

first election under the amendment, Mr. Stratton and Mr. Morton were chosen to represent their respective societies. Mr. Morton graduated in the class of '79; and is spending his first year after graduation in showing the young ideas of Dakota County how to make a systematic growth. C. E. Stratton still holds his position with H. W. Caldwell as associate from the Palladian Society, as may be seen by referring to the head of these columns.

Thus we have traced our short history. Many interesting times might be called up by those who have gone before us, which would lend much interest and attractiveness to the paper. We hope this suggestion may be acted upon by some of those whose names appear above.

The STUDENT pays its best respects to those who have guided it in the past; and bids a hearty welcome to those who are just ready to take the helm.

THE INFLUENTIAL STATESMAN.

A rapid revolution has brought upon society a decidedly modern phase of character. An age of inquiry has been ushered in that marks the progressive tendency of the age. Amid the glowing activity of the present era the sepulchre of antiquity has lost its charms for the sage and the philosopher. He, who seeks to better humanity, seeks to find the evil tendencies now in operation. We may comment upon the past, and with pride point to the scenes of glorious victory; but this is the work of the timid and the weak. The future, full of the struggles and convulsions of humanity, lies before us. Competent and trustworthy guides in our wanderings is the demand of the times. To what agency shall we trust for this guidance and protection? Shall we repose confidence in that agency, inspired by the awe of antiquity, when the institutions of antiquity are abandoned? Or shall we adhere rather to an agency teeming with vitality and trained to manipulate the

complicated machinery of more recent invention? Humanity aware of its wants and necessities finds no difficulty in making its choice decidedly the latter.

He, then, who watches the course of present events, and divines from political developments, the institutions of the commonwealth, is the influential statesman of the day. Not from the dregs of politics must he seek his knowledge, but from a philosophical view of the conflicts of social and political institutions. Such is the statesman who is called upon to facilitate the movements of the body politic, and to render prosperity certain under rapid changes. Nor is he without reward for his labors. For he who remains in the current of social and political thought is ever borne onward, and at every instance rushes by a competitor, clinging to the past for the solution of national problems.

If, then, a knowledge of the wants and tendencies of the present times becomes so important, why not turn the channels of education in this direction? Though little by little this result is being accomplished, still the effort is far behind public demands. What, however, our colleges have failed to do in rendering a knowledge of the practical duties and experiences of a public life, our newspapers have undertaken to accomplish. But the unscrupulous warfare of demagogues defeats the aim of the press, unless our reviewers and commentators come to the rescue. Gradually this element of journalism may restore confidence in the comments of the press, as a leader and a guide. But even here it will lack in efficiency, from the fact that the knowledge rendered meets the citizen, busy with the affairs of life, rather than the critical student, confined to text-books and lectures.

Let us look, then, more to the demands of the times. Let not education, which should be an incentive to our development, fall below public expectations, because of inefficiency.