

## CURRENT COMMENT.

The present year bids fair to be the most prosperous one in the history of this university. In every department can be seen a vigorous and healthy growth, and although by the opening of Nebraska Hall new rooms have been received, yet it seems as if ere long we will outgrow our present accommodations.

The late republican convention at Hastings has called forth righteous indignation from all honest newspapers in the state. When the great corporations can buy up proxies and pack conventions it is about time for the people to call a halt. When any party falls into the hands of sharpers and ward bummers it is time for the people to rise up and assert their manhood. The people of any party are not bound to support the caucus nominees no more than are delegates to a convention bound to respect the instructions of their constituents.

Where is the gymnasium about which we heard so much last year? It is now several years since we heard the chancellor state that a good gymnasium was an assured fact in the immediate future. Patiently have the students waited; one by one the classes graduate and still the gymnasium has not materialized. The students should agitate this matter and not be content to let it drop until we have a place for physical exercise and training. Do not be selfish, perhaps the gymnasium will not come until long after you have graduated, but if you can do any good for the classes that are to be here during the next generation it is your duty to do it.

The agitation of the question of removing the remains of General Grant to Washington and there erecting a suitable monument to his memory, brings to our mind the contrast in the ways of advertising adopted by the eastern cities and by the western cities, as mentioned in our last issue. The attractions to visitors thrown out by eastern cities are dead monuments to the dead memories of dead men. The attractions of western cities are alive, entertaining, enterprising and instructive. The pride of the east is her monuments, her memories, her Niagara of wasted energy; of the west, her industries, her natural scenery, and her natural opportunities. The contrast is true between the slow, dull, sluggish movement of the East, and the active, energetic hustle of the west.

While in Europe the past summer Professor Barber acquired a valuable and interesting collection of pictures that represent famous places in Italy. These pictures are of the greatest interest to the classical and historical student, because they portray both the buildings of antiquity and the manners and customs of the people, ancient and modern. The pictures, attractive and interesting in themselves, are made doubly so by the word descriptions which are given by the professor. A good imagination is the one thing necessary for a thorough appreciation of past events and while looking upon a photograph and listening to explanations it does not require a great effort on the part of the student to transport himself to Rome and feel that he is treading upon the very marble that echoed to the tramp of Rome's conquering legions, or is gazing upon the massive buildings which shook with the applause that greeted Cicero. In another case one feels the pleasing coolness and hears the merry music of the rippling stream by whose banks Horace drank in the inspirations that placed him in the front ranks of Latin poets.

It was a matter of regret to our best students when they learned that the declamations which were required by the department of English for the past few years had been dropped. If a college education is to be of any benefit to a person in after-life, if the best education consists in the ability not only to master a subject but also be able to explain it to others, then it is to be lamented that the lower classmen are no longer required to declaim before their respective classes. The literary society may be a substitute, but in the society halls the student does not receive instruction from an instructor. In the literary society a person learns how to apply the knowledge previously obtained in the class room. Now, we do not intend to say who is to be blamed in this matter, because already there has been plenty of fault found with the spirit of economy which pervaded our last legislature.

The workingmen's convention which lately met in this city proves conclusively that the two important factors in production, labor and capital, are not by any means in the most cordial relations. Labor and capital should go along hand in hand, for the one is useless without the other. Capital is claiming more than its fair share of the profits. Laboring men are forced by circumstances to combine. Now, while it is not a very happy state of affairs that brings a labor party into existence, yet it is better for the working men to seek in this way to ameliorate their condition than to attempt to attain the same object by strikes. The laborers have in their power to wield the ballot, the most potent instrument that could be placed in their hands. Will they use it judiciously and thereby better their condition, or will they, blindly following unscrupulous demagogues, bring down ruin not only upon themselves but upon the whole country?

The *Globe* takes opportunity to criticize the University for not securing a chancellor, and says that in patterning after the German university methods we are going beyond our depth, arguing that if the unit system, or the system of one head, a president or chancellor or president, is good enough for Yale, Harvard, Cornell and Michigan, the University of Nebraska had better follow in their conservative tracks. The *Globe* does not, however, say "conservative" tracks, and in not so saying it misses the point in favor of the German system. The German universities are doing the best work of any schools in the world, are branching off into research and original work and investigation as are the universities of no other country. German students and English and American students at the German universities are making their marks high in science, literature, language, and philology. Johns Hopkins, the only American university that has broken from old conservative English methods followed by Yale and Harvard, has already in her short life of ten years left her old conservative centenarian sisters behind, and her alumni are already contesting for first place among American educators. If the so marked success of Johns Hopkins is due to the adoption of the German system of university work, why, then, cannot the University of Nebraska, with her income, equipment and opportunity, safely venture in the new method so successfully adopted, under less favorable conditions by Johns Hopkins. You may say, we have not the faculty to carry out such a system. Indeed, we have a stronger faculty than Hopkins had at its start, and that can be remedied as it is found necessary. At any rate, a faculty capable of governing a university can be found as easily as one man capable to take the whole charge. The one thing that is