

and annoying to the graduating class, they generally consist of a style of composition detrimental to the writer,—in short are "better honored in the breach than in the observance." This is the standpoint from which some regard Commencement. Is it not tenable?

NONDESCRIPT.

We hear a great amount of talk about the severity of the college course. Students complain that they do not have time to do outside reading, and so on, *ad infinitum*. But why need we repeat all the complaints of students? For our own present purposes this one is enough. There may be foundation for the foregoing complaint. We do not doubt that students are compelled to work—that's what they come to college for. Yet we hold that they complain of a thing which is their own fault when they complain that they are compelled to neglect something of the highest good for the sake of study. Few students will calmly admit that they pursue their course for the grades they get, yet they virtually make such an admission by their actions. If students pursue a course for the good there is in it, they will give just that amount of attention to their regular class work which will pay them in the highest sense, and not one whit more. If students were really so independent of anxiety for grades as they pretend to be, we should hear less complaint of a hard course. If students feel that they can profitably neglect a lesson to do some outside reading, they will do it unless they really prize a good grade more than true mental acquirement. We do not inveigh against the examination system and its paraphernalia of grades, cramming and papers; it is a good thing, and probably fills a place which could be filled by nothing else. But it is a student's own fault if he allows it to master rather than serve him.

The opposition to a varied course of study comes from those who carry the specialistic theory to extremes. Somewhere in almost every argument against it will be found the idea that students should be specialists, and cannot therefore afford to occupy their time with things outside of a comparatively narrow course. We hold that the question should be argued on other grounds. It is correct to say that men should be specialists, for only by so doing can a large measure of success be attained. But if it is necessary to succeed that one know "everything of something" it is equally necessary for the same end that one know "something of everything". It is this same feature of exclusiveness that has made a farmer "only a farmer," and has destroyed that sympathy which should exist between all men. It is the function of a broad course, rightfully used, to break down the barriers between trades and professions. The antagonism to such a course is largely formed on the idea that a college education gives all that is to be known on any given subject and thus in another way fosters an intolerable egotism too common in college graduates. On the other hand, one idea is that a college education can do no more than prepare one for further study. One who has pursued a varied course will be able to read intelligently on other subjects besides his own specialty and thus is fitted to obtain a broad culture, while one who has pursued a narrow course of study has neither breadth of culture nor the means of obtaining it.

A short time ago the literary societies were somewhat startled by the report that they were to be charged for gas and steam used by them. The latter part of the report has not yet been realized, but the former half has become a reality, a solemn reality. The matter is more of a surprise since the

idea had never been broached to the societies, and they have been allowed to grow up in the fond belief that they were an adjunct to University work. So wrapped in their own egotism had they become that they really supposed they were, if not indispensable to the institution, at least worth the cost of gas and warming. Now, fellow students, you should not laugh. This is no laughing matter. The societies that really do literary work are a legitimate part of the University, they are so advertised, and it would be no more unjust to charge professors for gas which they use in their rooms than it is to charge the societies for the gas they use. It is hoped that the Regents will relieve the societies from this unjust expense. The matter will be brought before them at their next meeting.

LATER.—A ruling has been made in favor of the societies. Full particulars next issue.

Our dear fellow students: do you want a college paper? There should be no occasion for this question, and it is hard on our dignity to have to remind you that your support of the HESPERIAN is not what it should be. We shall not attempt to give a philosophical dissertation on the whys and wherefores of the situation. If any one wishes such a thing we will keep it on sale at the HESPERIAN office. What we want to say is the same old stock article. Students must support the college paper if there is any. On you the responsibility rests and if you want a college paper put your hands in your pockets and "whack up." It is a strange thing indeed if Nebraska State University cannot or will not support a college paper. We believe no college paper will ever succeed here unless it is run by the students, yet if the students fail to support the college paper either it will pass into other hands or—die. The board of editors is not particularly anxious as editors, but as students they are solicitous for the prosperity of the paper and being in a position to know something of its condition they tell you these unwholesome truths.

CAMPUS CANARDS.

"Yes, thank you."

Knight should be tried on charge of Witchcraft.

A new Bible, revised version, now adorns the chapel pulpit.

Miss Nettie Taylor of Waverly made the University a short visit recently.

Low grades in final examinations seem to be perfectly general this term.

The literary societies have elected their officers and the world once again revolves.

The even temperature in all parts of the building is extremely agreeable this cold weather.

Ask Stephens and Ansley what they found under the carpet in the S. E. corner of their room.

Problem: If the Juniors held a meeting three months ago, in what century will the next one be held?

The meetings held in No. 5 every Wednesday evening have been very interesting and well attended this term.

Miss Painter left for her home in Texas last Monday. Her many friends in the U. of N. wish her a pleasant journey.

Bacon, revised by Clark reads: "Reading maketh a man full." As soon as this becomes known it will be a dreadful blow on the liquor dealers.

A portion of the cornice has been placed on the new laboratory. A few more days of pleasant weather would have enabled the workmen to enclose the building.