

The University Reporter.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY.

VOL. IX.

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No. 10.

Fifteenth Annual Commencement.

SUNDAY was the first day of the fifteenth annual commencement of the State University of Iowa. Although the afternoon was sultry, the chapel was early filled with a concourse of students and citizens—all eager to hear the Baccalaureate discourse of Dr. Thacher. Nor were their expectations unwarranted. The Dr. eclipsed all of his previous efforts in depth of thought and in the practical bearing of his words upon life. He selected as his text:

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.—Prov. IV. 23.

From this theme he ably presented the necessity and superiority of heart culture and care. His words will long be cherished in memory by the entire graduating class.

MONDAY—With its closing scenes; with the last recitations of the year; with its relief to tired students and instructors; with its proximity to vacation; with the anxious inquiries for “standing”—was, indeed, one of bustle and excitement. Toward the close of the afternoon a goodly number assembled to hear the Law “Class Day” exercises. After music, W. B. Lardner, class President, announced for the opening an oration upon “Progress,” by Francis R. Gaynor. He said in substance:

Progress, rightly considered, relates to the attainment of some desired perfection. It must therefore be toward some definite object, the attainment of which is desired. It must be in that department of living which will secure the highest good. Physical progress may be intellectual retrogression. Intellectual advancement may be moral and religious retrogression. It must take into view not only the life that now is but that which is to come. Otherwise it may be a hindrance in respect to what constitutes highest good.

Next came the class poem by W. A. Meese. This was short and terse, contained good thoughts; and was read in a spirited and forcible manner.

After this the Class History was read by O. M. McPherson. This was regarded by many as the best performance of the evening. Style was clear and flowing, a good production. We have room but for a few closing sentences:

I speak truly when I say that all the happy elements of society exist in the class of '77. Farmer, mechanic, poet, student, theologian, wit and artist, all are here and all have crowned the whole with the study of law. We now lay aside the musty volume of the past: the book of

the future lies open before us. May time in imperishable letters, write for each a brilliant history.

Music followed this; after which E. K. Lucas responded to the toast: “The Law Class of '77.” He evinced good sense in not boasting of his class too highly, which is usually done; gave some good advice; and ended with some well rounded periods.

The spirits of sorcery were then invoked by H. G. Thurman, who gave in a distinct tone and energetic manner, the class prophecy. Mr. Thurman gave evidence of a strong and vivid imagination. Space allows only a synopsis of his exordium:

I found myself alone in the mighty, vaulted chamber of an unknown cavern, in the presence of the great genius—the master spirit of the dark abode, who asked in a sad and gentle tone, “Young man, why came you here?” and I replied “I would like to know what the future has in store for my class-mates.” Then he answered: “You shall know; I am the scribe of the court of the fates whose equitable decrees are always enforced, for they are founded upon fixed and irrevocable laws.” Thus he showed to me the ordinations for the law class of '77.

For some reason the class ode was omitted, which performance is usually very interesting at such an entertainment. That the class possesses musical powers to an eminent degree, most any Academic can testify.

The Valedictory was then pronounced by Frank L. Dodge, subject: “The true Basis of popular Government.” The speaker considered such “basis” to be an educated people. His farewell remarks was very appropriate.

THE UNION ANNIVERSARY attracted a well filled house. Through the mismanagement of the joint committee the exercises were a half-hour late. Judge Adams presided and introduced the presidents of the societies. The Hesperians had the initiatory—Miss Minnie Kimball, President.

Mary H. Johnson, the Hesperian orator, spoke upon “What America has done for the World.” The thought was of necessity old; but it was agreeably presented in a new dress and well shorn of the boastful spirit so distasteful to a refined judgment.

Thereafter Minnie Kimball presented the diploma of the society to their only graduate—Miss McKenzie, who responded briefly.

The Zetagathians followed—Eli Ogg, presiding office.

Albion N. Fellows gave the society address—subject: "Personal Freedom." We give a selection:

Antiquity cherished the notion that the *state* was supreme, that it was the end of every good, and that to its authority there was no limitation. This idea dotted the surface of the then known, world with tyrannous powers; encouraged prince and protentate to contend for "universal domain;" reddened the altar of martial glory with blood of thousands slain; and erected those gigantic structures whose ruins serve only to attract an idle gaze, to mark the fall of imperial grandeur and measure the depth of human degradation. Following this came a theory which made the *church* the thought-center about which all social and civil ideas revolved and in comparison with which they were of minor importance. During ages black with intolerance, this belief flourished, entered into the heart of European politics, influenced the thought, controlled the action and modified the destinies of continents. With these and other forces man has fought long and persistently. All along the pathway of time we find traces of this deadly combat. In it, prosperity, happiness, and oft-times existence itself have been sacrificed. In its vicissitudes, rivers have run red with blood; embattled hosts have been completely annihilated. Red Mars, preceded by terror and trepidation, has dealt destruction and havoc upon the field of carnage; in his sad train have followed desolation and famine; kings have been deposed; tottering thrones, o'ertumed; dynasties destroyed; and empires swallowed up—all in the ensanguined conflict for *personal freedom*.

Next the following Zetagathians received the diplomas of the society: Goshorn, Springer, Clapp, Clyde, Conley, Hoyt, Moser, Warnock, Whipple, Dodge, Eggert, Henley, Rice, Thurman, Meese, Seeds, McLeod, (not present). Mr. Ogg made an admirable presentation speech and Mr. Goshorn, in behalf of the graduates, made an apt reply.

The Erodolphians succeeded—Miss Cochrane, president. Mrs. Lillian V. Ranck gave the society oration upon "Frederick Baron von Trenck." It was an exquisite production and gracefully delivered; although its length was justly criticised. This society graduated Misses Slagle, Rankin, Osmond and Whitney. Miss Cochrane's words were well chosen and Miss Whitney's response was the best response of the evening.

Irving Institute had an unfortunate location: but presented a good performance. William D. Evans chose to orate upon "Primary Ideas." His oration, as regards thought, was the best of the evening; and his delivery the best we have seen him do. We give an extract:

There is no well established institution or very common superstition or myth or custom which it is not worth the while to trace if possible to its origin. Some meaning will generally be found there which tradition has failed to carry down. Mythology as it is, is a great fiction, but the primitive originators of myths could doubtless make a plausible defense of their conclusions. That Aetna rested on the half burned body of some huge giant was a theory as probable as any that could be then urged.

The worship of animals is revolting to cultured minds. Its origin, however, is more reasonable. No

one ever drove a wild beast into the midst of a tribe unaccustomed to the belief and said, "Behold your original ancestor!" or bore among them an idol and said, "Behold a God!" Superstitions are not thus born. They develop from some original idea that gained acceptance with the human mind, not by its absurdity but by its reasonableness; the idol is first representative then real; first an image then a god. Could idolaters and animal worshippers see how their religious notions originated and by what transitions they assumed their later forms, it would be the most effectual means possible to disengage them from their superstitions. He who would hold a doctrine or observe a custom intelligently or understand any institution thoroughly must study it in its origin and in its historical development.

