

students were asked to sign blanks binding the signer to abstain from fraternity activity during attendance at college. The two men debarred refused to sign such papers. The fraternities decided to combat President Smith's stand in the matter. The trustees have just lately agreed to recognize fraternities, but they are to be placed under the immediate supervision of the faculty.—The Oberlin Review.

The College Topics of the University of Virginia a few weeks ago contained an interesting editorial regarding the forty per cent rule recently adopted by the faculty of the institution. The article is interesting because of the apparent antagonism of the ideas of Thomas Jefferson and those of present day educators.

"When Thomas Jefferson founded this University he had several ideas in view. First of all he wanted to make of this University a hot bed wherein could be cultivated freedom. Studies were to be chosen by each man according to his own taste. Likewise each one was to have any religion or no religion as he saw fit. Second, he wished to make the University the capstone of the public school system, and make understanding rather than wealth the passport to knowledge. This implied free tuition for the deserving. Last and by no means least, he sought to beautify the surroundings and make a school of taste in his native state.

"In his mind, it made little difference, whether or not the so called student studied. If a youth of eighteen took up his residence here and spent four years beneath the green porticos, a certain amount of culture would be assimilated by him. He would mix with other young gentlemen and exchange ideas with them. Also, he would sit under the learned professors and would thus

learn much from their weighty words. The question of whether or not his scholarly duties were performed was to be left entirely to the parent—the latter being kept cognizant of the son's progress, and by him was to be decided whether or not the advantages of the education merited its cost. The sign of "No Admittance" was to be unknown on the University portals.

"These new rules adopted by the Faculty usurp the parents' authority and overthrow the Jeffersonian idea. They restrict attendance to the studious and make "black list" of the very ones who need most to be encouraged in the quest for knowledge. These rules are a form of coercion, and of all words in the dictionary this was most odious to Jefferson.

"This University has gone on for almost a century in the path pointed out by the Sage of Monticello. We do not believe in strict adherence to the old, but we also do not believe in overthrowing time honored customs unnecessarily.

"The "40 per cent rule" is unnecessary, harmful to the University, and unfair to the citizens of Virginia. The right to deny its advantages to the youth of the state does not belong to the University affairs, but to the people.

"Jefferson was a wise man and he held up only the laws of the land to be adhered to.

"A college man is to young to be condemned as a failure. Lead him to do better; do not give him a downward push. And let the "man that signs the checks" decide whether or not he is worthy of his pay."

Mr. C. E. Downton of the Westinghouse Mfg. Co. gave a talk before the M. E. and E. E. Societies last Friday night.

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