

# The University Reporter.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA.

VOL. X.

IOWA CITY, IOWA, MAY, 1878.

No. 8

## THY VOICE.

Oh! sweeter than Eolian Lyre  
Or song birds liquid trill,  
Thy voice can e'en the muse inspire  
With bliss each breast canst fill.

I've heard the strains that Mozart played  
And moral anthems swell,  
The wining voice of gentle maid,  
My poor heart knows too well.

But how I've loved Thee oh! my love,  
No mortal tongue can tell.  
Thy voice can bless my life alone.  
My dearest loved, my Dinner Bell.

M. K.

## MARS.

### II.

The planet Mars has been called a miniature of the Earth. This implies that there is a close resemblance between its physical or geographical features, and those of the planet upon which we live. Not indeed that we are here to find continent answering to continent there, or ocean to ocean, either in form or comparative extent, but only that these and other corresponding features and conditions exist in both.

The first impression made upon the observer who views Mars through a tolerably good telescope is, that the planet does not seem so decidedly red in color, as when viewed by the naked eye. It is worthy of note that the names which have been given to this planet are derived from the idea of its color. The Greeks described it by an adjective signifying *incandescent*; the Jews gave it a name which signified the *Fiery One*; the East Indians called it the *Burning Coal*, and also the *Red Body*. The legitimate inference from these names is, that from the earliest times to the present, this planet has been of a ruddy hue, as seen by unaided vision. In the telescope the margin seems brighter than the central portion having but little trace of red, and besides, considerable portions of the surface nearer the center are not of this color. It is only when the light from all parts is blended together that we get the idea of a uniform color for the entire face of the planet.

On considering the telescopic features more attentively, it has been ascertained that there is a definite,

fixed boundary between these portions which differ in color when they are near the middle of the field of view. The preparation of a map of Mars however is attended with considerable difficulty, and it can hardly be claimed that a completely accurate map has yet been made.

We can easily see the nature of the task of laying down the boundary of any Martial continent or sea, by considering that any given curve line, say the letter S, would appear very different if instead of looking at it *flat* as we see it on this sheet of paper, we should paste it on the surface of a globe, and then regard it from a distance while some one would be revolving the globe for us. Only when the letter would come to the center of the field of view, could we see it in its proper proportions. In the same way as the planet Mars revolves on its axis, the contour of its features can only be seen in their true proportion when they are near the center of the field. To form a map then would require a combination of views taken at such times as the successive portions of his surface came as nearly as possible into the proper position. If we wish to take every advantage possible for the purpose of bringing each feature into the best position, the observations should be continued through the space of an entire year of Mars, that is through nearly two of our years. In this way we obtain more accurately the regions near the north and south poles of the planet.

For want of a knowledge of these difficulties of mapping, some persons who have seen such maps of Mars, as are published in some of Proctor's works, express great disappointment at the views they obtain through a telescope, evidently expecting that they ought to see there everything as clearly as it appears on the map.

Two very interesting facts have been ascertained by observations of the character noted above. The first of these is that the snowy regions which show so bright around the north and south poles of Mars, are not constant in size. During the summer season of its northern hemisphere the white cap around the north pole does not extend more than five or six degrees from the pole, while in the winter season it stretches away down to latitude forty or forty-five degrees—corresponding changes attend the southern snow cap. Moreover the center of these caps is not exactly at the poles, indicating that as on the earth so on Mars the greatest degree of cold is not found exactly at the pole.

The second fact to be mentioned is that there are times when the features of some portions of his surface are blurred or entirely concealed by what appears to be a mass of cloud floating above them. These clouds have been watched, as they blot out of view, first one shore of a martial ocean, then another, and finally until they pass entirely away leaving all as distinct as before.

It is quite noticeable that that hemisphere in which they have winter is more frequently clouded over than the summer hemisphere, which is also the case on the earth.

Besides the two permanent snow caps at the poles, there seems to be an island in one of the oceans whose top is always covered with something resembling snow.

There will of course be doubt in some minds as to whether we are justified in calling this snow. But the evidence of the spectroscope is positive as to the existence of aqueous vapor in the atmosphere of Mars. The evidence of the telescope is equally positive as to the existence of something analogous to clouds that from time to time interpose as a veil between us and portions of its landscape, and also as to the increase and decrease of those snowy tracts in winter and summer in a manner precisely similar to like phenomena relating to snow on the earth. Stronger proof could not well be demanded in the case.

The resemblance that this planet bears to the earth is to be noted in the fact that they both rotate on their axes, in the same direction, that is from west to east, and in times differing by but little more than half an hour. The correspondence is still farther strengthened by the substantial equality of inclination of the two equators to the planes of their orbits. With us the inclination of the equator to our ecliptic is nearly  $23\frac{1}{2}$  degrees. In the case of Mars it is about 28 degrees. So far then as seasonal changes depend upon this inclination the two planets enjoy nearly similar conditions. When however we come to consider that we receive two and one-fourth times as much light and heat from the sun as is received by Mars—we are led to doubt whether some of the conditions affecting animated existence are the same here and there.

There is a further consideration worthy of note growing out of the fact that while the orbit of the earth is nearly a circle, that of Mars is quite elliptical. In consequence of the slight ellipticity of the earth's orbit, our summer in the northern hemisphere is about  $7\frac{3}{4}$  days longer than our winter, measuring from equinox to equinox, but in Mars the difference is 76 days, the summer of his northern hemisphere being the longer. Now if the action of gravitation has been uninterruptedly exercised we know that at some time in ages gone by, our summer may have been  $32\frac{1}{4}$  days longer than our winter. Upon this basis, a theory has been promulgated to the effect that our seasonal changes are so strongly affected by this ellipticity that the glacial per-

iods of which we have geological proof—had their origin in this extreme eccentricity. If this should be the true theory, which is scarcely probable, then the existing conditions on Mars are probably at least as favorable now for a glacial epoch as they ever were on the earth.

The proportion of landed surface on Mars is considerably greater than on the earth. With us much the larger proportion is water—there the proportions are about equal.

It is not impossible that in the ages to come when the action of the tides may have lessened the rapidity of the earth's diurnal rotation, the proportions of land and water may be more nearly equal here, since one of the first noticeable effects of such a retardation would be that the shallow beds of equatorial bays, gulfs and seas would be left bare. Whether any further assimilation in form or feature is to take place, or no, we can safely say that the resemblance by which different members of a human family are related are not often stronger than those presented by these two members of the solar family, the Earth and her brother Mars.

