

The Vidette-Reporter.

VOL. XV.

IOWA CITY, IOWA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 1883.

NO. 15.

The Vidette-Reporter,

ISSUED

EVERY SATURDAY AFTERNOON,

During Collegiate Year S. U. I.

Office in Republican Building, Washington St.

S. B. HOWARD, '83. I. B. RICHMAN, '83.

C. W. WILCOX, '85. RUSH C. LAKE, '84.

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Managing Editors.

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THE VIDETTE-REPORTER,
Iowa City, Iowa.

THE work in the gymnasium is giving very good satisfaction, and the apparatus is all that could be desired, but there is one thing in the way of improvement which we would like to suggest. As a natural consequence more or less dust rises from the floor when the practicing going on, and is injurious to the lungs. Some way ought to be tried to prevent this needless exposure of health. Dampened sawdust is, we understand, very frequently used for this purpose with good results. It matters not what is used so the object is accomplished and the injurious part of the exercise in the gymnasium removed.

THE entertainment given by Miss May Robinson at the Opera House, Tuesday evening was a complete success, notwithstanding some of those who were to take part in the programme were unable to appear. Miss Robinson was greeted by a good audience, although the weather was unpropitious. Her appearance on the stage brought a storm of applause, and her rendering of "Sister and I" assured her friends that they would not be disappointed with the entertainment. Miss Robinson must have made good use of her time and opportunities while in the College of Oratory at Boston, for her reading is superior to that of many prominent elocutionists. The programme was interspersed with music by Mrs. Ida Mae Price and Prof. Berger, and the timely arrival of Prof. Knight in the city added one more enjoyable feature to the entertainment, as Mr. Knight was prevailed upon to favor his friends with some of his best selections.

CHANCELLOR HOWARD CROSBY, in his recent address before the F. B. K. Society, of Harvard, takes occasion to emphasize the value of a literary, as opposed to a mere syntactical, knowledge of the ancient classics. The idea is by no means new, but of sufficient importance to warrant frequent iteration. He, to whom the masterpieces of Greek history, poetry, and philosophy, are a source of as great delight as they were to Pitt, Macaulay,

Charles James Fox, Grote, and others appreciative of their literary quality, is possessed of a never-failing source of the highest satisfaction. In order to become thus appreciative of the excellencies of ancient literature, however, one must perform the drudgery of memorizing declensions and conjugations, in his youth. And by the word "youth" we mean extreme youth—when one is nine or eleven years old. If it be left until the reasoning powers begin to assert themselves, the task will be more difficult, and less perfectly executed. Other things then claim the attention. The mature mind cannot afford to quit the study of ideas for the comparatively barren study of forms. Life is too short to justify the sacrifice.

In youth, however, the higher powers are dormant; and if the opportunity for laying a foundation for the work of the future be then seized upon, the gain is incalculable.

THE history of sovereigns is so dark, their deeds so often cruel and so seldom kind, their thrones seem so far separated from the hearths and homes of their subjects, and their lives seem to be so surrounded by and made up of luxuries, that a queen's Christmas gift to her subjects seems a very unusual gift. But Queen Victoria has presented to some of the soldiers who are yet suffering from wounds received in the war with Egypt some woolen quilts. Particular value is attached to them because one of them was entirely worked by the Queen's own hands, and all of them bore marks of her workmanship. One was worked by Princess Beatrice, and all the others by the ladies of the court except that portion executed by the Queen. This presentation by Her Majesty seems to lessen the distance between that gracious personage and the people, and will remain as a reminder that she feels earnestly what she is reported to have said concerning her soldiers, namely: "They have done much for me, and I must do something for them." If we mortals are to be held responsible for the proper improvement of our opportunities, we cannot see how kings, queens, and princes in general will stand much of a chance in the "final reckoning," so any kindly act on the part of one of them, such as is above related, ought to be recorded to their credit, and hailed with delight as a mark of the advance of civilization.

WE are accustomed to think that it is only of late years that college journalism has become a noticeable feature of college life. The fact is, however, that some of the most creditable efforts in this line were made long ago, ere the rising generation had come into existence. We aim more at versatility in our college papers than did our predecessors, but it is not infrequently at the expense of something better than versatility.

THE typical paper of to-day is a semi-monthly or weekly publication, abounding in articles of a light, and would-be amusing, character. Very rarely a little genuine wit finds its way into the columns of such a journal. But, as a rule, the effort to be witty is much more apparent than the wit itself. Often, too, the demand for reading of this kind leads to consequences of an exceedingly disagreeable nature. The slave, upon whom devolves the task of humorous composition, is, in the dire extremities to which he constantly finds himself reduced, tempted to a reckless indulgence in personalities—to regard all that happens as mete for the public ear.

