

THE HESPERIAN STUDENT.

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Editorial.

SOCIETY CHANGES.

The old saying that "coming events cast their shadows before" seems to be fully verified in the anxious looks of the students, of late as they may be seen earnestly discussing the probabilities of their being required to hold the meetings of the societies in the daytime instead of evening as has always been the custom heretofore. Surely so radical a change as that would be must have a more than ordinary cause. Is there such an one, or do the powers that be, choose rather to say with Caesar, "the cause is in our will, we will it so"? Never have the societies been so prosperous, so earnest, or so peacefully inclined toward each other as at the present time; and it is no wonder that even the bare possibility of such a requirement being made should cause a murmur. It seems to us that at the present time when the societies have taxed their means to the utmost in fitting up their halls and have yet a burden of indebtedness to throw off, they have just grounds for remonstrating against a revolution at once unnecessary, and fatal to their prosperity. Had the Regents provided suitable rooms without any expense to the societies, to be used by them under the direction of the Faculty the case would have been different. As it is, such a change would certainly be unwise and we sincerely hope will not take place. It would perhaps be well if the societies should decide to make all regular meetings exclusive to the public, and avoid a certain tendency to prepare programmes for the applause of the audience rather than for good solid work, which has to some extent been noticeable of late. Such a change as this, with now and then an open meeting for such of the public as are interested in their work to visit them, would, we believe, be a benefit; but to require the meetings to be held in the day time would be equivalent to abolishing them. This would not pay. The training which the students get in debate

and in speaking generally is as important to the citizen of Nebraska as a knowledge of the Greek roots or some of the dizzy problems of mathematics. We have heard from the lips of graduates, of whom our state shall have reason to be proud, that they owed more to the society than to any other branch of the institution. And is this source of useful training to be cut off? We trust not.

CLASS DAY.

The STUDENT hopes that the present Senior class will endeavor to inaugurate that pleasant eastern custom of celebrating class day. In older institutions class day is fast becoming of much more importance than commencement day itself. It affords the class a good opportunity of showing what it can do and do independently. It is left entirely to the class to arrange the programme as it suits them and it is usually original and impressed with the taste and notions of the class itself, stripped of all ideas which on commencement day may seem to have emanated from the professor's chair. The class learns to take more pride in class day than in commencement day because it is distinctively their own. Commencement day they share with Faculty and Regents and Alumni but the class day would be exclusively under their control and they could make it what they would, and if successfully carried out, could be made an expression of the opinions and character of the Seniors themselves to a greater extent than would be possible on commencement day. Let us then have a class day and let the Seniors plant upon the campus the tree of 1881—a sturdy young oak—and long may its branches wave and its bright leaves glisten in the sunshine as an example and inspiration to its planters.

Students in the lower classes are apt to think that when they get to be seniors they won't have to study and do anything else they don't want to—in fact they will have a general good time—lots of honor and admiration from the preps, and consideration from the college faculty. Never was a more mistaken view of things found floating through the cranium of a student. Our trials as Seniors began last commencement when the graduating class expected us to be general errand boy and waiter for all their whims; and our troubles only increased with the beginning of the fall term when we were required to furnish certificates to the effect that we had been duly taught to read and spell and cipher in the rule of three, and were closely questioned as to whether we had studied the multiplication table before we had mastered simple fractions, or whether we had, forsooth, been examined in history before we had conjugated the irregular verbs. The Seniors are expected to know all about everything they have ever studied, to be prepared to take any one's place in society who may be too lazy to do his own duty, to write exhaustive treatises on subjects they know nothing about, to take four hard studies and be ready at all times to initiate all new projects for the general good. A Senior is expected to do more work and get less

credit for it than any other student in the school. If he does well that's 10 more than he ought to do, and if he does all then his failure is all the more conspicuous by reason of that seniority and treated accordingly.