N. R. L.

#### A SENIOR'S SOLILOQUY.

Well I remember, when with awkward gait,  
A verdant "Sub," these classic halls I trod;  
With dire forebodings of my awful fate,  
How oft I trembled 'neath the master's nod!

I bolder grew: when in my Freshman year,  
The germinating seeds of self-conceit  
Had well nigh banished every trace of fear,  
And my initiation was complete.

Next Sophomore: then fully for the first,  
I realized my own transcendent worth.  
With one great spring I felt that I had burst  
The bonds that bound me to my mother earth.

But in my Junior year, I somehow felt  
My vanity ooze out at every pore,  
Till in humility my spirit knelt,  
And I was meeker much than e'er before.

A Senior now, I frequently reflect  
How very meagre is my stock of lore!  
I can but smile when e'er I recollect  
My vain conceit when but a Sophomore.

Of failure and success I've had my share,  
And on the whole my record is not bad.  
I have not always been exactly fair,  
But now, indeed, I rather wish I had.

I have at times depended on my "cheek,"  
I've sometimes rode my faithful "pony" through,  
Again I've "bluffed it," or with aspect meek,  
Declared I could not tell though well I knew.

But these things now are past; the years have flown;  
And graduation day comes on apace;  
And I from youth to manhood's strength have grown,  
E'en while with zeal I ran the college race.

And now farewell to all the golden past !  
Farewell to chances I did not improve !  
The long expected day arrives at last,  
When I 'mid other scenes must live and move.

I can not tell by what untrodden ways  
My feet shall bear me to my final rest ;  
The clouds of woe may darken all my days,  
And I lie down at last among th' unblest.

Should I *succeed*, and all my plans prevail,  
And Fortune throw her radiant smile on me,  
Like some proud ship with wide extended sail,  
I'll plow the billows of this mortal sea.

With gesture grand and words of living fire,  
Or tongue persuasive as the voice of song,  
Great multitudes I shall with zeal inspire,  
To save the right and trample down the wrong.

All my redundant wealth, with lavish hand,  
I shall dispense in countless righteous ways,  
Till through the length and breadth of all the land,  
A grateful people shall prolong my praise.

And when at last I lay me down to die,  
And retrospection pass on all my days,  
Thee, Alma Mater, with my dying sigh,  
I'll give the glory and the meed of praise.

But should I *fail*, in that last solemn day,  
Of those whose hands have soothed my latest pain,  
I'll proffer one request, for one thing pray,  
Ere they have mingled "dust with dust" again :

When you have smoothed above my form the mold,  
Erect thereon a simple slab of stone ;  
And on it write in figures full and bold,  
This epitaph ere I am left alone :—

#### EPITAPH.

Here on the bosom of his mother Earth,  
Reposes one who labored all in vain  
To garner pleasures ; but his lamp of mirth  
Went out amid the damps of grief and pain.

His erudition deep availed him naught ;  
And Virtue deigned not to reward her own ;  
For long indeed and worthily he wrought,  
But unappreciated and unknown.

The cause of this, O stranger, would you know ?  
It was in finding not his proper sphere.  
For this, e'en while he trod the path of woe,  
He sought in vain until he found it here.

#### MEDICAL EDUCATION.

While the faculty of the Medical department of the University have always recommended the attendance of three courses of lectures before graduation, we are glad that they have now taken the bold step to *compel* the attendance of three full courses of lectures before the degree of M. D. shall be conferred.

The loose measure and brief time of tuition in Schools of Medicine are totally inadequate to qualify a reasonably well educated person to take charge of that most intricate machine with which we are acquainted, the human system, when out of order. No

one can ever attain to real usefulness in a profession which requires the best kind of a reasoning brain, unless that person has been well and broadly cultivated and disciplined to order in thought.

The men who have distinguished themselves in their calling, and dignified Medicine and Surgery in the past and present, were and are men of strong sense and high culture, and would have honored any calling in life. It ought and used to be an honor to be a doctor of medicine.

It used to be, but we can hardly say that it is an honor now. It is not the fault of medicine as a science and an art, that it is not now an honor to be a doctor. The field of medicine is very broad and the facts therein contained enough to take years of toilsome study to master, and the brain must often ache before comprehending them.

The well qualified medical man is not one that has begged or borrowed or stolen his stock in trade, but has earned it for himself, and if a man has not, by nature, the ability to build up a reputation, no kind of medical training will be of any avail. In former times at least a preliminary English education was necessary to enable a student to enter upon a course of medical lectures; now the majority of the many hundreds of students are ignorant and illiterate on entering, many being scarcely able to read or write correctly, or not at all.

And not only are they deficient in elementary education, but many of those that are admitted are of such small intellectual calibre that no amount of study will transform them into medical practitioners.

Such is the character of many of the *hundreds* of Drs. (?) that are *yearly* made at the medical school at Keokuk. It is not difficult to understand the reason for so wholesale a manufactory at this point, it being a school where the financial personal interests of its operators are mainly at stake. This fraud is perpetrated so quietly and insidiously on the people of Iowa, they do not flee from it as they would from an invading army or the plague, but quietly submit and pay the price at such a cost!

We do not wish to be understood as meaning this is the only school of the kind in the west, but only speak of it in particular, as it is at present a disgraceful and harmful institution of Iowa.

The diploma of most modern schools of medicine is often utterly valueless. It signifies nothing more than that the holder has conformed to the rules of the school, which, for the most part, consist in paying the fees.

Public sentiment will have to change before the schools and their methods of teaching will be changed. It is usually the loud mouthed montebank that is first heard and soonest successful. Whilst this is the state of things, ignorance is encouraged and will prevail.

A powerful means for upholding quackery in medicine, regular and irregular, is the press. It, uninten-

tionally no doubt, does immense mischief in foisting strange doctors, often adventurers and quacks upon the community who would otherwise be unheard of.

A strange doctor can settle in this country where there are newspapers, and with a little money secure columns of puffs, and thus be set up in business at once. In this way the most unscrupulous and least qualified get the ear of the public while the well bred medical man, who scorns such a course, remains for a long time in obscurity.

But the press complains, and justly too, that the medical schools turn out their ignorant hosts upon the public because they make money out of them; and yet do not the newspapers puff these same quacks and adventurers into notoriety for the same reason? This brings medicine down from her exalted condition among the learned professions, to the level of a trade, and in so doing degrades the calling and greatly injures the public.

