

## EXCHANGE.

Great is the *Swarthmore Phoenix* for a paper weight.

Some people have predicted that after the grip would come small-pox or cholera. The *Muhlenberg* has started the new procession with the former. The paper looks quite well though.

It is, we suppose, perfectly legitimate for the *Ottawa Owl*, *Niagara Index* and the *Scholastic* to bestow compliments back and forth among themselves. Not would we for a moment infer that mutual sympathies prompt the compliments. Yet, after all they are liable to seem rather slim to mere secular mortals.

There is hardly one of our exchanges that has not something to say about a gymnasium. Some want one, some have prospects of one, some are urging the faculty to complete one in process of erection, while some are jubilant over the realization of their hopes. Meanwhile, THE HESPERIAN says but although it is thinking much.

The *Washburn Reporter* contains a first-class essay dealing with "Looking Backward." We take one paragraph that is especially full of good sense. "Bellamy ascribes to the degraded condition of the masses the crimes of to-day, while our observation tells us that to the crimes of to-day we can safely ascribe the degraded condition of the people. For example, are misery, want, broken-hearted wives and mothers the cause or the result of drunkenness? So, we might continue through the whole catalogue of crime, conclusively showing the danger to sound argument of putting the cause for its effect, and *vice versa*."

The *Volante* in its leading editorial has one sentence that is too good to pass. It says, "It is with considerable forethought and after careful deliberation that the *Volante* greets the new president with a hearty welcome." After such a welcome the new president ought to feel his heart thump with joy inexpressible. Such a welcome is extended but once in a life-time and ought to be appreciated when it is given. We congratulate President Grose on the hearty welcome given him with considerable forethought (and less afterthought), and after careful deliberation.

The new exchange editor of the *Argus* has this to say in the course of his introductory remarks:

"We shall strive to treat our exchanges with all due consideration and courtesy."

Farther on he courteously implies that the editor of THE HESPERIAN is very vocant. One paragraph runs as follows:

"The editor of THE HESPERIAN has declared himself very strongly against secret societies, (College fraternities, remember.—Ed.) and, in fact, devotes quite a considerable space to vacant invectives against them. On his first page is started a full column editorial which is made up of a few empty assertions and wordy predictions of their speedy extinction!"

The gentlemanly editor has evidently exchanged his strivings toward courtesy for something considerably different. He has forgotten or else never knew that it is not only not courteous but an exceedingly poor reply to the arguments of an opponent to call them empty and vacant. It looks like an out-cropping of fraternity training in debate. If those arguments are no good, why make a reply to them, or, if as the *Argus* man virtually admits, they are real arguments, why not reply strictly to them instead of presenting counter-arguments and lugging in a mass of prejudiced testimonials with "Hons." and "Presidents" attached to bolster them up? Why not bring in some unprejudiced testimony, some unbiased by a Greek oath, some that would stand before an impartial jury, some for instance like that given by

the board of visitors to the Wisconsin state university? Wouldn't such testimony have more weight? Can the testimony of former Greek letter men outweigh the fact that some of our leading colleges have taken a position hostile to fraternities? But then the new exchange editor of the *Argus* must do his duty, for was that not what he was elected for? The man of the January *Argus* forgot and opened his mouth. It was a fatal mistake. But it will not occur again, for a discreet man has his place. He has made one slip, though, after which it might be well for him to look. He grants that fraternities are a standing disturbance in college politics, but thinks that their superior scholarship offsets that and other, perhaps all other, bad qualities. This is, indeed, a new way of saying that a bad man is the smartest man. But possibly this brilliant editor can tell why these superior gentlemen would, if they dropped their bad qualities, be any the less smart on that account. Possibly, too, he may be able to tell just how many "diffident and sluggish students" are taken in by fraternities. Perhaps southern fraternities may do so, but up here it is different unless by such are meant those that have good clothes and few brains. But perhaps life in the chivalrous South is different from life in the wild west.

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