more surprising to an intelligent student entering a University, than to find that every course of study is based upon some foreign language, either modern or ancient. True, language has become to a certain degree, the criterion of culture and thorough scholarship. But the truth nevertheless remains, that language as a dialect is not thought; that one may master a dozen languages, yet be utterly destitute of originality. We have sadly learnt that it takes something else besides language to disclose and develop the resources of a new state. Yet let it not be inferred that the value of language as a study, or as an accomplishment is to be underestimated. But it may be inferred that we do appreciate the advantages of practical knowledge, so essential to success in this commercial age.

While trade and traffic have become the characteristics of the American people, while institutions of learning are surrounded by the hum of commercial activity, it is but mockery to find within the college itself, the meager facilities that are given to the study of commercial science. It is indeed surprising to find that the utilitarian spirit that pervades all American industries will allow the practical side of a citizen's education to be blotted out by the exclusive attention given to the theoretical. It has been proved too frequently that the perpetuity of republicanism, depends upon the practical knowledge that will enable the citizen to realize the responsibility that rests upon him. This is the great aim of our system of free schools and lib-

eral education. When this has been attained, then there should be an opportunity for ascending higher. The former he owes to his government; the latter to himself and society.

The little attention that for time past has been devoted to the University, perhaps excuses it for the peculiar courses of study that it now contains. Originating when the state was very young, it has labored under many disadvantages. Yet for the means that it has had its disposal, it has accomplished more than could be expected. But the growing interests of the state, now demand something more than a college of literature, science and art, and a college of agriculture; or at least these courses carried out in their full meaning.

The commercial interests of every town and city, now demand an opportunity for gaining at least some knowledge that will prepare a student for the banking house, the sales-room and the counting-room. The young men who have already left the University to pursue such studies, together with those who are about to leave for a similar purpose, indicate too plainly the want at home. The time has now come when "the pen is mightier than the sword." When six well-trained book-keepers could completely route the whole Military company of the University.

If a thorough Commercial college can not now be established in the University, certainly the more elementary branches of this department, can receive some attention. And even this would satisfy to a great extent, the claims that the commercial interests of the state so justly demand.

## A WORD TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

We hear it remarked by some that the contributed columns of the *STUDENT* are simply a receptacle for essays and orations that have previously been delivered in public. Now, like honest fellows, we freely admit the charge, but wish to clear ourselves of any blame that it may imply.