Do whatever you will with quacks, but above all, let it be borne in mind that the science and art of surgery and medicine, and the philosophy of the human fabric, in health and disease, cannot be mastered or comprehended by the ignorant and unlearned; and further, that the ignorant and unlettered in the profession do not represent medicine but degrade and disgrace it.

From this imposition the public, more than the better class of Physicians, need protection; and it rests with public sentiment to encourage a higher order of talent and attainments, or to accept the loud mouthed dogs of ignorance, who are worse than the plague itself.

G.

We give the following for the benefit of the Geology class:

Many years ago while a young Mesozoic worm was languidly dragging itself over the Jurassic mud of the Connecticut Valley, it was suddenly snapped up by an *Orthodactylus floriferus*, who however, not liking the taste, immediately released it, saying bitterly: "When I'm looking for a *Unisuicus intermedius*, don't try to put me off with a wretched little *Halysicnustaqueatus!*"

Moral: There is no disputing about tastes; but still we must make some distinctions.—*Oberlin Review.*

"I say boy, is there anything to shoot about here?" inquired a sportsman of a boy he met. "Well," was the reply, "nothing is just about here; but the school-master is down the hill yonder—you can pop him over."

The lecture was getting dry. "Let's take something," said the Professor. Then those Seniors rose unanimously; but it was only something to be taken by way of illustration, that was all.—*Ex.*

## COLLEGE NOTES.

The U. S. Senate of Beloit has adjourned.

Colored students are debarred from entering the medical school of Columbia College.

Graduates of Kentucky Normal School receive diplomas that are equivalent to state certificates.

The rule requiring students of the Nebraska University to procure uniforms, is causing some trouble.

Col. Robert G. Ingersoll has been invited to deliver the annual address before the Boston University Law School.

The *Press* and almost the entire senior class of the University of Wisconsin, are in favor of an unqualified abolition of commencement exercises.

The receipts of Harvard for 1877 were more than \$550,000 and the expenses not quite \$500,000—leaving a balance of \$50,000, exclusive of gifts and legacies.

The *Review* favors the withdrawal of Oberlin College from the State Oratorical Association; since, as it claims, the best Colleges of the state have done so already.

President McCosh in speaking of oratorical contests, is reported to have said: "I do not believe that a committed oration will ever make a great orator. The speaker should learn to devote himself to the arguments of his opponents. I hope the time may soon come when oratory will rise to be something above the mere performance of a school-boy."

The following statistics show the number of books in the libraries of some of the colleges: Harvard, 228,000; Yale, 114,000; Dartmouth, 52,500; Brown, 45,000; Princeton, 41,000; University of Virginia, 40,000; Cornell, 39,000; Amherst, 38,500; Columbia, 33,000; Northwestern, 33,000; University of Michigan, 33,000; Williams, 27,500; Wesleyan, 27,000; Union, 26,000; Bowdoin, 10,000; Dickinson, 28,000; Alleghany, 14,000; University of Iowa, 10,000.

The following table of presidents, and the places where they received their education, will be of interest. Washington, good English education but never studied the ancient languages; Adams, Harvard; Jefferson, William and Mary; Madison, Princeton; Monroe, William and Mary; Adams, J. Q., Harvard; Jackson, limited education; Harrison, Hampden Sydney College; Tyler, William and Mary; Polk, University of North Carolina; Tyler, lightest rudiments; Fillmore, not liberally educated; Pierce, Bowdoin; Buchanan, Dickinson; Lincoln, education very limited; Johnson, self educated; Grant, West Point; Hayes, Kenyon. Monroe and Harrison did not graduate. Monroe left college to join the revolutionary army. Financial reverses deprived Harrison of a full course. Polk was the oldest when graduating, being twenty-three; Tyler the youngest being seventeen. The majority graduated at twenty, this being the average.—*Herald.*

# UNIVERSITY REPORTER.

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TERMS.

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OUR recent caustic and candid criticism of President Blanchard elicited nearly a four column notice in the *College Record*, but it came too late for a reply in April. At present, we will only say that, inasmuch as Pres. B. and his friends refused to refer the issue between him and Prof. Webster to fairly-chosen arbitrators, we cannot believe that either he or those friends really desire any such reply as the *Record* asks for. Pres. B. is well known. The *Record* is doubtless right in affirming he has not been "faultless," and perhaps equally accurate in adding that he has been "able, conscientious and faithful," nevertheless we must reaffirm our opinions as expressed in March. The able council that considered his case, surprised us by the severity of its decisions, and we are still amazed that a man of whom such a council could assert such faults could remain in a college faculty or a college church.

Were the gentleman in a state institution he would speedily "step down and out," or be pronounced innocent by an uninterested and competent tribunal. He could not in that case afford to shrink from the fullest and fairest investigation. We do not believe either he or his college can afford it now.

Few cities but contain some University boys to whose success the institution points with pride. In St. Louis recently it was our fortune to meet three alumni. Ben. W. Clark of '63 grasped our hand when just entering Merchant's Exchange. He is a wholesale grocer, and is successful, too. T. W. Parvin, No. 16 Insurance Exchange is located in the centre of business and is doing finely. Frank E. Nipher is at Washington University. His department is a grand success. His appliances are unequalled. He was then engaged upon an electric clock which will cause the principal clocks in St. Louis to tick simultaneously. Upon his address as Alumni orator he is hard at work. Muscatine is thick with Iowa City boys. Cass Lewis tricks up Muscatine's young ladies in the most exquisite finery. Charlie Smith gives them their sweet heart's epistles. Fred Lee puts squibs and jokes about them in the *Journal*. While Pickler, Hoffman, and Burt adjust their slighted affections as the law prescribes. Do the girls want anything more? If so, they can obtain lumber of Greiner and a tomb stone of Frank Sawyer. "Major" Pickler was as genial as when he indited a "communication" for the REPORTER Vol. I. No. I.

THE REPORTER does not wish to show a complaining spirit towards our excellent faculty, but we think there is one respect wherein the professors all fall short. That is in neglecting to visit the students. As the most of us are aware, it is a custom in other colleges for each member of the faculty to visit the students; thus it is that such a warm feeling of affectionate regard exists between professors and pupils. Other colleges are more sociable too than we are. We are cold and indifferent comparatively speaking. We do not attribute it all to the neglect of the faculty; but were the faculty to make it a point to call on the students at their homes, matters would be improved.