The great pagan religions of the present day are not without an apology for their rise among truth-seeking men. All point to certain fragments of truth that called forth the first Eureka from the earnest seekers that found them. The spiritualism of the Brahmin, the Individualism of the Buddhist, the struggle and freedom of Zoroastrism, the submission and fate of Islam, are all truths that with their proper limitations and relations must be found in the great free Religion itself. Falsehood is their disease—a disease that sooner or later preys upon every embodiment in which truth comes. Mythology degenerates and dies; the worship of animals is a diseased worship and it dies; absurd and cruel customs, empty forms and meaningless institutions, yield to their own weakness and die; but the truth that lies concealed away back in the origin of each one like the hidden germ in the kernel that rots, springs up anew in broader and grander growth.

Mr. Judd conferred the diplomas upon Kerr, Baldwin, Billingsley, Campbell, Churchill, DeSellem, Ellis, Hamilton, Lyon, McIntyre, Mitchell, Tebbetts—and to his able effort Mr. Kerr made a fine response. A short sociable ensued in the society "fire traps" in the south building.

TUESDAY was damp and rainy; wherefore the law exercises were postponed for an hour. But by ten o'clock the chapel was filled by those whom rain and wind could not daunt nor deter from listening to the carefully prepared productions over which weary laws had toiled long and laboriously.

Chas. A. Finkbine presented, in compact and clear form, his views upon "Law as a Conservative Power."

E. M. Johnson ably outlined "The Duty of Society Towards Crime." Arthur Springer carefully elucidated the history and influence of "Judicial Legislation." C. M. Greene gave good thoughts about "the Judiciary." John N. Baldwin eloquently treated of "The Lawyer as a Legislator." Hansom Grimes unfolded the reasons for and the growth of "Popular Government." "Our American Bench," Mr. Henley made the subject of a first rate oration. Robert W. Byington enlightened the audience (to no small degree) upon "The Spirit of American Law." After an entertaining and instructive speech upon "Traces of the Feudal System in the United States," Mr. Lardner gave the valedictory which was very fine.

The advanced class was represented by Mrs. Had-

dock, who with queenly bearing and womanly grace gave a scholarly thesis upon "Homesteads." Thereafter, Judge Adams administered the oath and the largest and most intelligent and most promising law class the University ever knew were members of the bar.

In the evening Henry Strong, whom the Regents gave the degree of LL.D., gave the annual Law oration. It was a rare opportunity—an intellectual treat, whose loss must have been sadly regretted by those absent. The speaker is a shrewd, practical lawyer—and his oration was packed with thought: and evinced a breadth of knowledge and a clearness and depth of insight really surprising.

WEDNESDAY at ten o'clock Hon. J.M. Gregory gave the University oration. We notice this at length elsewhere. It was the grandest oration ever given in Iowa City. At its close, Jas. A. Pickler moved a vote of thanks, in which gentlemen, ladies and babies joined.

Wednesday afternoon was duly provided for. The energetic and enterprising members of the "Woodside Boat Club" made a precedent which we hope will never be violated. They offered to the Regents, faculty, graduates and visitors their hospitality: and filled their grounds with a crowd which will never forget the cosy location of the boat house; the cooling zephyrs, so in contrast with the sultry, dusty winds in town; the leafy and shady trees; the steam excursion; and the huge preparations to supply the desires of hungry maws. May it ever be thus.

THURSDAY was a cool, comfortable day and Iowa City's fairest daughters and most valiant sons might have been seen *en route* for the Chapel—all laden with flowers, bouquets, ticketed and labelled, ad infinitum. It was a grand gala day; a day of triumph for the smiling seniors; the culmination of a long struggle for discipline and class honors; the opening day of a new, a more active and more practical existence; and as such it was rightly heralded with delight; it was honored by the presence of regents, faculty, citizens, friends, parents and relatives; and it was blessed by the bountiful Giver of all with a moderate temperature.

Space forbids our giving the synopses of all the productions, and delicacy will not allow us to make any distinction at a time when every one did his "level best," so we must be content with a bare mention of the speakers and their productions. The second place of honor was awarded to J. F. Clyde, who spoke upon "The Problem in Turkey." The speaker surpassed all his previous efforts both in delivery and in subject matter. "Attractive Forces," James C. Warnock found to be gravitation and love; and their boundless influence was well described. Emma Rankin spoke upon "The Fullness of Time;" and W. P. Whipple waxed eloquent in depicting the "Battle of Life." Frank T.

Lyon handled in an interesting manner "The Development of America." W. A. Gibbens eulogized "John Quincey Adams." Emma McKenzie drew a clear distinction between "The Actual and the Possible," as regards the individual, the nation, science and religion. B. F. Hoyt gave a comprehensive review and an astute criticism upon "Louis Agassiz." "Doubt and Thought" was exceedingly well handled by L. W. Clapp. D. B. Ellis with the practical subject of "The American Question" far surpassed anything we have previously heard from him. Upon "Diversity of Gifts" Belle M. Whitney spoke a good oration. Solidity of thought and careful preparation united with good delivery were manifest in the ensuing performance, "India," by John W. Conley.

The resume in the afternoon began with Ed. J. McIntyre's production upon "Antagonism as a law of Progress." After being enlightened and edified by this oration, the audience listened with interest to a beautiful discussion by Ella W. Osmond upon "the Mission of Poetry." "Life's Labor Loved" Ray Billingsley, by his splendid delivery, rendered doubly interesting. C.E. Tebbetts gave a somewhat metaphysical discourse upon "The Limitations of Reason." It was, in our opinion, second to no oration among the many given. Beauty, grace and mental attainments united to make Virginia J. Slagle's oration upon "Shibboleth, a test word," most attractive. John J. Hamilton turned aside from the beaten path of ordinary school orations and discussed with his wonted vigor, clearness and care, "The two Races in the South." John Campbell gave a clear cut and magnificent handling of "Skepticism;" after which he gave the valedictory. It was the finest we have ever heard and we give it in full:

Ladies and Gentlemen.—The class of '77 will detain you only for honest words of hearty gratitude. You, as citizens of this city, have transformed us from strangers to friends. No town and gown contend here. You have received us into your society, and you have been welcomed to our gatherings. We go to seek our homes, but we go from home.

Gentlemen of the Board of Regents.—We recognize you as guardians of the educational bounty of the nation and state. To the wise fidelity of you and your predecessors we owe the influences of the University. You have made it an honor to Iowa and an honor to us.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Faculty.—The day, the hour has come to which we have looked with joyous hope, but we find it filled with contending emotions. We now close the term of mental discipline under your guardianship and end the year of character building in your presence. We go forth from the formative relations regretfully, but we shall never go beyond their moulding and elevating power. Henceforth life shall have a grander significance.