Now, from faults of this kind, the college journal of twenty years ago was comparatively free. More space was devoted to carefully prepared articles. Less was written for effect, and more for improvement. On the whole, therefore, we think the journalism of the past was conducted on truer principles than our own.

THE above reflections were suggested in part by an examination which we have recently had occasion to make of the first volume of the "Asbury Notes." This was a paper published at Greencastle, Ind., in the interests of Asbury University. The date of the first number is April 7, 1852. Besides articles in prose of various degrees of merit and on many subjects, we notice a large number in poetry. What is more noticeable, however, is the fact that these poetical contributions are of unusual excellence. The following is among the opening stanzas of a poem entitled "Our Native Land:"

"No happier land! the first bright beams of day
Are resting on her hills; her dawn appears
While other empires tremble to decay,
And fade into the starless night of years.
Beyond Atlantic's swelling tide, behold
A land long nurtured by romance and song,
A land of memory whose mountains bold
And level plains unto the past belong—
Where urn and mouldering monument proclaim
The sage's virtue and the hero's fame.

Another contribution, of which—as of that just referred to—we can give only a stanza, is thus introduced:

"The poet hath loved to gather his crown
From the ivy which clings
To the palace of kings—
To the ruins deserted and brown:
But the light of song
Hath fallen too long
On the crumbling walls
Of ruined halls—
On the fallen stronghold of the strong."

WE should like to quote more, had we sufficient space. Suffice it to say, however, that a poem of even tolerable merit is the rarest of rarities in a college paper of to-day.

IF some particular bright star in the theatrical firmament desires to make a small fortune, we advise him (or her) to put in an early appearance in Iowa City. We've literally been ignored by the "profession" this winter.

I READ the following in an editorial of THE VIDETTE-REPORTER:

"Immediately after the war, he (Gambetta) distinguished himself by proposing the deposition of the imperial dynasty, and proclaiming the Republic of France."

I doubt not but this expresses very nearly the opinion of most of those who have some idea of French affairs in this country. It is, however, as erroneous as a statement of this nature can be.

THE battle of Sedan took place September 1st and 2d, 1870. The French Republic was declared September 4th, or just as soon as the German victory at Sedan became fully known in Paris. The Germans had captured the head of the government, i. e., Napoleon III., and either taken prisoners or kept in close confinement about 400,000 of the imperial troops. The Parisians, thus being freed from all danger coming from the imperialists, simply did what other people would have done under the same circumstances. They declared, on the motion of Jules Favre, the dynasty expired, and returned to the state of things existing previous to the establishment of the dynasty. By the provisional government, then established, Gambetta received the position of Minister of the Interior. As such, he left Paris in a balloon, and, while Paris was slowly starving to death, carried on a foolish resistance from a safe distance. Rising in a balloon was the most heroic thing he ever did,—he never came within ten miles of shooting distance otherwise, except at a duel a year or two ago, when the distance was somewhat less.

THE reestablishment of the French republic was due to the valor of German soldiers and the genius of her generals, precisely as the gain of Rome by Victor Emmanuel. Without the Prussian victory at Sadowa, Italy would not have obtained Venice; but for the overthrow of Napoleon through the battles of Werth, Vionville, Gravelotte, and Sedan, she would not have had Rome, which was guarded for the Pope by a French army corps.

AFTER Germany had done all these things at the expense of so much blood and grief, windy orators like Wendell Phillips berated her in regular billings-gate for not stopping at Sedan. In this, Mr. Wendell Phillips, who, like most orators, is nothing if not superficial, fully agreed with M. Gambetta. German blood was just good enough to free France from a tyranny which her own people, Republicans though they claimed to be, had not even dared to resist; German blood was good enough to be shed for the consolidation of Italy; but as for gaining for herself solid guarantys of peace in the future, she must not think of it. Gambetta resisted the legitimate demands of Germany when there was not the slightest hope of a successful resistance. He did not stop the Germans, but he seriously hurt France. *

THE CULTURE OF PURE LITERATURE.

BY IRVING B. RICHMAN.

In the first place, What is pure literature? and in the second, What may be gained for culture by its study?

The general term "literature" has long been used with such latitude of significance, that by it we now understand to be meant little less than the recorded utterances of the wise in all ages. Pure literature, however—that is, literature in and of itself—includes, of the immense mass of the world's recorded wisdom, but the merest fragment. It sustains to literature in general very much the same relation that grace sustains to form or melody to sound. In other words, pure literature embraces only the works of taste and imagination, while literature in general embraces those of history, science, and philosophy, as well. Pure literature, therefore, belongs wholly in the realms of the aesthetic. It holds a place along with painting, sculpture, and music,—addresses itself to the sensibilities as contradistinguished from the intellect, and has for its object the realization of the Beautiful.