It is true that the great number of students makes frequent calls impossible, but it should not prevent them entirely. Few, if any, members of the senior class have been favored with a call, except on business, by a member of the faculty during the entire course. The same is true of the Junior and all the lower classes. We think we are speaking the sentiment of a great majority of the students when we say we would be more than happy to have any member of the faculty call.

THE last term has witnessed the decline and almost total extinction, of the customary society reports in the city papers, a decline and fall which we deem injurious both to the reader and to the performer. To the reader because he, as a student or a citizen is generally interested in the affairs of the University, and joyfully peruses its column or half column reports.

To the society performers the absence of these reports is, however, chiefly injurious, for they caused him to be more careful in the selection and preparation of his performance, and were an additional stimulus to excellence. In the hands of a just critic they pointed out and enabled him to correct his most glaring faults, while at the same time they usually placed before him in all their splendor and glory, his real and possible virtues, causing him if already he be not perfect to strive towards perfection. For these reasons then we say let the time honored custom be revived. Let a critic, capable and unbiased by personal animosities, endeavor to place before the public a faithful representation of the societies and their work.

Let him faithfully point out the defects of a performer or performance, taking care, at the same time, that he overlooks not a single excellence. Let him do this and all will be benefited and all must smile a smile of approval.

FROM the information at hand on the publication of the last issue, we felt assured that the assertion concerning the Sub-Freshmen department was correct. But on procuring the statistics, we find the case to be far different. In order to set the matter clearly before the

public, we will give the proportion of students in all the classes from Johnson county and outside for the last three years. These figures, for the year 1875-6 and 1876-7, were taken from the catalogues of those years. For 1877-8, they were taken from the prepared manuscript of the catalogue for this year.

In 1875-6, there were,

Seniors from Johnson County,	10,	outside	18
Juniors " " " "	6,	" "	22
Sophomores " " " "	9,	" "	39
Freshmen " " " "	17,	" "	46
2d yr. Sub-Fresh. " " " "	23,	" "	76
1st " " " " " "	49,	" "	147
Total " " " "	114	" "	348

In 1876-7 there were,

Seniors from Johnson County,	4,	outside	21
Juniors " " " "	8,	" "	22
Sophomores, " " " "	4,	" "	32
Freshmen " " " "	17,	" "	46
2d yr. Sub-Fresh. " " " "	24,	" "	57
1st " " " " " "	31,	" "	94
Total " " " "	88	" "	272

In 1877-8 there were,

Seniors from Johnson County,	5,	outside	17
Juniors " " " "	5,	" "	18
Sophomores " " " "	15,	" "	37
Freshmen " " " "	18,	" "	54
2d yr. Sub-Fresh. " " " "	21,	" "	58
1st " " " " " "	31,	" "	92
Total " " " "	95	" "	276

The total for the three years would be from Johnson county, 297, outside 896, or less than one-fourth are from Johnson county. Of the Sub-Freshmen department the total for the three years is from Johnson Co., 179, outside 524 or but very little more than one-fourth from Johnson Co. And it may be seen from the catalogue that a great proportion of those from abroad are from parts of the state having no high schools. Since the high school has been established in Iowa City, quite a decrease is noticeable in the Sub-Freshman classes. So we can readily see that a preparatory department of some kind is valuable to the state, and should be kept up by some means, which will probably be the case.

In looking over our exchanges we notice that quite a number, through their editorial columns are discussing the propriety and policy of allowing the graduates to participate in commencement exercises. We notice also that nearly all decry the custom and advocate the substitution, in its place, of an orator hired for the occasion, and competent to amuse and instruct. With all due deference to our learned brethren, we beg leave to differ with them on this issue at least. Let them

remember that most of those graduates have been in their respective institutions from four to six years, and that during that time they have looked forward to commencement as a gala-day, and as a day of celebration. After so long a period of study we think they, at least while the graduating classes are so small, should be allowed to make a speech, and even to bore the audience if they so desire. It is a right they have earned, and a privilege due them. Whether they do bore the audience or not is a disputed point. Who constitute the audience of commencement day? Usually it is made up chiefly of the friends and relatives of the graduates, and did it ever occur to our brethren that in every commencement audience there are at least two persons to whom each graduate's oration seems perfection itself. 'Tis the fact that the graduates are the principal actors in these exercises that makes them so successful and so well attended. There are persons who willingly go from one end of the state to the other to hear a son or daughter pronounce his or her graduating oration, who would not move from the county to hear a Cook or a Phillips. Hence we say let them speak. Let proud mothers still shower their floral tributes and in ignorant bliss applaud unconscious of it e'en if they're bored.

#### AN IOWA REGATTA.

The mention of a regatta in Iowa may surprise some of our readers, yet it is possible for us to have a rowing match between several of our colleges next summer at Clear Lake. But the question is how shall we go about it in order to have a first class regatta with so little notice. Well, probably we can't have a *first class* one so early, but we can have one that will cause an emulation which will result in a lively regatta next year. In the first place, let all of our Iowa exchanges take up the matter and advocate it in their columns and in their classes. Most of the colleges of the State have facilities for training a crew. Some are not conveniently close to water suitable for rowing, but with a little extra exertion this difficulty can be overcome. There are none that cannot afford to raise a sum sufficient to fit out one crew.

It will require no argument to show the advantages of a regatta. It is very evident that the majority of our western colleges do not pay enough attention to physical exercises. Some have an occasional game of base ball, some a gymnasium, and a few have military drill in the college course; but the amount of exercise received from these is exceedingly small compared with what it should be. Again, the Iowa colleges have nothing but the Oratorical Association to bring them together and create a friendly feeling of emulation. Rowing is something in which everybody would be interested. Every student would know what sort of a

crew his neighbors had, if nothing further. A great many of the eastern colleges have been interested in regattas for several years; now, this is the interesting event of the year. The students talk about it, the papers discuss it at length, people of maturity become interested and even enthusiastic over it.

Easterners are no more favored with natural facilities than we are. They have lakes and rivers; so have we. One could not desire a more favorable place in every respect for a rowing match than Clear Lake. This is already becoming a popular summer resort. Sunday school and musical conventions, national camp meetings, etc. are yearly drawing immense crowds. A regatta would make a very nice part of the summer programme.

