

A WORD ABOUT THE

LITERARY SOCIETIES.

There has been some talk during the last few years concerning the depreciation of the two college literary societies, attributing the falling off to the evil influences of the fraternities. It is our desire here to entirely remove this erroneous impression.

In the first place it is well to say a word about the societies, the prosperity of which both from a financial and literary standpoint during the past two years, has far exceeded that of the preceding ten. They have been enabled to publish a college magazine which would do credit to any educational institution. Its pages are bright and breezy, and free from all impurities usually attendant upon such publications, making it worthy of the careful attention of the enlightened college world. Further both societies are now members of the Southern Oratorical Association, to which they send a delegate each year, thus lending them additional inspiration in their debating and oratorical work.

As regards the interest within their own walls, we are glad to say that they have this year broken the record of the past twelve, and on several occasions have maintained the enthusiastic strife of debate by candle-light.

Now in regard to the fraternities, statistics taken during the first part of the year show that the proportion of fraternity men in attendance on regular meetings between September and January was twenty-five per cent. greater than the attendance of the non-fraternity men. The elimination of the greater part of the bitter political strife among the students, has been in great measure due to the desire of the

fraternity men to advance the interests of the societies ; and the fact that competition determines most all of the contests at the present time, insures the best representation on public occasions.

All this in the face of the fact that the natural trend of education at the present day is more towards the cultivation of the exact sciences in connection with the scientific languages, than towards the improvement of oratorical powers, is a marvelous record to say the least. Of course there are defects, and some of them very potent; but let those in authority consider also the good, as well as the changes which the times have brought upon us, since they were students here; and in judging let them not too hastily decide that whatever of evil there may be is attributable to the secret societies.

A BIT OF HISTORY.

"To persevere in one's duty and to be silent is the first answer to calumny."

The truth of the above statement has been practically demonstrated during the past term. Soon after Dr. McPherson, the present honorable incumbent of the chair of history and political economy, assumed the duties of the responsible position to which he had been called by the board of trustees of the University of Georgia, certain parties saw fit to bring public notice of the fact that Johnston's History, the author of which is a northern man, and in which are certain passages portraying the South in an unfavorable light, was taught in the course.

What motive ever prompted this attack upon Dr. McPherson we will not attempt to set forth, but even assuming that the attack was made with an honest purpose and begotten of a love deep seated for the Southern cause, it may still be shown that it was unwarranted.

Now, Dr. McPherson was elected to TEACH the youth of Georgia TRUTH, and it is his duty to avail himself of every possible device by which he can expedite this duty. It is well known that there has been no good Southern history written since the war, and Southern colleges find great difficulty in selecting a book in which they feel that the facts will be stated fairly. This difficulty Dr. McPherson had to meet, and the only rational way in which to do it was to select the book which would be best suited to the purpose of instruction, correcting misrepresentations where they were found, by means of lectures. This course he pursued, and for it he brought down upon himself the unrestrained condemnation of certain "would be" zealots, in the face of whose condemnation the object of all this obloquy, has pursued the even tenor of his way, giving

vent to no ungenerous retort or undignified expression. To call into question the wisdom of introducing "Johnston's History" is to doubt either the patriotism or the discretion of the board of trustees to whom the book was submitted by Dr. McPherson. Surely no one will hesitate to rely upon the integrity of such men as compose the board.

But all agitation has now ceased, and this editorial is written merely that the readers of *THE PANDORA* may know something of the facts in the case. Let us hope that the day will soon come when true history shall record the valor and true manhood displayed by the South in that unequal struggle, and when people everywhere will cease to look upon men with suspicions which are unwarranted, and which prevent that feeling of trust and brotherly love due one to another by descendants of the common ancestry.