In this last respect, pure literature partakes of the essential nature of Art, of which Beauty is the sole end. Truth there must be also, and the Good, but only in so far as they are one with Beauty. Were we able entirely to separate Beauty from those elements, they could have no place in Art. As it is, however, Goodness, Truth, and Beauty are, in their last synthesis, a unit; hence Art without them is impossible. The problem of music, therefore, is to achieve the realization of the Beautiful through the effects of sound; that of sculpture and painting through those of form and color; and that of pure literature by words.

The spiritual element in language, that subtle principle of unity whereby its several parts are linked together and pervaded, we call *style*. It is worthy of observation, moreover, that readily as style may be detected in a writer, nothing is so impossible to define. We may discover its leading principles, give here and there, perchance, a hint of some of its exquisitely delicate perfections, but the *thing itself* escapes. Pursue it with critical scalpel throughout all the nerves and tissues of speech, and we have only dead nerves and tissues. But give over the search, and life returns to them. In other words, the spiritual element in language is no more to be intellectually apprehended than is the spiritual element in sound, form, or color. Even to the sensibilities it makes itself manifest "by the skill with which it effaces itself." There are in speech, however, some positive traits. Its spirit renders it organic. Not only does subordination of parts exist, but it exists in obedience to the vital principle. Hence, perfect unity and completeness in the *body* of the purely literary product. Instead of mere mechanical aggregation, there is such a union of the members that the destruction of any one imperils the life of all. Nor in this does pure literature

differ from the other arts. There is the same subtle sympathy of the elements in the statue or the picture that there is in the poem or the story. Stand before the Apollo Belvidere, and, in imagination, disturb but a single line and the sensation is painful. It is so because what we conceive is not merely the destruction of nicely adjusted mechanical relations, painful as that must be, but a violation of the ideal and spiritual. We feel that we meditate a crime. Any work, therefore, be it of chisel or pen, toward which we can have this feeling, is assured of the world's homage to the last; for, being spiritual in its nature, it addresses itself to the most permanent and enduring element in man.

If now we ask: To the literature of what land must we go for our best models of style, the answer is—the literature of Greece. That of no other country had its origin among a people at once so sensitive to Beauty and richly endowed with the faculty for its expression: not merely in sculpture and letters but in philosophy; for, by the genius of Plato, even logic was made an art. Indeed, whether we consider the achievements of the Greek mind in history, architecture, poetry, or speculation, we are alike impressed with the evidence there displayed of the mastery of the Beautiful. The True and the Good are not excluded; but, while Beauty is prized for itself, Truth and Goodness are prized because of Beauty.

This close allegiance to the principles of art, observable throughout the whole of Greek literature, is more distinctly manifest in the works of the dramatic poets. It is manifest to a high degree in those of all the dramatists, but supremely in the works of Sophocles; for in him Hellenic speech became pure literature, and hence pure Art. When we speak thus, however, we are not unmindful of the claims of Æschylus. His genius was mightier far than that of Sophocles, sublimer and more majestic, but for that very reason less amenable to rule. Against Euripides, on the contrary (the third of the great Attic trio), lies the charge of weakness—of enfeebling and debasing art. Yet, when all has been said, and the Antigone and Ædipi of Sophocles left out of the account, what have we comparable, in the noblest qualities of style, to the Prometheus Bound and Orestes of Æschylus, or the Medea of Euripides—works so averaged and modulated that the winds of ages have not prevailed against them?

We have no desire here to discuss in detail the question of languages; but the fact that models of pure literature such as these exist in the Greek tongue, must ever inspire the lover of the Beautiful with a passion for its study. Were the Prometheus or the Antigone a mere system of ideas to be intellectually apprehended, he might resort to translations. But, in the purely literary product, *style* is the essential element, and style is untranslatable. Exquisite as the flavor of Donatello's "Sunshine," it is also as evanescent. The same thing is true of the beauty of the statue or the picture. Italy is full of copies of Guido's Beatrice Cenci, yet how world-wide the difference

between the most successful copy and the original. As well, however, might the painter hope to catch some faint ray of Guido's inspiration from these copies rather than from the master-piece which they but dimly reflect, as the poet to be ravished with the sweetness and passion of the Euripidean Iphigenia, in any other language than the Greek. Art, in a word, be it plastic, pictorial, or literary, must be studied in its models. Through them we look into the soul where dwelt the ideals which they embody, and a half hour with Phidias, Michael Angelo, or Sophocles, is worth an age in the company of their imitators.