Let us hear from our brethren on this question. If you can sanction such a scheme, send in a hearty amen; and even if we don't succeed in organizing this summer, we can make a good beginning for next year.

**ORATORICAL CONTEST.**

Owing to the efficient management and forethought of Pres. Eben W. Martin, the fourth annual Inter-Collegiate contest was favorably held at St. Louis May 8th. The prominence of the judges—Alphonzo Taft Ohio, Wm. Harrison, (Republican candidate for governor in Indiana,) Bishop Thomas Bowman of St. Louis, and Wm. Hyde of the *St. Louis Republican*, referee—the audience was composed of the most refined in the city.

The views of the judges are expressed thus, (first column Bowman, second Taft, third Harrison, and fourth Hyde referee judge.)

"The chief influence of science not practical," John Steele, Beloit, Wis.....	6	4	4	3
"The loneliness of Genius," Ed. A. Bancroft, Knox College, Ill.....	1	2	1	1
"State Universities," Louis Munson, Bloomington, Ind.....	5	4	2	2
"Patriotism," F. A. Hall, Drury College, Mo.....	2	5	6	3
"Conscience in History, Geo. B. Heazelton, Oberlin, Ohio.....	4	3	5	4
"Dante," Jas. G. Eberhart, Cornell Col-Iowa.....	3	1	3	4

The individual totals on the scale of 900 are here given:

Wis., John Steel .....	751
Ill., Ed. A. Bancroft.....	820
Ind., Louis Munson.....	771
Mo., F. A. Hall.....	698
Ohio, Geo. B. Heazelton.....	747
Iowa, Jas. G. Eberhart.....	799

Each announcement of the prizes awarded was hailed by sustained applause. Some difference of opinion

was expressed but the contest was so close between Bancroft, Eberhart and Munson that there could be but little dissatisfaction. Mr. Bancroft is a magnetic speaker and deserved his honors. Mr. Eberhart, of Mt. Vernon was accorded the first rank by not a few. In polished oratory he was acknowledged superior. B. Gratz Brown presided and spoke with eloquence. Iowa City rejoices in the location of the next contest. The University will spruce up and receive the association to the best of her ability. As the REPORTER is just going to press we can only append the list of officers:  
 President: Albion N. Fellows, Iowa City, Iowa.  
 Vice-President: Chas. Harris, Bloomington, Ind.  
 Secretary and Treasurer: Newton Wyeth, Oberlin, Ohio.

As we promised some time ago, we give a more extended notice of the SCIENCE INSTITUTE to be held in this place during the summer vacation of 1878, beginning on Tuesday, June 25th, and closing on Friday July 5th, occupying the forenoon of each day.

The privileges of this Institute are offered to members of the State Normal Institute, to members of the Principals' and Superintendents' Association, and to County Superintendents.

The work of the Institute will consist of (1) Special Lectures, and (2) Laboratory Practice in Elementary Science according to the following special courses:

- I—A Course in Spectrum Analysis, Prof's. HINRICHS and LEONARD.  
*First Week*—Exercises on the Spectra of the Sun and Chemical Elements, PROF. G. HINRICHS.  
*Second Week*—Exercises on the Spectra of Heavenly Bodies, and use of Astronomical Instruments, PROF. N. R. LEONARD.
  - II—Practical Exercises in Phanerogamic Botany, PROF. W. C. PRESTON.
  - III—Work in Practical Paleontology, including the Zoological and Geological Classification of typical fossils of the different formations, PROF. S. CALVIN.
  - IV—Exercises in Projection Drawing and Shading, PROF. P. H. PHILBRICK.
  - V—A Course in Didactics, PROF. S. N. FELLOWS.
- Work in Courses I, II, III, and IV will occupy the hours from 8 to 10 A. M. The number that can be admitted to any one Course is limited to *twelve*, and no person can be admitted to more than one of the above four Courses.

The exercises in Course V—Didactics—will begin at 10 A. M. Each exercise will be upon some live topic, and will include a short lecture, followed by questions and discussions on the part of the class. In this Course there are no limitations as to number or otherwise.

The hour from 11 to 12 A. M. will be occupied with general lectures on topics of present interest.

Prof. A. N. Currier will keep the library open at all

convenient hours, and will devote special attention to selecting and furnishing the works bearing on topics in hand. Any one desiring to spend all his time in reading up some special subject, will be afforded all the facilities at the command of the librarian.

Persons, intending to avail themselves of the privileges of the Institute, are requested to select one of the first four courses, and notify the corresponding Secretary, Prof. S. N. Fellows, as soon as possible. Names will be registered for the several classes, in the order received, until each is full.

*Boarding.*—Board in private families may be obtained at from \$4.00 to \$5.00 per week. All desiring private boarding should communicate with Prof. S. N. Fellows.

*Preparatory Reading.*—The following works are recommended as giving the information necessary to enter on the studies of the respective courses with profit.

Course I.—Schellen's Spectrum Analysis.

II.—Gray's, Wood's or Thome's Botany.

III.—Dana's or Le Conte's Geology.

IV.—Warren's Elementary Projection Drawing.

All other reference volumes, needed for study or consultation in connection with Laboratory work, will be furnished by the University Library.

*Fees.*—The privileges of the Institute are offered to the Educators of Iowa free.

#### LOCAL.

—The Juniors are to have class hats.

—Quite a delegation came over from Cornell to attend Joseph Cook's lecture.

—Through the kindness of Prof. Leonard many of the students visited the Observatory to take a look at Mercury in its passage across the sun's disc.

—Ham's Hall has been reformed. It is to be occupied as the reading room of the Reform Club. It has a bright and cheerful look wholly unlike that of old.

—The new song of the Laws is entitled "Mary had a little lamb." It's quite new and so original. We would publish it entire but for the fact that to be appreciated it must be heard.

> —The college grounds are to be lighted with gas. If there was any means of utilizing the gas wasted by the Laws, this expense could be avoided. Isn't there a Yankee among the students?

—A tall Soph. from the Sucker State, has discovered a new law in physics. He thus puts it. "The number of times I've slipped is exactly proportional to the number of times I've been called on."

—Drill has begun—squad drill chiefly. Company B. carries off the palm. On pleasant afternoons you will find the boys in the shade of some friendly tree, squad drilling holes in the ground with their bayonets.

—The corps is full again, since the spring vacation. (We mean full, not as the vulgar use the term, oh no, but in regard to numbers simply.) The managing editor was the last to return. He came up the river on a shingle.