Fellow Members of the Senior Class.—The occasion and my feelings demand one more look at the past and future before we part. From the close union of class life we go into the world we left a few years ago. How it has grown, how large it has become. We re-enter it to make acquaintances and become active agents in

managing its affairs. The past has brought pleasure and profits; yonder lies your true real Italy. We have but learned the alphabet of life—we go now to write and read its pages. Along our pathways college memories will cheer and emulate us, and our best college habits shall be fruitful of still higher work.

Generous citizens and fellow students, faithful regents and honored faculty, let the class of '77 commend Iowa University, the University of this noble state, yours and ours, anew to your care. May it be second to none. For the good conferred by each and all of you, we leave our hearty "God prosper you."

The Master's Oration was given by the Rev. Dennis Murphy of Oskaloosa, and it was indeed a *master* production—worthy of the author and the occasion.

In the evening the Alumni held the meeting which the storm prevented on Wednesday night. The oration upon "Individuality," by J. S. Clark, was warmly received, and was decidedly the best oration we have heard from the Alumni for some time. Mrs. Craig read a rare poem, "The Spring of Happiness." The descriptive portions, in which it abounded, were of unrivaled beauty. After the literary exercises there was a banquet at the St. James. The following toasts were responded to:

Our Country.—May its intelligence keep pace with its material prosperity. Responded to by Hon. L. W. Ross of Council Bluffs.

Our State.—We are proud of its past and hopeful of its future. Responded to by Col. A.T.Reeve, of Hampton.

Our University.—Responded to by Rev. George Thacher.

Our Teachers.—We remember them for their kindness and fidelity in the past, and trust the increasing list of alumni will bless them in the years to come. Responded to by Prof. L. F. Parker.

Our Alumni—The Boys. Responded to by Emlin McClain, Des Moines.

Our Alumni.—The Girls. Responded to by Mrs. Nettie Emery, Iowa City.

Our Lawyers.—Old and young. May their shadows grow no longer. Responded to by J. D. Glass, Mason City.

The Citizen.—The Alumni. Memory of them is as pleasant as their hospitable homes are bright. Responded to by Prof. T. S. Parvin, Iowa City.

The evening was one of unsurpassed pleasure and happily climaxed the literary exercises of Commencement. Thus endeth the fifteenth annual Commencement of our noble institution. May the next be like unto it.

—A few years will make Iowa City one of the shadiest places in the state. It already has few equals in the number and care of its shade trees.

COLLEGIATE GRADUATING CLASS S. U. OF IOWA, JUNE 21, 1877.

NAME.	RESIDENCE.	PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH.	H.G.T.	W.G.T.	COURSE	TERMS IN UNIVERSITY.	PROFESSION CHOSEN.
Ray Billingsley,	Iowa City, Iowa.	Richmond, Iowa, November 10, '54.	5-3½	116	Ph.	18	Law or Journalism.
John Campbell,	Osceola, Iowa.	Bloomington, Ind., September 18, '53.	6	140	Cl.	15	Law.
Al. D. Churchill,	Davenport, Iowa.	Utica, N. Y., December 22, '54.	6	155	Sci.	5	Undecided.
Iewis W. Clapp,	Iowa City, Iowa.	Dundee, N. Y., September 21, '57.	5-9½	129	Ph.	18	Law.
Jefferson F. Clyde,	St. Ansgar, Iowa.	Milford, Wis., May 24, '50.	5-10½	141	Ph.	15	Teaching.
John W. Conley,	Kossuth, Iowa.	Palo, Iowa, November 20, '52.	6	157	Cl.	14	Ministry.
Daniel B. Ellis,	Lyons, Iowa.	Lyons, Iowa, September 9, '57.	5-9½	163	Cl.	11	Banking.
Wm. A. Gibbens,	North English, Iowa.	Pittsburg, Pa., September 2, '49.	5-8½	155	Cl.	17	Ministry.
Robert M. Goshorn,	Winterset, Iowa.	Morning Sun, Iowa, October 27, '55.	5-7	135	Cl.	11	Law.
John J. Hamilton,	Floris, Iowa.	Harrisville, Pa., November 10, '54.	5-10	180	Cl.	18	Law or Journalism.
Brooks F. Hoyt,	Manchester, Iowa.	Bellefontaine, O., January 15, '53.	5-8	141	Sci.	12	Undecided.
Jos. C. Kerr,	Confidence, Iowa.	Lawrenceburg, Pa., July 4, '50.	5-9	148	Cl.	6	Law.
Frank T. Lyon,	Stellapopolis, Iowa.	Columbus, O., July 12, '54.	5-8½	127	Cl.	13	Teaching.
John T. Marvin,	Grimmell, Iowa.	Camden, N. J., June 22, '49.	5-5½	164	Cl.	6	Teaching.
Ed. J. McIntyre,	Wilton, Iowa.	Meadville, Pa., July 16, '54.	5-5	185	Cl.	12	Law.
Emma V. McKenzie,	Hampton, Iowa.	Carey, O., February 15, '58.	5-4	102	Ph.	13	Teaching.
Silas L. Moser,	Hamilton, Iowa.	California, O., August 2, '50.	5-10	165	Ph.	14	Law.
Ella W. Osmond,	Iowa City, Iowa.	Lambertville, N. Y., March 15, '54.	5-1½	103	Cl.	18	Teaching.
M. Emma Rankin,	Iowa City, Iowa.	Independence, Iowa, July 28, '55.	5-2½	115	Ph.	18	Teaching.
Virginia J. Slagle,	Fairfield, Iowa.	Fairfield, Iowa, November 23, '57.	5-1	100	Cl.	14	Undecided.
Chas. E. Tebbetts,	Muscataine, Iowa.	Muscataine, Iowa, April 25, '55.	5-10	147	Sci.	3	Teaching.
Jas. C. Warnock,	Coal Valley, Ill.	Rock Island, Ill., December, 1850.	5-9½	158	Cl.	6	Undecided.
Wm. P. Whipple,	Vinton, Iowa.	Vinton, Iowa, December 26, '56.	5-4	120	Ph.	13	Law.
Belle M. Whitney,	Calliope, Iowa.	Chelsea, Vt., May 10, '53.	5-4½	95	Cl.	14	Teaching.

12¾

183-3 3246
5-6% 185

566-7-22.

Total.....Age-25-7-9%
Average

—At their meeting, the Regents selected three well known men as worthy of some recognition of their long and literary lives. Upon Rev. Emory Miller they conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity; and upon Hon. Henry Strong, of Chicago, and Henry N. Day, of New Haven, they conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws.

—A. T. Kettle is the only singer who never has a cold.

UNIVERSITY REPORTER.

