

LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

W. C. Jones
not complete

HESPERIAN STUDENT.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.

VOL. X.

LINCOLN, NEB., OCTOBER 1, 1881.

No. 1.

Editorial.

The columns of the HESPERIAN are open to all who have anything to say of interest to students. Let the champions of opposing opinions concerning the study of the dead languages open the ball.

All students, and especially new ones should join one of the Literary Societies in connection with the University. The value one gets from education, is to be able to use it. Ease and readiness in telling or putting on paper what one knows is acquired only by continued practice. This practice is not to be had in the class room and for this reason the Literary Societies were begun.

Prejudice is a strong element in human nature. It works good as well as evil. To be so prejudiced however in favor of any system or theory, so as to despise all opposing ideas is neither wise nor good. This is especially true in the case of a Professor. When a teacher, speaking of materialism, says that he has "read John S. Mill page by page, and never got an idea out of it, nor never met any one who had" and that Mill's Philosophy is "preposterous and unthickable," it is just at this time that students begin to lose faith in him. This lessens his power as a teacher. Professors should let students study for themselves and then by kindly advise, help to form their opinions.

"Minnie Williams is dead." Few students who heard these words when they were first spoken, can soon forget them. A graduate of but a few days, and dead! It seems hard that one just prepared for life's work should thus be called away. Gifted with an intelligence not ordinary; filled with noble aspirations and longings; a character true and noble, Minnie Williams gained the love of all who knew her. A quiet grace concealed a knowledge, extensive for one of so few years. Her acts of friendship were prompted by a kind and loving heart. Intimately known to but a few, her friendship was the more precious. Of the graduates of '81 she is the first to attain to that knowledge, which come to all at last. The re-

membrance of her, like the music of Os- sion's bard, "is still sweet and to the soul."

The fact that the death of President Garfield has little effect on the generality of students, must have some explanation. With whatever we are most familiar, with that also are we most in sympathy, provided it be of a nature warranting sympathy. Students know how hard it is to keep posted on every day affairs, and at the same time pursue a regular course of study. A noted Methodist Bishop said that during his student life, for seven years, he never read a newspaper. The question for us to solve is whether it is best to take a part of our time from study and devote it to the newspaper or to ignore this part of our training altogether. We would at once decide against the latter course. One good newspaper is enough to read, and not even all of that. Americans have a morbid desire to read of crime and criminals. We should not read all things any more than we should eat all things. In the latter case case it would destroy the body, and in the former what would be worse, the intellect. The student who knows something of every day occurrences will be better fitted to pass into active life, than he who does not.

It is very important for students to know how to use the library. It is one of the things to be learned while at the University. How often, when topics outside of the text-book are required, the greater part of the class answers, "not prepared." No doubt all spent hours enough on the lesson, but not knowing what to read, or where to look for the desired information, the time was spent in idle search or useless conversation. Often new students are bewildered and confused by the number of works they are expected to consult. But, if at first it does require much time, and the results are not very satisfactory, still much is gained. The drudgery, in time will gradually grow less, and that which was an irksome task becomes a pleasant duty. In knowing that one is master of a subject, however simple, there is a self-satisfaction; nor is this lessened but heightened, by the fact that

it cost hard work. In order to become an accurate and thorough student one must depend upon himself. If he has not positive information on a subject, he must know where such can be found so that he can obtain it. To him who does not know how to use it, a library with all of its valuable books is as so many wooden blocks arranged on shelves.

There can be no positive rules laid down for using a library. In looking up any subject, it is well to consult some one—usually the librarian—who knows where the facts desired can be found. However the student must depend chiefly upon himself. This above all things, is what he needs most. If during one term he has learned to depend upon himself, to seek his information wherever it can be found, and then draw his own conclusions, the time has not been lost, but very profitably spent.

With this issue of the STUDENT slightly enlarged, we assume control. There are college papers that are larger, on a better basis, and possibly better edited. To those who have intrusted us with our position we can only say that, if attention to the wants of the STUDENT, if a reasonable amount of time spent in preparing articles for the same, if patience and assiduity count for ought, all these will not be wanting. That the paper should be the exponent of the students, that it should contain their best productions (written expressly for it), that it should be interesting and readable, are admitted facts. But can it be by filling its columns with old essays and orations? Let it be understood now that, as a rule, they will no longer be published. If the students do not think enough of their college paper to write for it, if they cannot see the benefits derived from such work, they are blind to their own interests. The paper, in conjunction with the societies, furnishes the only practical element of our University education. They are both too important to be neglected.

What has been said is not meant to be dictatorial. They are evident truths. To put in practice the things which we know to be for our own interests, is all that is necessary. With the hope and belief that the students will, we humbly make our bow and begin the work of the year.