

THE HESPERIAN STUDENT

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Editorial.

ORATORY.

The idea that oratory is a gift of nature and needs only to be used is one of the heresies to some extent prevalent at the present day. No man was ever born an orator any more than a machinist or a baseball player. The result of such an idea is the blatant style of our political speakers as also of many court pleaders and the ranting of many so-called divines.

To this one error more than to any other perhaps is due the decline in the power and ascendancy of the christian churches. The preacher is seldom an orator. Although his influence upon the lives of his fellowmen depends as much upon the manner in which he presents the truths as the truths themselves, the theological student neglects almost entirely the cultivation of voice and manner. The natural awkwardness and timidity of first appearing upon the rostrum weans away into settled habits, unpleasant and often even disgusting to a cultured congregation.

His mind carefully trained in the hair splitting points of difference in doctrine and filled with the beauties of art and literature; his feeling charged with all the vast needs of humanity; his heart bursting with the great truths of his religion, he lacks only the art that gives grace and elegance to his appearance and force to his words yet he fails. Lacking the response of feeling and the appreciation that feeds the energies and inspiration of the orator, he falls into the habit of enforcing dogmatically his own views and opinions as though they were great truths upon which rest the welfare of humanity.

We learn from the old Romans as well as from the words of the most eloquent men of every age that oratory is an art that must be acquired by the most diligent and earnest practice. It is an acquirement that is important to every citizen of Neb. and should be made one of the elements of a full and rounded education such as our University is supposed to provide. We sincerely hope the Regents and Faculty may soon see the importance of im-

proving our opportunities in this direction and provide for us a regular professor in elocution.

JUSTICE.

The great boast of America, is that all men are in the eye of the law free and equal. But we must now, modify that proposition and say; provided they have an equal amount of money. The crowning virtue of every man who draws the admiration of our day, must be wealth. Great benefits to humanity; noted achievements in science or invention, lapse into insignificance when incapable of being used as an instrument for amassing wealth. The hand of the law it seems cannot fasten tightly enough upon a criminal that is well covered with money to hold him within the reach of justice. It does seem as though one who is well fortified with wealth would be safe in the commission of almost any crime. If a poor man takes money that don't belong to him, he suffers the penalty of the law; but one who has sufficient wealth at his command may murder in cold blood and yet go unpunished. The murderer Olive who has for the last year been administering a sleeping potion to justice was given the freedom of the city a day or two since, and has now gone home to demand a new trial, or in other words procure legal absolution from his terrible crime. It is an outrage upon the commonwealth that a few paltry thousands should blind the eyes and paralyze the hands of those who are dealing out justice in our state. But the bit is in the mouth of the people and the legal jockeys know well how to ride.

THE FESTIVAL.

The joint festival given by the literary societies some time ago is worthy of some comment not merely that it was in every way a complete success, but that it was without a jar of discord so far as our ears have reached. No one would have supposed that two opposing elements of the University were equally represented in the genial social company gathered at the dormitory on Friday evening. The hearty good fellowship there displayed proves that the hard strifes which occupied the societies during the last year, giving rise and utterance to many questionable actions and bitter words, have left no traces of personal enmity between members of the opposing parties. We are glad that such was the result. It shows many prophetic remarks made beforehand by disinterested parties to be false. It is evidence of honest purposes, that opposition should be prominent when different objects are to be gained, and cooperation when the object is the same. We may now feel assured that strong personal friendship may have coexistence with strong opposition. And yet we would not fore go the inspiring influence of an occasional election campaign, were the above not so; for one true enemy is worth a host of false friends.