—Iowa City is to have the next Inter State Oratorical Contest. The late contest at St. Louis is said to have been an interesting one. Let Iowa City see to it that all proper efforts are made to insure equal success to the coming one.

—When the Rev. Joseph Cook visited Oberlin, the students sent up so many questions that it took him an hour and a half to answer them in chapel. Why didn't our boys think of that? We might have spoiled two recitations in that way.

—The fact that our lady visitors so invariably cluster around company C. on drill days, has at last been explained. Our Sophomore editor, whose crisped mustache and martial bearing eclipses even Capt. Pollard and his veteran followers, marches in those serried ranks.

—The Laws have organized a military company. They meet for drill at the still, calm hour of twilight. They are armed with the writ of "have his carcass," as Sammy Weller has it. In lieu of colors they float a "bill of exceptions" and address the captain with "your Honor."

—Two ambitious youths from the northwestern part of the State are to return home in a boat. Their boat is named for Don Quixote's horse (but then there's nothing in a name.) After reaching the head of navigation they will charter a grass-hopper team and finish their journey overland.

—At the request of President Slagle, Joseph Cook conducted chapel exercises on the morning after the delivery of his lecture in this city. He spoke of the advantages of Western colleges over those of the East, of the Mississippi Valley and the place it is to occupy in the future history of the country.

—"Company git straight into line" and "order arms, march," were commands given by students of the art of war on the drill ground recently. In the first instance, the company got straight into line, the officer got out his tactics, got himself against the wood pile, got the range and got ready the next command.

—There has been, so far at least, a dearth of poetry on Spring. We hinted the matter to our poet and the following gem is the result:

"In the Spring the little squirrel runs right up into the tree,  
In the Spring into the flower creeps the little bumble bee;  
In the Spring from out their quarters come the rabbits and the hares,  
The owlets and the owls and get on little tears."

He is recovering on a small diet of Webster's Dictionary. Under favorable circumstances he will be ready for Spring at its next arrival.

**DIRGE.**

Come, O ye night winds sing him to rest;  
 Bear on your breathings perfumes loved best.  
 Sing, O thou night bird out to the sky;  
 A mortal who loved thee with shadows shall die.  
 Weep, O thou lily, tear drops of dew;  
 The heart that is chilling was tender and true.  
 Star of the midnight, queen of the skies,  
 Gild with your splendor the couch where he lies.  
 Take him, O Father who loveth him best,  
 From sorrow and trouble to land of his rest.  
 Dark is his young life with shadows of night;  
 Cast 'round his death bed visions of light.  
 Bear him, O angels away from his woe;  
 His Father has called him, Life, let him go.  
 Cover with winding sheet breast that was sore,  
 Smile on his resting place, sorrow is o'er.

M. K.

The Sophomores having received and accepted a challenge from the Freshmen to play a match game of base ball on Saturday the 11th, went forth upon the diamond field with downcast eyes and sorrowful looks, still remembering the defeat which they had received in the game of foot-ball played with the "Fresh" not long ago. However, as soon as they saw that their opponents had forgotten to don the little red ribbon badge, so long the terror of the poor "Soph," courage returned and victory was theirs. No farther explanation is necessary except that the Freshman nine died hard and as the Sophomores departed from the field they could hear in the distance the last struggling "kicks" of the defeated ones.

On account of the rain the game was brought to a close at the end of the sixth inning with the following score.

SOPHOMORES.		FRESHMEN.	
R	O	R	O
Vanderpoel, c.....	0 4	Skinner, 2b.....	2 1
Fellows, 3b.....	3 0	Brown, p.....	0 3
Rice, 2b.....	2 1	Suiter, s s.....	0 2
Goshorn, p.....	0 4	Harrison, 1 f.....	0 2
Shrader, 1b.....	0 4	Reed, 3b.....	1 2
Buerckle, 1 f.....	2 2	Rogers, 1b.....	1 2
Sutton, s s.....	2 0	Hostetler, c.....	0 2
Truesdall, r f.....	2 1	St. John c f.....	0 3
Snyder, c f.....	1 2	Cobb, r f.....	1 1
	12 18		5 18

  

SCORE BY INNINGS.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Sophomores.....	1	2	3	2	4	0-12
Freshmen.....	1	1	1	0	1	1-5

**A MIRAGE.**

The phenomenon known as a Mirage was seen on the 22nd of April, by Will D. Brown from the residence of Dr. G. E. Kimball on Rose Hill. At about 6 o'clock p. m., there appeared towards the southeast a village which had not been witnessed here before nor has it since. The afternoon had been quite warm; and

towards evening banks of clouds had gathered in the west, occasionally allowing the sun to peep over or between them. The sun had just hid himself behind a cloud, but shone on the village, thus making it all the more conspicuous, as it stood out in bold relief.

Like a newly built town it sat upon an elevated plane, sparkling with great beauty, and seemingly queen of the neighborhood. The sight was indeed beautiful to behold. The country for quite a distance around seemed to be elevated also. The elevation above the natural horizon was nearly 12 degrees.

About 10 minutes after the first appearance it enveloped itself in a cloud of mist or smoke and gradually faded away.

The town appeared to be in a little grove. The church steeple was to the left of the trees, and could well be recognized. Some 40 or 50 houses, that could easily be distinguished comprised the visible town. The houses were somewhat blended together, however, not to such an extent that the village could not be identified. The buildings and surrounding objects were erect and scarcely distorted at all. From the direction and appearance, the town seen in the Mirage was Lone Tree, a distance of at least 14 miles from Iowa City. The direction, as found by a magnetized needle suspended by a fine silk thread, and a protractor, is south by 17 degrees east.

Phenomena of this nature are of rare occurrence in this country. They are more frequent in tropical countries, where whole forests and cities are sometimes inverted, and often much distorted. But few have ever been seen in Iowa.

—Very satisfactory observations were made here on the transit of Mercury. The transit was a few seconds before the calculated time, giving evidence of another planet within its orbit.

**PERSONAL.**

'74, Chas A. Bond is in a bank at Storm Lake, Ia.  
 '74, J. G. Berryhill has gone to the Paris Exposition.  
 '73, Law, E. W. Smith, is practicing in Des Moines.  
 Anna Osmond has returned to her home, at Russell, Iowa.

Mrs. Slagle, wife of President Slagle, spent several days in the city.

