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## THE HESPERIAN

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### EDITORIAL NOTES.

By far the greater number of the people of our new West look to the eastern states as their early home or as the home of their fathers, and when one mentions the short comings or aberrations of our eastern cousins, one's remarks are almost certain to meet with a chilling reception. We suppose that what has already been said, in this and other departments of THE HESPERIAN, relating to those delicate subjects has fallen far short of securing for us a warmer place in the hearts of our western readers, and we remember a number of balls of down-east mud that have, from time to time, been thrown our way. All this was looked for, and prudence would have silenced us before we began, had we not believed that there was much anti-western prejudice that should be done away with, and many wrong impressions of the East to be righted, and that an audience of students is one which is as inspiring as one could be desired to be. There is certainly a marked difference between the people of the two sections, but, we believe, the exact nature of this difference has been wonderfully misunderstood. Beyond the Alleghenies the noun "West" commonly calls to mind the adjective "rowdy," although gentlefolk, of

course, are too well bred to pronounce it. Here the fancy sometimes pictures to us a far-off land of taste and culture—ideas, indeed, suited to fancy—and we think we see the image of the East. Mistaken ideas are oft times pleasant, and, when they do no harm, we are not for disturbing them. But we fear this matter has already gone too far, and we propose to lift our humble voice against it; not, indeed, in the hope of accomplishing anything directly by our own talk, but trusting that what we say may come to the notice of some abler thinker and writer. We trust that this will sufficiently explain a few things we have said in the past and many things we intend to say in the future.

When future historians come to investigate the institutions and peculiarities of the last fourth of the nineteenth century in America, the most prominent fact to be noticed will probably be the lack of anything approaching a just recognition of intellectual ability in any line. To a certain degree, this lack may be said to be one of the characteristics, of the time the world over, but in no other place, we believe, is it so disgracefully apparent as in America. Our country is not without its share of truly great minds, but how few of their possessors' names are ever heard by the masses. If Virgil were alive in our now, it would not be necessary for him to take up an alley to avoid being pointed out with admiration as "the man." He would be left to suffer from hunger and cold, as did our Poe, or would be supported by foreign charity, as Walt Whitman is said to be even now. We have no lucrative sinecures, such as European governments are accustomed to bestow upon men of literary ability, and the idea of granting a pension to a writer would cause many a smile.

Some time ago there seemed to be a common complaint among the students at the lack of the cordial hatred which, it was said, should exist reciprocally between the classes and between the various other organizations of the University. In response to this demand the students soon began to make frantic efforts to do something, and poor enough were the attempts. Yet they were sufficient to form the beginning of the better order of things now existing. It would be a curious study to trace the development of college spirit in this, or any other similar, institution; but the subject is too light to treat