

## EXCHANGE BRIC-A-BRAC

Prof. Brown, of the chair of Greek and Literature at Butler, is manager of the college base-ball nine.

Too bad, *University Courier* that you couldn't think of anything original to say about us but had to copy from the *Coup d'Etat*.

The senior class of the University of Wisconsin have adopted a class ring. This is certainly something new for a college souvenir.—*Argonaut*. Not so new but that the class of '86 of the University of Nebraska adopted it.

The Hiram College *Star* objects to the "almost stereotyped articles of the incoming and outgoing editors." No use, *Star*. It is human nature to think that the advent of a new board of editors is a sort of crisis in the world's affairs and the exit—well, it isn't polite to march off without saying good-bye.

It seems that the Oberlin *Review* has taken up a charge of plagiarism against E. C. Ritscher of Beloit, who won the interstate oratorical contest in 1886. The *Round Table* from Beloit appears with an article on the other side of the question. It seems the charge rests on the similarity of three sentences in Mr. Ritscher's oration to sentences in Guizot's "History of Civilization." As the resemblance is slight and the work mentioned was the acknowledged preparatory reading for the oration, it seems reasonable to suppose that the correspondence is due to that unconscious memorizing of expressions with which most writers are familiar. The *Review* is in small business.

We are always pleased to receive new western exchanges. We realize that most of them are like ourselves,—having something of a struggle for existence and patronage. The eastern papers, with larger constituencies and more "college spirit," seem to have an easier time. We therefore welcome the *Dakota Collegian* from the agricultural college at Brookings, S. Dak. We will not pretend to pass final judgment upon the paper for the issue at hand is full of oratorical contest and is therefore not in its normal condition. However we notice the usual amount of western "push" and the paper in both appearance and contents would put to shame some of the homely and sleepy papers which are issued year after year from larger and older institutions. A little more care in "making-up" would be a advisable, *Collegian*.

We are glad to be able to speak of the Western Inter-collegiate Press Association as a living, breathing organization. At Grinnell some twenty-five or thirty papers were represented and an association started which we hope to see grow in size, influence and usefulness as the years roll by. As yet the benefits may be confined to increase of exchange, more brotherly love between editors, and the acquaintance afforded at the yearly meeting. But other results will come in due time. THE HESPERIAN makes its bow to its contemporaries who have honored it by making it the official organ of the association and hereby expresses its willingness to do anything in its power to further the objects of the organization. We should like to see the "circular letter" scheme inaugurated as soon as possible. We call the attention of all our western exchanges to an account of the convention in another column. Let every paper in the states interested lend its aid to the enterprise. Send in your dollars.

Ocasionaly as we plod along the weary path of life with downcast eyes and moody face, we are surprised by the sudden appearance of some former friend whom we had almost forgotten. What a change it makes in our feelings as the rush of old memories floods the mind! A somewhat analogous ex-

perience befell us lately. Turning over the leaves of a batch of new exchanges, our glance rested on an article in the *Geneva Cabinet* entitled "Charlotte Cushman." It seemed familiar. We glanced at the close. Sure enough! "*Hesperian*." Then our memory traveled back through sixteen long months. We had not then descended to the depths of exchangedom. We were not then rudely ridiculed by half a dozen unfeeling exchange editors. We did not have to read over a hundred exchanges a month. No, we wrote heavy editorials and abused the faculty. And one afternoon our gloomy sanctum was lighted up by the descent of a pretty girl editor who handed us the little biography which, being reprinted, has given rise to all these melancholy reminiscences. Said p. g. e. now leads the tedious life of a country school-ma'am. And we—well, we are what circumstances make us. It is convenient to lay it all at the door of fate. We supposed a last year's HESPERIAN was a last year's almanac intensified. But the printed word never dies. This little lesson should remind us how careful we should be as to what we put in print. In after years, like Banquo's ghost, our words may rise up before us in the midst of the good things of life and spoil our happiness. We would especially commend this thought to the *Acamedian*, the *Simpsonian*, and the *Coup d'Etat* who have taken such fiendish delight in calling us "poor fool," "officious caviller" etc.

We feel called upon to say a few words to the *Gates Index*. It moralizes over the recent state oratorical contest to the following effect: "It seems to us that Doane must feel well repaid for her modesty before the contest; while the University, which was inclined to claim everything, will learn to be more reserved in the future. The difference in the subjects chosen is a matter that should attract the attention of our prospective orators. The one deals with a question of the day while the other has to do with dead issues. We believe that topics of the day usually furnish subjects for the more popular orations." To begin with the University did not "claim everything." THE HESPERIAN backed up our orator with its encouragement; it urged a large delegation to support him; it urged the utmost enthusiasm among the students. It did not give up the contest beforehand. It did not say with a woe-begone face, "Well, we'll go to Crete, but it's no use anyway." If a person or an institution goes into a contest it is well to go in with the greatest determination and enthusiasm possible. We were defeated. It was a result not unexpected under the circumstances. But because we lost we are not ashamed of what we said before the contest nor do we intend to shout in a lower key next year. Now as to the subjects of the orations. "Robert E. Lee" is not a dead subject. The character of any man who has influenced history as he did is a live subject for discussion so long as any grain of prejudice tends to swing the balance of popular judgment to the wrong side. Furthermore the subjects had nothing to do with the result of the contest. Mr. Peterson's oration is acknowledged to be the equal of the one which was successful. The delivery alone decided the contest. More than this, the judges are not allowed to be influenced by any considerations except those of excellence of thought, composition and delivery. In a general and theoretic way we agree with the *Index* that a live subject is better than a dead one; but the present instance is a poor one to "point the moral." Incidentally we might remark that the exchange editor of the *Index* is somewhat old-fogyish in opposing any inter-collegiate athletics. Everything that tends to make the colleges of the state better acquainted with each other should be fostered. Base-ball, foot-ball, oratory, and Y. M. C. A. are all means to this end. As for our students we are not afraid that they will spend more time or money than they can afford on such things.