Iowa City, Iowa, - - - July 14, 1877.

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ASSISTANT EDITORS.

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OLIVER P. MYERS, '80. H. A. HOLLISTER, '81.

TERMS INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

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With this number the REPORTER terminates a somewhat chequered career of nine years duration. As a college paper it has by no means taken the first rank.

The careless choice of editors; the want of enthusiastic assistance and generous support by the students; above all the unavoidable inexperience and incapacity of its editors have been unsurmountable obstacles in the path to a successful journalistic career. Yet the present body of editors wish it to be understood that under their administration the REPORTER has improved. If the next corps will continue the good work the future of this paper will no doubt be a bright one.

A WORD.

At the close of their management the editors feel that it would be unfair not to speak of the courtesy and regularity of the entire Press office, from which the REPORTER has been published. The establishment is conducted upon strict business principles, and with the most scrupulous exactness. Efficient and obliging employees, together with the facilities of steam, are united with a zeal to please and a regularity and precision of execution which make this the most complete and satisfactory printing establishment with which we have ever done business.

DR. THACHER'S RESIGNATION.

At the close of our Commencement exercises, President Thacher stepped to the front of the stage and announced his resignation of the office of President of the University. This announcement took our citizens, Faculty, and students completely by surprise, and the reasons he gave for his course were as unexpected as the resignation itself. It seemed to be the general impression that everything was moving along smoothly and in a satisfactory manner.

Dr. Thacher came to the University as President, in

April, 1871; and has, therefore, held the office for a longer period than any of his predecessors.

The most prominent events during his administration were: the complete adoption of the Medical Department; two important changes of the course of study; and the organization of the Department of Civil Engineering. The first of these results was reached in the Board of Regents, only by the vote of Dr. Thacher. He also took a prominent part in securing the other results named.

It is believed by some, that Dr. Thacher, in common with some of our citizens, has been quite willing to lessen the influence of the Faculties with the Board of Regents; and also that he has sought to increase the personal authority of the President, in the internal management of the University. It may be, too, that, in the earnest pursuit of what he has considered to be for the best interests of the institution, he has sometimes appeared to lack a little of the *suaviter in modo* which would have been an invaluable aid to him. However this may be, we are sure there are few who will question the integrity of his intentions and the sincerity of his convictions.

It is not becoming in us to obtrude our opinion on questions where the wisest friends of the University may differ; but it cannot be improper for us to express here, our hearty good will toward Dr. and Mrs. Thacher, and to say that we shall long cherish the remembrance of their many kind words and acts. We crave for them the choicest blessings Heaven can give. Nor are we less sincere in this because we bid President Slagle a cordial welcome to his new place amongst us. Our hearts respond to those noble words of his, in which he pronounced the interests of the University to be above all personal considerations. Presidents, professors, and Alumni pass away; but the University is to live on and on through coming ages. Its interests rise superior to all personal considerations.

THE UNIVERSITY ORATION.

It is no disparagement to the other Commencement exercises to say that the gem of the occasion was the oration of Hon. J. M. Gregory, LL. D., Regent of the Illinois Industrial University at Champaign.

The whole subject of education has been so fully and so constantly treated on the platform, in the press, and especially on the college rostrum that every phase of it is thought trite if not commonplace; but the Regent's discourse was so fresh and vigorous in thought, simple in style, direct in expression and apt in illustration that it secured the rapt attention of the audience from first to last. His theme—the increased demands for higher education—led him to glance at the past achievements of men in the mastery of matter and the utilization of its forces but especially to treat of the industrial, economic and social problems now demanding solution at the hands of practical science, and so to insist upon enlarged facilities for the training of skillful soldiers tor

the defence of society in its impending struggles.

Though the orator did not treat at length of the noblest mission of education—the culture of man's higher nature and the satisfaction of its needs—his eloquent reference to it in his peroration showed sympathies and views in full accord with the broadest and most liberal ideas.

We heartily congratulate the Industrial University on the possession of such a President and hope our own Regents will not overlook Champaign in their search for a new President.

ARE THE LITERARY SOCIETIES TOO EXCLUSIVE?

Under a pseudonym, some "Student," in a recent issue of the *Press*, sends up an anonymous wail that students do not have their "just rights." We propose to briefly discuss that all important question. The complaint has immediate reference to the societies for gentlemen. There are about three hundred gentlemen, who, in their own opinion, are worthy of admission to the "upper" societies. The accommodations are for sixty or seventy-five. The query is an important one: *where and how* shall the line of distinction be drawn? And we deviate from the argument, we lower what editorial dignity we have, to say that "Student" would have shown himself more worthy of an opportunity to pace those brussels carpets if he had abandoned vituperation, abuse, regrets and whining complaint, and given a single logical reason for a change.

The black ball system is not a new plan, nor one peculiar to the State University of Iowa. It is found in almost every organization which, for any cause whatsoever, is compelled to limit its membership. Its presence proves its utility and necessity. We do not deny that in isolated instances, in rare cases, it may not seem to work in a just manner; but will "Student" show us any thing which is absolutely and uniformly just?

Read what this (probably) black-balled student has to say: "Wrong is none the better for being found in a State University free from denominational tyranny. Outrage is not less to be hated when done under the *tacit consent* of officers appointed to do justice. Students are kept out of these societies for no other reason than *personal malice*. We do desire that such rules of admission shall be enforced as shall prevent the outrageous abuse of the minority—black-ball system and give to students their *just rights*."

From the use of the expression, "tacit consent," &c., we infer that the writer of the above has visited the Faculty and protested!

After noticing for some time the operation of this system, we are compelled to commend the care and caution which the members use in the distribution of the dreaded black balls. This we have invariably seen

—that only one out of four or five has the moral courage to put in a black ball. Then, if any person is black balled, it usually is the case that many more would prefer to have him "out" than is indicated by the number of dark colored balls. One more point: If the greater number have a decided belief that the candidate would be a desirable addition to the society, the force of opinion will compell even dire enemies to abstain from voting. This society opinion, like public opinion, has great power. Elections and society honors, presidency and exhibition, &c., are all bestowed by this power and to its influence no member dares bid defiance. If society opinion has been unwilling to take charge of "Student" and vindicate him from the dastardly wrongs of personal malice; to give to students their "just rights;" to shield this poor fellow from "the caprice of a personal enemy;" then we are fearful that his rejection was based upon the best of grounds.

If "Student" be merely desirous of improvement, the "lower" societies will afford him ample opportunity; if it be glory, honor, applause, &c., before a beautiful and select audience, then must he suffer martyrdom.

PIONEERS.

BY ALBION N. FELLOWS.

Amid the varieties and the vicissitudes of life, few phases of character are to be found, whose contemplation is fraught with greater pleasure and profit than that of the Pioneer.