We have heard some complaints lately from students in regard to the 10 o'clock rule on Friday nights. This seems to us very much out of place and wholly uncalled for by the circumstances. No lecturer ever thinks of holding his audience after ten o'clock; very few political speeches and no literary entertainments of any sort whatever are expected to hold beyond this hour. It is an imposition upon the public to ask them to listen to exercises over an hour and a half or three quarters long and by commencing earlier the societies would have ample time to transact all business after the close of the debate. As a rule meetings held after ten o'clock are chiefly distinguished for their "rowdyism" and universal ill temper and result in no such general good as to justify their continuance. To acquire the habit of punctuality in attendance upon duties should be one of the aims and results of a college course and if every member of the societies made it a point to be present at the beginning of each meeting and came prepared to do his part promptly and well there would be no sort of trouble in finishing everything before ten o'clock.

That there are two sides to the question with regard to the advisability of the societies running into debt some of the members do not seem to realize. When a society moves into a new hall everything must be fitted up to correspond and great expense is necessarily incurred. That the present membership should pay for what will last ten years and that the hundred or more different members who are to succeed those now here should find everything in perfect order and all paid for and consequently nothing for them to do is absurdly unreasonable. The society as now constituted should pay its reasonable quota and no more; leaving for those who are to come after us the privilege of paying in part for what they enjoy. It is not fair that we should have all the work and worry now simply that in the future others may have nothing to do. A society gets along better and there is more harmony when a common interest and aim bind all the members together than when each one has plenty of time to invent schemes for his own self aggrandisement and the confusion of others—a course of proceedings that generally results fatally to any culture and literary drill.

It might be well if there were a general understanding among the members of the Faculty at least, whether or not attendance at Chapel is compulsory this term. We do not believe it is for the welfare of the institution that the students should be warned in chapel that they are required to be present at the exercises every morning, and then be lectured by the Prof's who do not make a practice of attending, for being late if those exercises chance to be longer than the time the bulletin sig-

nifies they shall occupy. It is necessary that there should be some gathering of the pupils together each day for the purpose of making announcements, and it is proper that attendance should be compulsory. Moreover consistency would seem to attach equal importance to the regular meeting of instructors as well as students in order that all should have a proper knowledge of what is going on, and work in harmony together. May fortune speed the happy time when this shall be.

Editor's Table.

The *Illini* is a well edited paper and the same freshness and originality mark all its departments. One of the many student follies which form the endless theme of editorial discussion is the wrangling of Senior classes. We wonder if all Senior classes are alike. The editor of the *Illini* says so. "The old, old story so often repeated of great plans and mighty failures to carry them out is the chain that binds them all together." He arrives at the daring conclusion that the Senior is not in truth so "deep contemplative" as some might think. He describes them as in a state of dissension, and torn into factions over a banquet and the kind of a class tree to plant, says this is on account of their overweening ambition, and advises them if they want to do something that no other class ever did to agree on all questions. All classes of '81 will admit that these are words of wisdom and only too true, but when under classmen become so very scornful they should remember that they are the materials of which Senior classes are made and if future Senior classes are to be united, giving advice, however good the advice, is not so good a way to effect it as looking well to the way they themselves are going. We do not bear the *Illini* any grudge for giving us a word of criticism in a friendly way, we know when we need it, but we are sorry to see that it tackles the *Niagara Index*. One would think this paper represented the "College of Our Lady of Angles." The new exchange editor announces that he "shall endeavor, as far as may be, to follow out closely the manner of criticism indulged in by our predecessor." That manner we can say is to make the exchange column a scape goat which he loads with all the vicious humors of a probably over taxed brain and sends out into the wilderness of exchanges.

The *Free Press* contains an account of the imposing funeral ceremonies of Pure Mathematics, beloved daughter of Science and Civilization, and pronounces this oration over her:

"Then borrow '81's tombstone; cut a longitudinal section in the spreading campus; lower her slowly, with uniform velocity; fold her arms on her breast in a last sad parabola; place a spherical Zero on each stiffened eye; but plant her deep—plant her deep."

The *Bates Student* laments the existence of hazing in the college and also the dying out of the class prayer meetings as an institution. There must be a desperate state of affairs at Bates.

The *Ariel* from the Minnesota University is one of the neatest and best proof-read papers that comes to us. The last