'79, Will Lohr went to Dakotah to recuperate and purchase some land.

'77, Virginia Slagle will visit the Paris Exposition and spend some time in Europe.

'79, W. A. Pottle is recruiting at home. He will return to the University next year.

'80 and '78, F. A. Vanderpool and J. J. Pollard went to Burlington Saturday the 18th on a Botanical and Geological excursion. They got—tired.

'74, special, Geo. H. Gray, one of Durant's attorneys, spent a few days in the city recently.

C. A. Pollock, managing editor of the *Collegian*, was an editorial excursionist to Texas.

Prof. Pickard, of Chicago, has been requested to accept the presidency of the University.

Ada Gaston, formerly a student in the University, has been visiting her friends in Iowa City.

'74, special, Levina C. Fisher, *nee* Rankin, is in the city. She will remain until commencement.

Minnie White expects soon to return from Boston, where she has been studying elocution very successfully.

Dr. Thacher, having resigned his position as pastor of the Congregational Church, has gone east to improve his health.

Addie McClintock, formerly of the University, went with the editorial party to Texas. She resides at Union, Fayette county.

Dr. Cowperthwaite has located permanently in Iowa City. For the present he will occupy Dr. Thacher's residence on Clinton street.

'77, Law, Geo. B. DeSellem has given up the practice of law on account of his health. He has purchased a farm in Kansas and will devote his attention to agriculture.

We learned recently that H. W. Morgan, a medical student of '75, was married last September to Miss Della Baldwin. Bro. Morgan is a worthy young man, and deserving of the amiable and talented woman who has donned his name and will share his fortune. They reside at Booneville where he practices medicine.

#### LIBRARY NOTES.

From a list of about 125 volumes purchased for the Library since the issue of the REPORTER for March, we select the following:

- Jefferson, Thomas.—Complete works, 9 vols.
- Wey's Rome.
- Spofford's American Almanac.
- Maine.—Ancient Law.
- Green, John R.—History of the English People, 2 vols.
- Green, John R.—Short history of the English People, 2 copies.
- Fielding, Henry.—Tom Jones.
- “ “ —Joseph Andrews.
- Masson, David.—Life of John Milton with History of his Times. Vols. 4 and 5.
- Tulloch's Pascal.
- King, Thomas Starr.—Christianity and Humanity.
- “ “ “ —Substance and Show.
- Smucker, S. M.—The Life of Webster, containing his most celebrated speeches.
- Topinard's Anthropology.
- Adams, W. D.—Dictionary of English Literature.

## LAW DEPARTMENT.

The disgusting soreheadness that is ever showing itself in acts of petty molevolence can only proceed from a very little and very mean mind. Some of the members of the class had better remember this, when by writing for outside journals they try to injure characters more respectable than their own.

A military company has been organized in the class, containing about forty persons. They have placed themselves under the command of Mr. Geo. Preston and, as may be supposed, are progressing finely. This gentleman is a graduate of the military school at Chester and has *ultima ratio regum* down to a fine point as is evidenced by the very favorable comparison his company shows with the academical battalion.

#### LECTURE.

On May the 1st. Mr. W. A. Smith, of Keokuk, delivered at the request of the class a lecture on "Method of Making Abstracts". This very practical subject was pleasantly handled by Mr. Smith and in a manner which showed him master of all its intricacies. At its conclusion the class tendered him a vote of thanks.

#### HAMMOND LITERARY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, May 9, the Hammond Literary Association adjourned *sine die*.

We believe it is the first time that a law literary society lasted through the winter for many years. One of its features was extemporaneous debating and from this one exercise alone its members derived much benefit. This society is one that should be perpetuated among students of this department as it gives a training that no other part of a student's career affords and one that is much needed.

#### CLASS-DAY REPRESENTATIVES.

The class has selected the following gentlemen to represent it on class-day.

Salutatorian G. S. Cloud, Muscatine; Historian, M. T. Owens, Waterloo; Orator, G. W. Clarke, Drakesville; Prophet, J. J. Sullivan, Harvard, Ills.; Poet, Marcus Kavanagh, Des Moines; Vaedictorian, J. E. Markley, Cedar Falls.

These gentlemen are all fully competent to "act well their parts" and in such a manner as to do credit to themselves and honor to the class they represent.

**BASE BALL.**

On Saturday May 11th, the law base ball club thirsting for glory swooped down on the neighboring town of Oxford. Early in the first inning their catcher got his hand hurt and their opponents succeeded in making 12 scores that inning. After the change of catchers they succeeded in making two more on passed balls so that at the end of the ninth inning the score stood 14 to 24 in favor of the laws. The boys' fielding was excellent and their batting was simply tremendous.

**CLUB COURT NOTES.**

"The attorneys in case No. 23 may settle that motion in regard to the pleadings now," remarked the Judge of the L. C. C. the other evening, "but they will please keep in the middle of the floor as the janitor complains about the blood staining the walls."

"After mature deliberation" said the Hammond C. C. Ch. Justice as he rolled up his sleeves, spit on his hands, and faced the attorneys for the defense, "we have concluded to give judgment for the plaintiffs." After the first round the other two judges reversed the decision. When the Howe C. C. found out they had chosen an ex-boxing master to preside they held an indignation meeting and declared that by his fraudulent silence he had robbed them of their rightful prerogative and sacrificed to his unholy ambition the most interesting feature in the trial of causes.

"As the courts only revolver is being repaired" said the Judge of the D. D. C. the other day, "we defer giving our decision."

"Oh!" gasped an expiring attorney of the I. C. C. "I see how it is now, *Caveat Emptor* did apply there and we were foolish to dispute it."