What the bubbling spring is to the rolling river; what the seed sown in Spring-time is to the golden grain of Autumn; what the first twinkling of early dawn is to the splendor of the mid-day sun, the Pioneer has ever been to progress. * * * *

The first pioneers who settled in this country left happy homes, friends, the luxuries of cultivated life and the associations of youth; and chose instead of them all an independent existence in an unknown land. They dared the hatchet and scalping knife of the treacherous savage rather than endure the iron rule of despotism. For the spirit which led to the settlement and subjugation of this fair portion of the earth's surface, we gladly award them the honor and respect their sacrifices deserve; but let us not forget those Pioneers of earlier date whose words and deeds have left more lasting memorials.

As the sources of the largest rivers lie concealed among the lofty peaks of barren and rarely explored mountain ranges; so, if we would find the origin of our liberty and our glory, we must search in the forgotten and rugged regions of history.

There we find devotees of truth laboring in every worthy direction, some moulding and fashioning into symmetrical shape our complicated systems of written and common law; others busied in making literature

the most enduring monument of the capacity for development with which the human intellect is endowed. A few original thinkers battling against all opposition left the maxims of philosophy; a limited number of non-conformists, struggling against church corruption, wrought the Reformation which still influences ecclesiastic thought.

Enveloped in the mists of ignorance, we find some daring to assert and maintain those precious principles which to-day, are the sacred heritage of every individual; others, toiling against fanatical hostility and disbelief, by their original research and investigation have given us that factor of modern civilization, Science—that Science, which “took a tear from the cheek of unpaid labor and with it turns the countless wheels of toil.” There, enshrouded in the mantle of intolerance, groping in the moral darkness of medieval periods, we find the earliest advocates of all measures which have contributed to our prosperity and happiness; pioneers every one in his own respective line. These pioneers first promulgated ideas which were destined to gain well-nigh universal acceptance.

Rising far among the mountain districts of the past, these rills of thought, at first joyously murmured down the mountain side, perchance uniting as noiselessly they glided through the vales of the ages. Ere they had long sped on their course, they encountered athwart their paths, the grim granite walls of persecution; but quietly they waited. Days, months, years increased their volume until they were enabled to overthrow those massive walls, to surmount every obstacle of prejudice or doubt; when they wore their winding ways through the continent of time, with the centuries for landmarks, till their waters mingled in the ocean of *accepted truth*.

During all periods, the Bible, asserting the common origin of the race, has been foremost in the ranks of civilization. It has driven into exile the rack and other vile instruments of torture. It has turned the cannibal from his meal of human flesh. It has transformed the tomahawk of the savage into the woodman's ax. It has overturned the altars and broken the idols of paganism. It has led in the movement which has placed woman in her proper position—the equal of man. It has overcome national prejudice and affected an Evangelical alliance between the churches of rival nations. Even while the black clouds of political strife and partisan fury o'erhung our civil horizon, it has, in the union of the churches North and South, taken the first steps in a direction which, when those dark and lowering clouds have blown over, will lead to the entire reconciliation of the once estranged sons of Freedom. Thus the world round, the Bible has been the pioneer of man's universal brotherhood, everywhere proclaiming “Peace on earth, good will to men.”

From the scenes and deeds with which it has been associated, the name “Pioneer” derives a respect which

it ought never too lose. It is consecrated by reminiscences of difficulties overcome by perseverance, of sufferings endured with fortitude, of perils faced with Spartan courage, of temptation resisted by virtue, in the service of religion and liberty.

It calls up instances of heroic conduct in every field of action; among the dangers with which the haunts of the yelling savage are infested; at the judgment bar of authority: amid the carnage of red war; at the martyr's stake.

While the human will remains unsubdued and man's ambition, unsatiated; while men prefer death to slavery and brave the horrors of bloody war for principle; while faith remains triumphant over doubt, and virtue is proof against temptation,—in fine, as long as we continue to advance upon the highway of progress, so long the spirit of the pioneer will actuate us and impel us on toward the glittering but ever-distant goal—Perfection.

LOCAL.

—The best way to raise strawberries—with a spoon.

—The table of statistics of the Senior class has been carefully prepared by Ray Billingsley; to whose diligence and accuracy the editorial *corps* are indebted for the time requisite to “get up” that amount of “matter.”

—The storm a few weeks since blew over the Presbyterian steeple—a total wreck. Repairs will soon be made. It is not intended to replace the steeple; but merely to erect a belfry for the uninjured bell. The repairs will cost about \$2,500.

At the end of the Law class-day, as soon as Mr. Dodge had concluded his magnificent oration, and just as he was turning to address a few valedictory remarks to the class, up popped Mr. Lardner and said, “Music by the band.” This tremendous blunder, however, was only the subject of good-natured fun; for Dodge coolly said, “Just wait 'till I get through, please.”

The business session of the Alumni was not largely attended, nevertheless they elected officers, &c. Their officers for next year are:

President: W. B. Craig, Iowa City.

1st Vice Pres: Homer Seerley, Oskaloosa.

2d Vice Pres: Mrs. Lou Preston, Iowa City.

3d Vice Pres: Mrs. Mary E. Pinkham, Iowa City.

Secretary: Milton Remley, Iowa City.

Treasurer: R. H. Allin, Iowa City.

Orator: Frank E. Nipher, St. Louis.

Poet: Mrs. J. W. Sterling, Iowa City.

The executive committee is composed of W. B. Craig, Wm. Lytle and Mrs. Nettie M. Emery.

—Dotted the surface of Iowa; in every hamlet and village of our noble state, may be found the graduates of the State University of Iowa. They are seven hundred strong. Some are wearing the ministerial broad cloth; some dispense groceries, drugs, muslins or cali-

cos over the counter; others handle the birch to the edification of the rising generation; yet others, with pills and powders protect the physical condition of our citizens from the ills to which the flesh is heir; and others still, with necessary diligence; woo the blind goddess, and strive to manipulate, at will, the scale pans of Justice. Every one of them, every single one of them, is indebted for his success to his Alma Mater, Ought he to forget her labors for him? Ought he not to remember that she is still in the same good work? To the endeavors of her Alumni the University looks for aid and support; and shall she look in vain?

—The Homeopathic chairs, which have been the bone of contention for some time, have been filled by the selection of Dr. Dickenson from Des Moines, and Cowperthwait, of Nebraska City, both distinguished practitioners.

—The Senior thesis prize (\$40) was awarded to Jno. J. Hamilton. The close prizes were given: first prize (\$50) to C. E. Tebbetts; Alfred Churchil and Geo. W. Miller, \$25 each.

In the Freshman Latin Class the other day, the usual serenity of that dignified "Class of Classes" was somewhat ruffled. The most of the members had subsided into a studious reverie. A meek spirited Freshman, then, whose inmost feelings, (as it appears) had been violently stirred within him by Livy's soul-harrowing account of a Roman market day, submissively asked Prof. C. if 'they held those demoralizing orgies on Sunday.' From the indescribable look on the unhappy questioner's face, an expression, decidedly not one of anguish, we would judge that his shocked sensibilities were relieved of a heavy burden when the Prof. quietly and conclusively answered, "they had no Sundays there."

