

sults from the rehearsal of a declamation in the class-room. It insures that confidence in the speaker which alone produces the self-possession of the true orator. That the readings from English classics, to be highly beneficial, demand considerable time, should not discourage the instructor, for the style of writing that is here formed, repays doubly the care and time devoted to them.

With such valuable training omitted in the Senior year, the student in his appearance upon the rostrum can neither do justice to himself nor to instructors. If rhetorical culture is to be encouraged in the University, the old announcement when complied with, cannot be made more efficient, and we hope to see the day when the former exercises will be demanded of every student, who completes a course in the University.

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#### THE SOCIETIES.

For some reason, the work of the societies was not as efficient the past year as during some preceding years. Some have tried to account for it on the ground that the lessons were harder and hence required more time. This is undoubtedly one cause, since, never in the history of the University has so much and so thorough work been done as in the past year. The Faculty have spared no pains to make the class-room work as careful and profitable as the time and opportunity would permit. And, without doubt, the Faculty will give the students as a class, the credit of faithful labor. But the question is whether the class-room work cannot be made too severe, taxing the student's time so fully that he can do no outside labor at all. The societies give some of the most valuable assistance that a student gets during his whole course provided he has time to prepare his work carefully and thoroughly. In no other way can he gain, in the University, any practice in extempore speaking neither is there any opportunity offered for appear-

ing before the public in order to wear off the bashfulness that most students are troubled with. The most successful of our own graduates are those that were leaders in the societies while they were connected with the University. The same is true of most successful men; while they were in college they took an active part in society work of all kinds.

An old saying, "A house divided against itself cannot stand," will probably furnish another reason for the societies languishing somewhat; but this year there will be no trouble of this kind; hence, since the school will be unusually full, the coming year should be one of great prosperity. Every new student will find it to his interest to join one or other of the societies; and then he should take hold and do faithful work. If the societies become too large, another might be organized.

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#### THAT LECTURE ASSOCIATION.

It will perhaps not be forgotten that during the last year an organization known as the "Students Lecture Association" was formed by the students of the University. Under this Association four instructive lectures were given by members of the Faculty. It was the intention of the charter members that the Association should become a permanent institution under the control of the students of the University, and by another year to engage the services of sufficient lecturers to constitute a lecture course for the season. If such remains the intention of the Association, timely action is to be suggested in securing suitable lecturers and accommodations. With its available means, the Association can now afford to take upon itself some risk in procuring such men, as will insure by their reputation, under ordinary circumstances, an audience sufficient to meet all obligations. We believe under judicious management, the Association can be made to prosper, and at the same time provide valuable lectures for students at a nominal price. If the latter