**THE HISTORICAL STUDY OF LAW.**

If the history of the common law be made, as we certainly would have it, an essential part of every student's preparation for the bar, we probably could relegate to this, not merely all that modern works contain in respect to the feudal *origines* of our law; the entire doctrine of uses, with a part of trusts; the doctrine of rents and other real charges, with a very large part, if not the whole, of the law peculiar to incorporeal hereditaments; and of course all that is now necessary to say about entails; but we might even (though I hardly dare to make such a heretical proposal) treat in this manner a large part of the learning of estates and titles, found in our most recent treatises. In how many of our states has the law of remainders other than historical value? How much of that relating to joint tenancy and tenancy in common, with all the play upon *per tout et per mie* can fairly be stated as a rule of

present practice? How often do we find applications, in a recent volume of reports, of the distinction between conditions precedent and subsequent, or anything more of conditional limitations than the one or two rules of interpretation that have been evolved from them? In most of our western states at least even dower and courtesy are things of the past, and confusion, rather than advantage, is the result of applying common law doctrines regarding them to the simple statutory provisions which have substituted for them an ordinary distributive share of the decedent's land. It would be easy to illustrate this by recent cases. Indeed the whole history of dower, from the first mistaken application of the Roman name, and of maxims intended for a quite different institution, down to the present day,—when courts still feel themselves bound to overrule the clearest language of the legislature, because a Roman, nearly two thousand years ago, wrote that in a doubtful case, the wife and her *dos* should have every presumption in their favor—is one of the most striking examples to be found in any system of jurisprudence of the confusion and trouble that result from mixing up the historical and practical elements of law. But in making so bold a charge as this, I wish to be clear even at the risk of repetition, and not to be understood as in any way treating the topics I have named as obsolete or of little importance; on the contrary it is because I think they could be *better* taught than now, in the historical method, that I would favor the change. At present the origin of these several institutions and doctrines, and the stages through which they have passed during six or seven centuries, are mingled with the statement of the present law respecting them. The result is that few students read carefully enough to distinguish what is of the past and what of the present, and rise from the volume with a confused notion of a very complicated doctrine. The historical matter especially is made needlessly cumbersome by the fragmentary manner in which it is treated. Its development has been essentially chronological, and every departure from that order involves a considerable amount of explanatory matter, and cross reference, that would be needless if the history were kept by itself. We have indeed even now, scattered here and there through our books, admirable sketches of the growth of this and that doctrine. If these could be brought together and properly arranged, their needless repetitions expunged, and the clues added which should guide the student through the labyrinth, I am sure we should all of us be surprised to see in how small a space could be put the information necessary to enable a student to comprehend the law of today. I am speaking not merely of real property but of the entire system. Let any lawyer of average attainments recall the number of times he has read, in treatise or opinion, the story of the growth of assumption, or of the mode in which case was evolved from its parent trespass; how the bill for account in

equity, like a young cuckoo, pushed the common law action of the same name out of its rightful nest, or the hundred other things of the same sort that have recurred again and again in various connections during his studies, and he will realize that if each of these stories were told but once, in its proper place, they would form together in a very few chapters nearly all that he knows of common law procedure. Yet it was in common law procedure that the whole system of our law, outside of real property, acquired its present form. Our rules of contract and tort; of bailment and damages; of negotiable paper and pledge; of personal property in all its myriad forms, have grown out of the rules which for centuries the courts have been laying down to govern the various forms of action; the entire law of pleading and evidence, as has often been remarked, has been constructed in the effort to place litigated questions properly before a jury. While we still repeat the definitions of a contract borrowed centuries ago from the Romans, the rules that actually govern, at least our simple contracts, and the principles which determine its nature, have all grown out of decisions of our courts upon the causes in which an action of assumpsit, or as it was sometimes called, an action upon the case on promises, will lie.

By learning once for all the steps through which these doctrines have advanced to their present form, the student will learn, not merely what is necessary to understand a modern practice act or code of procedure, but also the doctrines which form our present substantive law. He will thus be prepared, as nothing else can prepare him, to interpret the language in which the positive law of to-day is clothed, and when he lays aside his book of history, and takes up that of actual law, he will read it as nothing but a long and tedious experience has ever enabled his predecessors in the task to read.

W. G. H.

#### LIGHT LEGALISMS.

—A Brass Band—the law class.

—No man can wear eye-glasses and not chew the knob of his cane.

—Who'll write the class ode? The merchants around town, we suppose.

—We thank our friends very much, but a gold-headed cane is not becoming to our style of beauty and brass band serenades make us nervous.

—The look of bitter burning pride, with which a man meets her he has loved and lost, is only equaled by that which an academical student throws at the Deacon who passes the collection plate.

—Davenport boys are proverbially sound sleepers, and she had to ring the breakfast bell so long and loud that a policeman rushed in and inquired the trouble. She told him she was "waking to ecstasy the living Lyre."

—We've quit asking any questions now, but when a brother editor comes in with blood on his hands, and sits down to write an obituary notice, we know that some one has been complaining about our being too personal.

—It has been noticed, as a remarkable fact, that since the organization of the Law Military Co., every chicken-coop in the city has a new lock, the week's washing is always in before dark, and the police force has been doubled. Checkmate!

—Some Sophomores gave a serenade the other evening, and of the thirteen cats which had been in the habit of giving open air concerts in that vicinity, twelve committed suicide from sheer envy. In justice to the other, we would state, that it is dead.

—Death has spread his shadowy wings over our class, one victim has been sacrificed to Hymen, it's members are to be tortured with all the unrelenting rigor of a class poet, but never, never, until this term, has an angry Providence inflicted us with a man who wears a "plug" hat.

—It has always been a mystery to us how the average young man can amble into the woods, fall from a tree, tear his clothes, sprain an ankle, eat a decoction of June bugs and sweetened milk, and talk for days after about the fun he had at the picnic, and the superiority of the ice-cream.

—He was a "law." Like all "laws," unsophisticated. He was showing a friend his collection of coins. "Here," said he, "is one I would give much to have deciphered, as it cost me a considerable sum. I can find in the books no traces of it." His friend, who is a German student, gazed for a moment on the bit of brass, rubbed the dirt off, and translated thus: "Good for ten cents at the bar."

—Guitar in hand he sallied forth to serenade her. He had just got snugly esconsed in the alley under her window when her father saw him. The old man mistaking him for a burglar, made a very fine carom on his left ear with a stick of stove wood, the cook kindly tendered him a dish pan full of hot water, whilst as he passed the stable, the hired man increased the interest in his flight by harpooning his best hat with a pitch fork. A set of small boys added a charm to the occasion, by sending after him a crowd of yelping curs, and filling the air with cries of "perlice" and volleys of mud, stones, and other missiles. The neighbors sent clouds of buck shot cavorting around in every direction, and the fragrant zepthers were laden with the ring of police whistles. After a considerable struggle he managed to roll down Observatory hill. He had been mutely eloquent up to this time, but having eluded pursuit he took considerable pains in expressing himself. After skirmishing around the river bank for a few hours and lying behind a grave in the cemetery for some time, he at last found his room, but the look on his face told plainly that he was discouraged.