The Fresh class presented Miss Schofield with a handsomely bound volume of poetical works. Miss McKenzie with a few choice sentences, made the presentation speech. In reply Miss Schofield, after complimenting the class on their diligence and earnest work, gave some good practical advice, ending with a very appropriate quotation and profusion of thanks.

—The following fragment of a valedictory was found in the Law Department; the owner after proving property and paying for this advertisement may have it returned by calling at our office:

* * * "When in the evening of an eventful life the wanderer bids farewell, his last gaze will linger on those from whom to part is so very hard: one chapter of our life is closed, we, too, bid farewell, and our last gaze lingers on you, our teachers, who, eminently qualified in your profession, have served us as guides in knowledge, morals and in diligence. How often did we blush with shame when you met our impudence with the same tranquil kindness with which you met our esteem; above prejudice and low revenge, you si-

lently but forcibly directed the misguided courage to its true channels, and should ever the laurel adorn our brow, to you we owe the brightest blossoms."

—Chancellor Hammond read to the law class fragments of a letter which he received from a former graduate who years ago while pursuing his studies in our city and met with a fearful accident which paralyzed his limbs from the neck down without impairing his mental faculties. His cheerful letter announces that his condition is about the same, that he has learned to write by holding the pen with his mouth and that he tries hard to make himself useful.

And we in the glow of health, sometimes complain of the cup's bitterness when prejudice and stupidity strike the brutal blow or the friend's darkened eyes condemn us, while he, poor, patient sufferer, stricken down by a great misfortune, helpless, the proud castle of the future in ruins, young and yet so old in years, is still cheerful. That letter's true eloquence has moved us deeply, and your comrades, O, brother! send to you their love and sympathies, and may, in those dark hours when your cup threatens to overflow, the spirits of those whom you have made nobler and better cheerfully surround your couch and calm that troubled heart.

—We have frequently been told that there is but a hair's breadth between the sublime and the ridiculous; equally true but less known is the fact that virtue and vice are as closely connected. A few examples will illustrate this assertion. The Sub Fresh's impudence and the Senior's courage are grafted on the same root; the scholar's confidence in himself and the pedant's ignorance are twin brothers; the student's modesty and the student's cowardice flow from the same fountain; the housewife's economy and the miser's avarice are intimately related; these illustrations could be continued to any desired length and they all would teach us the one great lesson of eternal vigilance.

—A letter directed to the "Zets" has by accident reached us, and assuming the responsibility we publish the same:

MY BRETHERN:—

We are about to sever our connection. I shall lose thereby your valuable company and you will get rid of a very poor member. I hope that your society will be in the future what it has been in the past—the exponent of your literary abilities and the test of your courage and common sense.

Memory dwells fondly upon many happy scenes which transpired in that familiar hall, but whenever I think of those business sessions a cold shudder comes over me and the agony of those hours revives. To convene in the midst of night, after a long programme when the hall is still poisoned with foul air, and to be compelled to remain for hours and to listen to the cheeky few who cruelly spin out a feeble thread to the utmost

length, is a breach of the laws of God, Nature and man.

Charity, justice and common sense implore you to imitate the girls and hold your business sessions in the day time when you have fresh air, and need not sacrifice the necessary rest. Should you institute this new order you will gain in vigor what you lose in time and have a valid claim to the blessings of your posterity.

STUDENTS VS. FACULTY.

A few weeks since the *Press* contained an article upon "Marking—Likes and Dislikes," signed "Twenty-Four." Several of the charges of "favoritism" and "personal preference" bear upon their faces their patent inconsistency. Others are more probable; but like old "Tray" are in bad company and must suffer therefor.

We make a suggestion: matters in regard to the incompetency of the faculty; criticism for "favoritism," "personal preference;" objections to any and all irregularities upon the part of the faculty—are sufficiently grave, not to need the tinsel of Rhetoric and sarcasm. A lucid article setting forth in terms the most terse and idiomatic, the simple statement of wrongs and grievances would attract more attention and make a greater impression than an allusion to "lovers of candor, honesty and uprightness." This method of *implying* that our respected teachers would knowingly tolerate the action with which fault is found, is simply contemptible. There is no spirit meaner than that which makes a covert attack; which embellishes with rhetorical artifices in order to cut more keenly; which makes use of sophistry and vituperation in order to accomplish a desired end and satiate spite—a spirit avowedly the cowpeer of that to which it is apparently so bitterly hostile. Under the *sobriquet* of "Twenty Four" no one knows how much personal malice, conceit and meanness they may be lurking. There may be no such spirit; but we are suspicious of anonymous letters.

Mahaffy, in his "Rambles and studies in Greece," gives a curious and apparently candid compliment to an American author, and in these words, "The only just picture of the nation [the modern Greek] which I have seen in modern books is that of Mr. Tuckerman, in his 'Greeks of to-day.' But this is an American, not an English estimate. I hope my readers will correct any bad impression produced in the following pages by consulting his instructive and interesting volume." This Mahaffy has one prime characteristic of an assailant of the State University, he can write what he knows is untrue, but he would inaugurate a new departure by having the courage to confess it.

COMMUNICATIONS.

OWATONNA, Minn., June 26.

EDITORS REPORTER:—

It is a gloomy day, a wet, miserable, gloomy day, just such a day as compels one to stay in doors, and brood over the vicissitudes of life, and to call up all the foolish things he has done in the last month (for me to go farther back than that would take too long,) for the purpose of determining what the probabilities are that, in a given case, a man will "make a darned fool of himself," as Gideon Bloodgood has it. Well, perhaps it is a good thing to be compelled to reflect on our follies once in a while; but I think you will agree with me that it is rather distasteful, especially if they are numerous, or of an aggravated character.

The particular thing that bothers me now is that letter I promised to write to the REPORTER. For the folly of promising to do such a thing I do not hold myself strictly responsible. The Nestor-voiced editor from the Junior class cornered me and persuaded me it was the easiest thing in the world to write to the papers, and that it was next to the nicest thing to have your name in the paper.

Acting under this delusion, I promised; "hence these tears." I have only one way to get even with the slick looking editor, (I think that is the word), who flattered me into making such a promise, and that is—to keep the promise. If he meets the sad fate of the young man in Michigan, who, according to Mark Twain, wrote to Horace Greeley, asking advice as to the method of turnip culture, and lost his reason in vain endeavors to decipher the fearful and wonderful chirography of the editor-farmer, my revenge will be complete.

I have a decided disinclination to close and discriminating thought so soon after the smoke of examination has cleared away; but if patience will allow, please attend while I set forth a few thoughts on a subject having some practical bearing on vacation.

