

useful part of a man's training, but growth is as essential to his becoming worthy to be trained. Vigorous effort may make a man ridiculous but it does him good. And aside from over-ambition there is a special reason why western students should not have as good literary taste as those in the older states; they and their people are sojourners in a strange land. Such a community will have far more energy than taste. Oliver Wendell Holmes says that the true student of literature must be tumbled about in a great library when a boy. To be tumbled about in an emigrant wagon is not an equivalent for the discipline that the Autocrat recommends. Undoubtedly much of the hereditary refinement of the east has been transplanted to the western states, but it will require a generation or two of peaceful prosperity before it can bring forth its perfect fruit.

THERE is one small but significant fact connected with the past history of the U. of N. that should be kept in mind by our legislators this winter. It is the fact that Dr. C. K. Adams declined the chancellorship of this institution partly because he was afraid of political intermeddling with its affairs. Let any one who thought at the time that the Dr. was unduly apprehensive consider carefully the present situation and he will be undeceived. There is now money in the treasury belonging to the University and the University needs new buildings; it would surely not take much of a statesman to understand that the sooner this money could be used the better it would be for all concerned. That the appropriation bills placing this money at the disposal of the regents do not pass without opposition is owing entirely to political considerations. Lancaster Co. is looked upon, perhaps with justice as the most hoggish county in the state. She has secured the capitol, the penitentiary, the asylum and university. Now if we look at the matter from the politician's stand point, and consider every dollar paid out of the state treasury only as so much plunder to be distributed in that section of the state whose representatives can pull the wires most skilfully, we see that it is very natural for the North Platte representatives to try to hurt Lancaster by crippling the state institutions located at Lincoln. In each legislature there are men who see most clearly that it is poor policy to starve the state for the sake of spiting a section, but with many the question is not how much the University needs, but how much they can keep Lancaster Co. from getting. State governments have come in these days to have little to do except to regulate railroads, and provide for the system of public education and other state institutions. When, however, sectional greed goes so far that the legislators would rather see a state institu-

tion fail than a county succeed, the outlook is not the most promising. If the state cannot at present expend as much money as true economy demands without unduly enriching Lancaster Co., then in the name of all that's business-like, why are not some of the public institutions moved away from here, not piece-meal, but as individual establishments that have just and honorable claims upon the state? If the University of Nebraska is unworthy of state support let it die. But so long as the state sees fit to maintain it, it should be enabled to meet fully the demands of the times, and should not be compelled to drag out a miserable existence half strangled by sectional jealousy and political ambition.

THE friends of the University opened the biennial legislative campaign with an attempt to get the needed appropriation bills passed as quickly as possible, but soon found that their strength was all needed to defeat a bill for the dismemberment of the University, and that its upbuilding could not be thought of until its preservation was assured. Those who favor a diffused or fragmentary University hold that the industrial college can never have anything but a secondary or insignificant existence so long as it is connected with the other colleges under a common head. That the part will probably not be as great as the whole is a proposition that many people would have been inclined to admit before the present controversy came up, and we would only suggest in the present instance that it not only is not, but neither ought it to be as great. That under the old regime many students were seduced from the straight furrow of the agricultural course into the by-ways and hedges of history, literature and the classics is true enough, but as the course was then planned and taught it proved only the good sense of the students, and to have denied them the privilege would have been to cut them off from a great educational advantage. It is coming to be universally acknowledged that collegiate students are mature enough to choose their own studies, and it is a singular commentary on the value of the agricultural course, if those pursuing it have to be isolated from the rest of the student world before they can be contented. It is surely strange that the literary studies should have to be removed far from agricultural students, like the marmalade and cookies that are put beyond the reach of children. We have confidence in the good judgement of the young men of this state, and we believe that whenever an industrial college can present a course that will be as useful to them as the courses laid down by the other colleges, it will receive a full share of their attention. Until this can be done it is unfair to set up barriers against their taking the course they want. In short we believe that competition is a good thing in edu-