

HESPERIAN STUDENT.

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Editorial Notes.

AN annual prize for the best orator in the Palladian society has been established by two members of the graduating class from that society. This is, we believe, the first instance of such a thing in the history of the school, and it would be a favorable opportunity to repeat the arguments for or against the offering of prizes. Whatever may be said against them however, it seems to be an established fact that they are considered valuable incentives by the best educators and are most numerous in the best colleges.

A New York firm sends us the first number of the Biographer Illustrated which designs to give short histories and portraits of all who come prominently before the public. The back page contains an advertisement of the "Pictorial Associated Press," which makes biographies and portraits of noted men at the rate of one per day, and keeps an enormous supply constantly on hand which can be furnished any paper on the shortest possible notice. On the whole we have concluded not to subscribe for the Biographer Illustrated, but will wait patiently till the various notices appear in the country papers.

AN editorial appeared in the issue before the last which has occasioned some adverse criticism. In that editorial we advanced the idea that the perpetration of various kinds of good-natured mischief by the students was not always to be frowned upon. We

thought that it was often caused by the ebullition of animal spirits was a sign of energy and force of character on the part of those who participated in it. This position we still maintain, but wish it to be distinctly understood that any prank which damages property, creates hard feeling, or gives vent to personal spite is most despicable, and one engaged in it should either be fined by an officer of the law or—what would be more appropriate but less practicable—should be most severely spanked.

IN 1818 Horace Greely was the editor of a campaign paper called the Jeffersonian. He says of it that it avoided abuse, scurrility, and railing accusations, and was devoted mainly to the ablest and calmest speeches made in congress. A few years afterwards he went to Albany to edit another called the Log Cabin. "The times," he observes, "were so changed that it was more lively and less sedately argumentative than the Jeffersonian." Wood engravings and music were introduced, and in short it was a good deal like the campaign papers of to-day. The tendency which the difference in these two papers indicates has been increasing, but whether or not it is a sure proof of decadence in political morality may be doubted. It is unfortunate if we have lost any of the characteristics of the puritan, when all that was necessary was to add others to those which the puritans possessed. Whatever may be our political tendencies, however, the only thing that it seems possible for us to do is to put our trust in providence and in universal education.

A long time ago a preparatory student wrote an essay which was considered good by the professor and the members of his class. In those times Prof. Palmer had public preparatory rhetorical once a month and this student again read the essay in question on one of these occasions. Sometime thereafter he read it in one of our literary societies and a few months afterwards it came out in the HESPERIAN STUDENT. Having a fairly good memory we had nearly learned the gentleman's essay by this time, and so when about a year after its appearance in the STUDENT the author delivered it in society as an oration, we noticed he had hardly altered a word in the production. How many times he has handed it into the various professors who have had charge of the essays, we do not know. We hope that he will take good care of this veteran essay hereafter and bequeath it to his children, for it has served him well. Our memory also enabled us to notice another coincidence, once upon a time, which was that a certain student delivered as an oration, the production that his room-mate, two years before, had delivered as a declamation.