I suppose the professors would tell us that in the years of school life the attention is taken up, for the most part, with ideals, and that the teaching is necessarily somewhat theoretic; but that in these vacations, we have the opportunity of looking on the practical side of life, and in that long vacation after school days are done, the ideal we have formed is to be worked out. Perhaps they would make themselves clearer if they should say that in school we learn the rules of life, out of it, the exceptions. Those who have an intimate acquaintance with Hadley or Comfort will at once remember that the exceptions are far more difficult to learn and apply than the rule.

Perhaps some of you would like to interrupt me and ask what I am driving at. If you do I shall be obliged to answer that I hardly know myself, except it be that as vacations recur and I begin to look more interestedly at the practical side of life, the thought will come

up that the "*Gnothi seauton*" of Socrates will not help a man through a pile of wood unless he knows how to wield a saw. This is probably an extreme case. I hope none of the University boys, or girls either, will be obliged to saw wood for a living. But the same principle will apply in everything else. However well we store our minds with knowledge, however deep we delve in science, however high we soar in literature, unless the practical side of our nature is developed, these attainments will serve for nothing except to show us what we might have been.

Here a young man who sits on the back seat in all his classes interrupts and wants to know if a man who has a little practical ability can't get along without all this hard study at Greek and Latin and Mathematics, political economy, science, and other things usually found in a college curriculum. I answer; yes, my young friend, your practical ability in securing a back seat has relieved you of the necessity of studying your way through college, and doubtless, a judicious exercise of the same talent will enable you to get along through the world. But you will get through in the same way you got through college, always at the foot of your class.

The whole matter in a nut shell is this: If we are content to wriggle our way through this world, the sooner we accustom ourselves to crawling through very small holes the better we shall endure it when it becomes a necessity; but if we aspire to stand in God's free sunlight, striking bold and stalwart blows for the progress of humanity, we have need of the broadest and most liberal culture to show us what we are striking at, and at the same time a thorough practical knowledge of the art of striking.

If this letter were not already too long, I might attempt to show that vacations were not devised solely for the purpose of developing laziness, but rather to rest the mind by turning it from the contemplation of the ideal to the study of the real. I might also show that mental recuperation will not be hindered by the study of practical life. But you understand these things, and can make the application as well as I, and I leave you wishing you a pleasant, peaceful, practical and profitable vacation.

E. B. BUTLER.

MUSCATINE, Iowa, June 5.

EDITORS REPORTER.—

Knowing the interest felt by a majority of your readers concerning the well being, and success of the former students of our Alma Mater, and especially of one who had been a teacher as well as student within her walls; it occurred to us that a word of Prof. Frank E. Nipher, now of the Washington University of St. Louis, would be perused with interest by at least all

who knew that gentleman while connected with our State University.

Professor Nipher is a graduate of the class of 1870, and for four years following was Assistant Professor in Physical Science in the Laboratory of Professor Hinrichs.

In the year 1874 he was chosen as Assistant Professor of Physics in the Washington University of St. Louis, and the following year was advanced to the Chair of Physics in that institution; Mr. Wayman Cross, a wealthy gentleman of that city endowing this chair at the same time with the sum of \$25,000.

Calling upon Professor Nipher not long since, while in St. Louis, we found him as usual busily engaged, and hard at work, in his Laboratory, surrounded with a choice collection of apparatus.

In his industry, perseverance, and enthusiasm, we were forcibly reminded of his old teacher, Hinrichs.

Among other things in his Laboratory we were shown a Ruhmkorff coil of magnificent dimensions and giving a five inch spark. We also saw an electro-magnet made in the University workshop capable of lifting half a ton when excited by the current of a single cell.

The University shop is provided with lathes, and a good set of machinist and carpenter tools; and a skillful workman is constantly employed in directing the work of the students, and in constructing apparatus for the professors.

Prof. Nipher is planning a magnetic electric machine which is to be run by a steam engine and which will give a current that may well be called frightful.

The physical laboratory is also provided with a complete set of photographic apparatus, and the students in engineering take a course in this subject.

Prof. Nipher has been making some very interesting original experiments, among others, has devised a very simple method of measuring the intensity of the mental operation, called memory, finding the law according to which the impression on the mind dies out.

He says it appears to be the same as the law according to which a pendulum comes to rest, when it is caused to vibrate.

The research is not yet completed, as it is very tedious. Thousands of experiments lasting from one second to several minutes, are to be made before the most reliable results are reached.

Washington University is the pet and pride of St. Louis and is largely endowed, having a fund of \$800,000, and has had a donation during the past year of about \$100,000.

Prof. Nipher is well situated and well satisfied, and is an honor to his Alma Mater.

Any of his old University friends passing that way will be gladly welcomed by him.

Very respectfully,

J. A. PICKLER.

PERSONAL.

The voices of David Brant, J. J. Pollard, and Wm. Rankin might, a few days ago, have been heard in the land, lamenting the loss of their boat, and refusing to be comforted.

Among the many visitors at Commencement, Miss Mate Crippin, of Corning, and Miss Annie Gatch, of Des Moines, were present, the guests of Miss Ida Ingalls.

'75. Willard J. Welch sends us a draft for one dollar, which we accept with a thankful heart; and assure the sender that the REPORTER's best wishes will ever attend him.

'77. John J. Hamilton goes to interview the Great South. After his vacation of travel, John will return to the University where he will remain next year. The *Press* contains a very complimentary and worthy notice of Mr. Hamilton. From the "Amen corner" of Journalism the REPORTER heartily subscribes to all therein contained.

'77. Brooks F. Hoyt is passing a portion of the vacation in and about Iowa City, engaged with his usual ardor in scientific investigation.

'78. C. C. Ziegler when last seen was *en route* for the "Father of Waters;" recuperation mixed with recreation, is what he's after.

Dr. Shrader was made by Western College, the honored recipient of the degree of A. M.

Judge Springer, an old time trustee, was present to see his son Arthur graduate; and Mrs. Baldwin, lately appointed post mistress at Council Bluffs, listened to the graduating speech of her son, John N. Baldwin.

Judge Richman of Davenport, Judge Hubbard of Cedar Rapids, and C. J. Wilson of Washington, were among our honored visitors at Commencement.

Dr. Frank Xanten, located at Le Mars, deserted his patients to listen to Commencement.

C. E. Tebbetts (Senior) fills, next year, a chair in Penn College.

Emma McKenzie teaches at Hampton.

R. M. Goshorn, L. W. Clapp and Ray Billingsley don't know what they will do.

'75. C. S. Hanley is chief quill driver upon the Princeton *Advocate*.

Law '71. A. N. Van Camp practices law at Wilton.

'72. Robert E. Fitch and wife (*nee* Lida Eaton) are pleasantly situated in Laramie City, Kansas. Robert is Superintendent of the Laramie city public schools.

