

ly exercises out of doors, in God's free air, which every college student has from time immemorial found time and taken opportunity to secure.

The fewness of the graduating class, compared to the large number of students in attendance, is no doubt a noticeable fact to the visitor unacquainted with the peculiar organization of the classes. But this is readily and satisfactorily explained in the fact that the teachers of the University have thus far been compelled to first prepare their material for classes and then work it up; that is: to receive youths from the primary schools of the state and prepare them, in a separate department, to enter college classes. It is further explained, in the fact of the system adopted a few years ago by the trustees, and the then heads of departments, called the "elective system," which means, in short, that pupils may pursue only such branches of the course as they themselves choose,—the conferring of the degree, however, depending on proficiency in the whole course. Comparatively few adopt the whole course—hence, the few degrees conferred. It is time for such a system to pass away, supplanted by one that compels a thorough course to all as the condition of attendance. The present system may have been wise at the time of its adoption, when few youths could afford the time or had the means, or the preparatory instruction and education, to undertake a full course with success. But that day has passed, and an institution so finely endowed, so amply equipped with all the paraphernalia of science, should require breadth as well as thoroughness of scholarly acquirements, and discharge fully educated classes.

All in all, it is a noble institution, doing a great educational work for the youth of the state, and meets a necessity which otherwise would leave thousands unaided in their efforts for a liberal education.

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CORRECTIONS.—A typographical error occurs in giving the date of the birth of General Herron in the January number of THE ANNALS. It should read 1837.

In the April number, in the sketch given of General Vandever, the following sentence occurs: "He received such education as only the public schools of that city afforded." This was intended to convey the fact of his not having the opportunities of the higher institutions of learning, but only the ordinary schools of the city, which would be more properly denominated private schools, as it was before the day of the establishment of the system of public schools as now understood.

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