

posites. But how could they, for the reporter feels himself bound to bring the poorest as near perfection as his imagination and ability will allow; hence there is no chance for giving real merit any reward. Each oration is a model in thought, language and gesture, and proves the author of it a finished orator. Every essay is filled with the choicest thought expressed in the most fitting language; and words fail to do justice to the declamations.

Every one knows that such statements are mere bombast, and hence they are worth nothing. If a young man shows by his public productions that he has ability, and also that he has given care and labor to them, let such a statement be made, but do not disgust him and destroy the value a discriminating report might be to him, by foolish flattery. Some young men are, perhaps, so conceited that they cannot conceive any statement concerning themselves overdrawn; but we think such cases are rare: most men prefer to be held at their real worth, well knowing that a false statement is of no value to them.

Newspaper reports are generally at extremes—either in the form of dazzling praise, or of vile aspersion. But very little time is taken to prepare reports of public proceedings, and often very little judgment is exercised in making such reports as are furnished.

The style is generally about as follows: "One of the most brilliant and intelligent audiences of the season, at an early hour last evening, filled the Opera House to hear the graceful and accomplished young men and women, etc." The next night if there chance to be a dog show, the account of it will commence in much the same way, as, "The Opera House was crowded last evening with the *élite* of the city to see Mr.—— and his wonderful performing dogs."

If one were to judge by the reports, a lecture by Beecher or Phillips would not surpass in thought, composition, or delivery the most crude production of a

Prep. and would hardly compare with an oration from a Sophomore.

Now we do not wish to be understood as saying that praise should never be given, but what we do insist upon is that it should only be bestowed when deserved; and when criticism is needed do not hesitate to give it. If reports of college commencements, or any other public exercises are to be of any value or even interest to the readers, they must be just; and such reports cannot be just unless the editor attends and notes them himself, or employs some one to do so, who has ability and judgment, and is not afraid to speak exactly what seems to him to be the truth.

SENIOR RHETORICALS.

Within the catalogue of 1876, we find the following announcement of the rhetorical for the Senior year: "First term,—Readings from English Classics; Second Term,—Two original orations, one of which shall be pronounced before the Faculty and students in the chapel of the University." Of this programme we discover no traces in the catalogue of 1878-9. If the omission be made because of the inability of the University to fulfill the announcement, nothing could be more proper. But judging from the additional attention that has been devoted to rhetorical during the last two years, we are inclined to believe that no such excuse will tolerate the seeming negligence in this respect. True it is that great efforts have been made to improve the condition of university rhetorical, and with a tolerable degree of success. But excluding such exercises and substituting mere essays and declamations does in no manner attain that degree of excellence in oratory and rhetoric that distinguishes the graduate upon Commencement day. He to make the greatest improvement, should have his rhetorical exercises graded to correspond with his studies.

The recital of an oration before "Faculty and students," differs widely in its re-