

ing, and the members are to be congratulated for the excellent manner in which they performed.

The University delegation to the Inter-State Oratorical Contest consisted of Miss Roberts, Miss Russell, Ham Eddy, Frank Wheeler, Elmer Pierce, Lou Storrs, John Mockett, Arthur Anderson and G. W. Gerwig. They left here Wednesday afternoon and, after a turbulent trip, reached Lawrence at midnight. The boys say there is no use trying to tell what kind of a time they had; words fail to describe it. It seems as if they almost took the K. S. U. by storm. The party got home on Saturday, more dead than alive. All that could be got out of them was "You-betchour-life-we-did."

#### OPINIONS.

Emboldened by the fact that you deigned to publish our contribution to your last issue, Mr. Editor, we beg an opportunity to present a few ideas in which we hope to show that we sympathize with you in your work. Our sympathies you certainly have; whether or not you agree with us in our opinions will appear later. The subject of our remarks is "the work of a college editor." You are of course aware of the imperfections of your paper,—what editor is not? You doubtless have heard complaints from all sides, from students to faculty and sister universities. You are arraigned because of the careless style in which your editorial and review work is cast. This or that particular part or column is pointed out as of special merit, the remainder dubbed as of no particular importance, or, less charitably, as a disgrace to the institution which has the name of being its supporter. Your paper is characterized as an unnatural growth; it is said to represent neither the student body nor the true spirit or genius of the college.—Do we make a characteristic complaint? Well we too have served our time as an editor! But it is useless to continue piling up the complaints made; you have heard them all.

Now let me say in your behalf that though each of these complaints has more or less sufficient ground, nevertheless, you as editor of a college paper, have abundant justification. We are sorry to find this disposition to criticise their college paper among the students themselves. We should much prefer to see them disposed to encourage you, Mr. Editor, not only to speak charitably of you but also to deal charitably with you. Instructors too seem to be ashamed of your imperfections, and quietly forsaking you, deal a blow which we know is hard to withstand. This is seldom given in open criticism, but is none the less destructive because of its indirectness. They overlook the fact that it takes time to write a polished article just as it takes time to prepare a forensic for the examiner. They, and the students as well, forget that your time is as fully occupied with the regular work as is theirs, and that the college paper is thus the product of an overworked and consequently inactive brain. Your valuable time is freely given, and it is but just that instead of criticisms your instructors and fellow students should aid you by contributions both literary and pecuniary.

The boast is often made by this and that one, that he will have nothing to do with so poor a publication as your paper has sometime been. You, Mr. Editor, have reason to pity such an one rather than to cherish any feeling of enmity. The time will surely come when a file of your paper will be worth "more cash in hand" than your would be scrover can possibly command. This may be putting the case too strongly, but it is true that a file of the HESPERIAN will sometime be one of the most valuable things that a student of the U. of N. may ever

hope to obtain. We need but cite as proof those who have preserved their college papers, as at Yale or Harvard, for which papers most fabulous offers are made by less thoughtful fellows. This University is destined to live and to have a place among the first in the land; and with all its imperfections the HESPERIAN will be the most valuable and most truthful record of these its youthful days.

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It is no small annoyance to the literary societies to be compelled under whatever circumstances to close their sessions at 10:30 o'clock on Friday evenings. Especially is this the case when owing to the change of season the hour of commencing is sometimes delayed. For all ordinary occasions 10:30 is ample time and rarely is there a student so unreasonable as to complain; but when, owing to some unusually important business, it becomes necessary to prolong the session a few minutes it is nothing short of insult to be ordered, at a minute's notice, out of halls that are rightly called our own. Whether the "orders" are from high or low authority makes little difference. Often the societies have courteously adjourned prior to the appointed time to accommodate janitors who were wearied with unusual work. They ask in return that similar courtesy be shown to them. Especially should this accommodation be granted when the societies are supposed to pay for all the gas they consume over a certain amount; all under that amount they have a right to (by a vote of the regents) and may demand. It is our opinion that there's "a nigger in the fence" somewhere.

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In other colleges there yet remains somewhat of that *patria potestas* which was formerly supposed to be delegated by the parent to the schoolmaster. I had fondly hoped that no such spirit would ever find lodgement inside the walls of Nebraska University. It has been our continual pride to point to our school as a place where manhood has been awarded somewhat of judgment and womanhood a measure of discretion. I had supposed that so much of the spirit of the New Education was among us that it should be unhesitatingly granted that manhood and womanhood are best developed by a large measure of individual responsibility. Nor am I prepared to say that there is any openly expressed desire to bring personal independence under stricter supervision. With all due respect to the powers that be it must, however, be said that a disposition has appeared in high places to distrust, suspicion and supervise the actions of the student body here. So insidiously has the feeling crept in and so cautiously has it been expressed that it seems doubtful whether those to whom it belongs would themselves admit its existence. But the distrust at present existing in the minds of the students of the University, though indicating, perhaps, an extreme sensitiveness, is proof that there exists something to raise that sensitiveness. As one who in a measure voices student opinions I am compelled to recognize this. I would, moreover, express additional regret that the greed for power has aimed its efforts at the one center of social life in the institution—the literary societies. I speak the student sentiment when I say that these societies fill a place in our educating force which, without them, would remain unfilled. I feel too that their prosperity depends upon the degree of freedom from external control granted them. The students of Nebraska University believe that the moment when any attempt shall be made to bring the literary societies of the institution under supervision will mark a decline of their usefulness. We are sorry that occasion exists for such remarks but when the occasion exists I believe the better way is to meet it frankly and openly.

SANS DETOUR.