Miss Wilma A. Evans, from that thrifty village, West Liberty, came up and spent the Commencement with her friend Florence Clark.

'70 Law '72. Wm. Hoffman, alumni orator a year ago, was present during Commencement.

Special. Cass Lewis spent a few days in the city visiting his friend Heberling. Since his father's death Cass is obliged to give his attention to the settlement of his estate.

Law '75. Walter S. Fegan tore himself away from himself away from his Burlington business and listened to a portion of Commencement.

'74 Law '75. John N. Neiman, another of our alumni, who put in an appearance during Commencement, is practicing law in Tipton.

'70. Frank E. Nipher, a professor in Washington University, and lately chosen as Alumni orator, visited his Alma Mater and noted her progress as evinced in Commencement orations.

INTER-COLLEGIATE.

The Cornell *Collegian* comes to us as usual. We read it through, pencil in hand, and rapidly and carelessly noted the typographical errors. The sum total was *one hundred and thirty*. In all other respects,—both as regards matter and form,—we commend the good appearance of the *Collegian*.

The *Montpelierian* waxes wrathful because its *confres* dislike its name. As one of those whom it eloquently refers to as a "forty jackass mud-throwing power, we suggest that those who know the institution will be aware of its locality, and those who are not acquainted with the seminary won't care: further the laws of euphony and linguistic taste would hardly tolerate such a syllabic mountain and unpronounceable agglomeration, even for the purpose of making the locality evident and prominent. However, the *Montpelierian* is an unusually well edited paper.

The *Undergraduate* is among the best of the college papers which has reached our editorial sanctum. The article of advice to its exchanges is replete with good suggestions, and closes with an enumeration of twenty one papers which the editor considers worthy of a reading. Although ranked among the "worthless" we are none the less ready to acknowledge the merit of the *Undergraduate*; and simply ask that he will again peruse our later numbers, and feel certain that a change of opinion will be the result.

The *Educational Weekly*, Chicago, is the best educational paper which has fallen under the notice of the REPORTER. Its pages are replete with live editorials, scholarly communications and fresh educational items. It is a necessity in the hands of every teacher.

The *Simpsonian*, (Indianola), with its supplement lieth before us. The proof has been well read and the press work is fair. There is unmistakable evidence that the editors know their business and are willing to work. "Miniature journalism" is the caption of a paper

read before the local editors convention in Des Moines, by Evelyn M. Chapman. Miss Chapman represented our state very creditably at the inter-state oratorical contest, at Chicago; and her essay is a most interesting paper upon college journalism. Her style is marked by clearness of thought and that naturalness and simplicity of expression which looks so easy and yet is so hard to obtain. And right here—in this editorial by-path—we must say that the chief trial of an inexperienced college editor is to make his matter and space come out even. Probably he lacks a little matter. If so, then he must “fill out” with a feeble scrawl; or perhaps, he has too much and is obliged to leave out an important batch of local or personal which will be dead before the next issue.

The July number of the *Athenium* has reached us. We do not recollect that our predecessors have referred to it. It purports to be for Elocutionists, Public Readers and members of literary societies. The selections are made with special regard to their literary excellence and their adaptation for speaking and reading. Taken all in all, it occupies an almost undisputed place—it has no peer in its chosen line.

Among other varieties, the last number contained “The Death of the Old Squire,” as read by Helen Potter to an enthusiastic audience, a year since.

The *Athenium* is published in Springfield, Ill.; and its subscription price, \$1.50, places it within the reach of all lovers of elocutionary excellence.

The latest issue of the *Trinity Tablet*, (Hartford, Conn.) is very readable. It is a spicy paper which, while not afraid to criticise matters within the management of its own institution, is, withal, of a high standard both as regards its censorship over the students and those who fall beneath its *code morale*.

The Chicago *Times* has something to say about commencement-day orations; and we make a liberal extract from its racy editorial:

“On no day of the year is so much nonsense, stupidity, littleness, bigotry, and bad rhetoric showered upon mankind. The very idea of having young men and girls in their teens get up to instruct the public in philosophical, religious, political, esthetic and literary matters, is of itself so preposterous that nothing which the speakers may say can possibly be more so. The saddest reflection which arises from this fanatical celebration of the last year at school, is how disgusted these young men and women will be in mature years, over having made such an exhibition of folly, egotism and ignorance!”

The *Aurora* hails from Ames Agricultural College. It publishes Prouty's oration entire. It is a credit to its college and takes high rank among our exchanges.

The *High School*, Omaha, Neb., is a well managed paper. Its selections are not equal to most college pa-

pers; but it is better edited with a few exceptions. Look at this:—

“Bob Ingersoll did more to tear down religion while on his recent lecture tour, than *all the divines in the United States can counteract in a whole year*. His free-thinking doctrine, put forth in such a logical way as only he is capable of doing, has a wonderful effect on the minds of hitherto strictly orthodox young men, and if this modern philosopher is allowed to *run at large* much longer, he will transform much christianity into atheism and infidelity.”

This assertion is perfectly absurd. It is ridiculously so. That a vast amount of harm is done, we admit; But it savors of mental unsoundness to rate his ability and strength higher than all the divines in the United States.

The *Weekly Press* regularly finds its way to the editorial retreat. The report of Commencement exercises is remarkably full and complete in every respect.

The writer of the *Iowa College News Letter* used to snuff out State Universities by using a sniffy exclamation point, interrogation point, or the words “so-called,” or “Heaven save the mark!” after their name. During the last few months his painful emotions demand labored articles, (e. g. the first three in the June number are on this topic,) and it is said that he is forging a bolt to be fired from an early New Englander which is expected to be the most destructive missile yet employed in offensive warfare! These murderous and terrible looking articles seem intended to serve only as Russian dummies on the Danube, and to draw the fire of opponents before he makes his grand movement all along the line. To gratify him and not to discuss the subject, we will notice a central thought concerning the history of Yale College.

The writer admits that “the state was from the beginning, a benefactor of the institution,” and “patronized” it; but says that it was governed by a private corporation, and, hence, was not a “State University.”

Yes, the state aided it “from the beginning,” and, at one time, to such an extent that it was admitted to a large share of official control as an acknowledgment of the favor. Now we maintain that if the state may appropriate money to a private corporation to expend as it pleases for higher education, much more reasonably may the state expend its money directly and by its own officers for the same object.

A few days ago an American potato bug appeared in a garden near Cologne. The government officers took possession of the garden, used public funds for petroleum and tar-bark and burned over the entire plot, and no one doubts their right to do so. They might have placed the funds in the hands of the private owner of the garden to experiment on that Colorado pest as he chose, but all would have pronounced them unwise. Nevertheless, if they had the right to do the latter, much more had they the right to do as they did. The application is obvious.