

and deep that their hoarse wail of complaint cannot disturb the progress of the age. But we are wandering from our subject. Many charges have been made against the University within the past few months which the students know to be false. But *their* testimony is worth nothing; they, it is said, are not competent to determine whether the school is doing its proper work or not. That *they* are satisfied with their instructors, weighs nothing as against the loud complaint of some one who has, perhaps, never been within the building. We should like to say something in regard to the religious phase of this controversy, but policy seems to demand that silence be maintained. One word, however, we feel that it is our duty, as the organ of the students, to add in defense of our teachers. It is to deny the charge that members of the faculty make use of their positions to inculcate their peculiar religious doctrines. Our testimony on this point ought to be conclusive, as we certainly have the best possible opportunity to know. Since the University is doing so well at present, the STUDENT hopes that this will be the last word that it will ever be called upon to say upon this question. Success is now assured, if the meddling fanatics will only keep their peace.

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#### COLLEGE ORATORY.

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We read of the magic charms of oriental oratory, and wonder at its partial disappearance in modern times. We hear of nations so aroused by the eloquence of the orator as to bend to his every opinion. At first consideration, such a power culminating under human discipline, may seem incredible. But when we examine the springs of action that lend vitality to the forensic art, we feel no longer at a loss to understand its miraculous influence upon humanity.

Compelled by a sense of danger or conviction of right and wrong, the Greek found no farther incentive necessary to

inspire an active intellect. The same principle finds authority in modern times. No orator gains his reputation, unless he becomes thoroughly enrapt in a firm conviction of that which he discloses, and unless he has an object to attain worthy of his greatest sagacity and energy.

Colleges above all other places afford the least incentive to inspire the mind to lofty and passionate action. What position awakens in the student the realization of weighty responsibility? That position is found without college walls. Thus it is that college oratory is so plainly detected of its superficiality. With no inducement to speak, other than to excel, a competitor, or to please an audience, he lacks that conscientious motive that alone moves the orator to a display of spontaneous eloquence. Contests for prizes in oratory tend to arouse in the student a desire to attain a style of declaiming that may seem natural. But with all his efforts the mechanical cannot be concealed, nor the natural made to predominate. Under such circumstances, we need not feel discouraged if the attainments of the citizen cannot be ours. Nor should colleges be looked to for the production of that skilled and natural oratory which they cannot maintain. In college the principles may be studied and the theories may be of utility. But in the practical world we must look for a free and natural flow from the fountain of eloquence.

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#### READING.

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The students of the University do not seem to appreciate fully the benefits that may be gained from the Review literature contained in our library. None of us have the time to make an exhaustive study of any subject that comes up in connection with our lessons; but in these Reviews, we may find a condensed summary of the most advanced views and discoveries of the day. For example, if the question, what is "The Meaning of