If there is one characteristic which more than any other combines to make the present typical American college boy very disagreeable to his contemporaries, fellow students, teachers and friends generally, that characteristic is conceit. In

the good old times that in many respects were not so good as our fathers would have us think, boys, youths and young men of all ages were brought up look to those wiser and older than themselves for advice and guidance. Now it is the sons with mustaches of two-hairs-on-a-side who give gratuitous advice to their silver-headed fathers. But even among their own associates these conceited youths make themselves scarcely less ludicrous and not a whit less disagreeable, indeed they are even more so, for older people come to look upon the self-complacency of these soft-headed i—ts with a serene pitying philosophy that is akin, perhaps, to contempt but, at any rate, is not compatible with youthful impatience and choleric temperaments. Edward Everett Hale in his advice to young writers used to tell them that whenever they had written a sentence that seemed to them especially appropriate, learned or brilliant to cut it out and nine times out of ten their productions would be improved by a rigid enforcement of this rule. It would not perhaps do to carry this principle too far in writing but surely a slight modification of it would accomplish most beneficial results when applied to conduct and thought and the estimation we make of ourselves. Before such a rule of life many of our "smartest" acts and sayings would receive little attention or the sneer which is due them. Few things are more discredit able to one than this over confidence and self assumption which will listen to no reason, take no advice, give no justice to, place no confidence in, the merits of other people, but selfishly claim all honor, all consideration and all praise. And the worst phase of the matter is that a conceited person seems never to think that other people amount to any thing except that they praise him and all the praise and honor that are bestowed seem only to add fuel to the fire and he greedily calls for more and is never satisfied.

At the last meeting of the Hesperian Student Association an amendment to the constitution was offered which meets the warm approval of the STUDENT. The amendment was to the effect that two corps of Editors be chosen each college year, one in December to serve from January first to June first, the second chosen in May to serve from June until January. We hope this amendment will pass. It will enable more students to enjoy the honor of being editor of their college paper and give to a large number a very fair experience in running a paper. The duties are sometimes laborious and frequently tedious when taken in connection with the regular school duties. It is always at a sacrifice that any student is editor for a whole college year, and this new amendment, by making his term of office six months instead of twelve would be a very welcome relief. Now that the STUDENT is issued twice a month an editor to do the paper and himself justice must spend two or three evenings every month in preparation. By holding two elections each year the burdens and honors too—if there are any—would be more evenly distributed and the STUDENT in all probability would be the gainer. We hope the Association will give this matter careful con-

sideration at their next meeting and have the coming officers elected only for six instead of twelve months.

There is some comfort in belonging to a small Senior class and attending a comparatively small institution. Our exchanges from the old and large colleges are bristling with those differences of opinions which seem of so much account now—in the last months before Commencement—and which dwindle into such ludicrous insignificance when the battle of real, earnest, active life rages around us. Cornell, Princeton, LaFayette, are one and all the battle grounds of their Senior classes and though the weapons are pen and ink and tongues the first are used with all the sharpness of Gail Hamilton while the latter would do credit to a Xantippe. We have congratulated ourselves anew upon the harmony—though some illatured Sophomore suggests that it is sheer indifference—that prevails in the Senior classes near home. It is too bad that the best year a class spends together should be marred by the innuendos and insults which either side heaps upon the other without stint and with no regard for truth and fairness. The last day the class spends together should not be clouded by the discontent and illature and anger necessarily generated by a fight among the members for the honors of class day.

Editor's Table.

The Bates Student has a pleasant article on Charles Lamb. It gives a programme of the Polymnian society and a "simultaneous discussion" is one of the exercises. We don't know just what a simultaneous discussion is but have an idea that if there is any question that ought to be discussed simultaneously it is the one they have chosen: "Is it better to be a boy than a girl."

The Asbury Monthly in its character of the "outstanding member of the college faculty" raises its voice against certain "villainous abuses" in the school. We give an account of one because it will strike responsive chord in the breasts of students of N. S. U. "Only last evening Plato society (which numbers exactly 100 members) near the close of an excellent meeting, was rudely interrupted by the noise of that fellow's (the janitor's) voice outside the door yelling "ten o'clock boys, ten o'clock, boys!" The gentlemen of the society not being through with some important business which they wished to transact, ignored His Highness and went on. He then coolly locked the door of the society, and kept it so till some time after the adjournment," and the boys were compelled to make their exit through the windows. "The patience with which these things were borne might be commended for some reasons, but if it is repeated we fear there will be serious trouble. The janitor claims to be acting under orders from the faculty. We know not. We only know the abuse; and we know this; if his action is an independent one he should be turned off and a gentleman hired in his place; if he is acting under such rude orders, they must be