To the question then, What is pure literature, we return the answer—first, that it is an art; second, that it is an art the essential element of which is *style*; third, that for our best models we must look to Greece; and lastly, that these models should be studied in themselves.

The further question, How does pure literature stand related to culture, involves both the question of the relation of Art and culture, and that (more specific in character) of the precise relation of pure literature to the other arts. The aim of all Art we have defined to be the realization of the Beautiful. But why seek for its realization? We reply, because that which, most of all, the soul yearns after is *expression*. He that can best utter the thoughts of men is greatest, for fitting utterance is the thing most prized by men. Now the Beautiful, both in feeling and idea, is part of the soul, and hence demands expression. We give it utterance in music, painting, poetry, and sculpture, thus satisfying its demand. In other words, we *realize* it to ourselves, and that is the aim of Art. Culture, therefore, being understood to signify that perfect symmetry of mind which results from the due poise and balance of the various powers, Art is the instrument of culture in its aesthetic branch.

Passing now from the consideration of Art in general to that of the different arts, it is plain that they must take rank and precedence according as they meet the soul's passionate desire to give expression to the Beautiful. Tried by this test, it will be found that, in point of combined variety and exactness of expression, music comes last, followed, in the ascending scale, by sculpture, painting, and poetry. Music, however, is the profoundest of all arts. No other is so fitted to be the organ of expression for the vague and boundless yearnings of the soul—those inarticulate desires which reach out after the Infinite. Sculpture, on the contrary, is austere, finite and exact. An evidence of *taste*, we should pronounce it, rather than of feeling; for, in marble, beauty assumes the severest aspect consistent with itself. Hence an age of sculpture and an age of music are never the same. The one implies the prevalence of objective tendencies—a disposition to observe more than to reflect, and so, in Art, a supreme regard for form and contour. In the other, the reverse is true; men reflect more than they observe. The soul, withdrawn from the contemplation of external things and turned back upon

itself, analyzes its own states. Thus the spiritual nature is developed which demands a more subtle interpreter than sculpture or even painting, and this it finds in music. Paganism and sculpture, Christianity and music, such is the correlation. Notwithstanding that it is a rigid art, however, sculpture has a wider range than music. The noblest symphony were incapable of expressing the agony and heroism of the Laocoon, for these sublime emotions cannot be rendered in the accents of joy and sorrow to which music is confined. Hence, recourse to the clay.

But far above sculpture, in power of varied and exact expressiveness, comes painting. Here a new element is introduced; color lends its magic aid to heighten the effects of form. The resources at the command of Art for the expression of both spiritual and sensuous beauty are therefore multiplied. Indeed, from the realm of painting almost nothing is excluded. Less precise than sculpture, and with less of power to move and stir the soul than music, it combines these elements with a range and compass of expression unequalled save in the art of poetry. The sky, the sea, the land, the soul with all its wealth of sweetness and of passion—what is there, in the world around us, or the life within, to which painting does not give a voice?

We have pronounced it inferior to poetry alone. If we are right, pure literature, in its highest form, is incontestably the first of arts. But what has poetry that is neither in sculpture, nor painting, nor music? It has nothing; it speaks in no other accents than they. Poetry differs from all other arts in this, that while, of these arts, each is master of its own powers of expression, poetry is master of the powers of all. What a sculptor, for example, is Homer! Simple, terse, and vigorous, his delineations of character have the matchless precision of the statue. And what a painter is Dante! How mindful of detail, how realistic, and yet in scope how universal! For minutiae, he has all the love of the Dutch school of art, yet, in wealth of coloring, he is not surpassed by Titian, nor, in inspiration, by Raphael. Shakespeare alone, however, has rendered poetry a perfect medium for the expression of the ideal. In him so completely does Art efface itself, that we call it Art no longer, but reality. Human attainment, therefore, has little chance of transcending the limit which he reached. Of music, as a distinctive element in poetry, we have not spoken; for poetry itself is music. The grandeur and movement of Paradise Lost are those of a mighty anthem. Gently swayed, in the beginning, by a succession of sad and joyous strains, the soul is at length borne down and swept away on a resistless tide of melody. Different poems, however, inspire different emotions. The secret of the charm in some is their simplicity; others nerve the heart with resolution or melt it in sorrow; but whether idyl, ode, or plaintive monody, the true poem is a song.

As we have already intimated, therefore, pure literature is incontestably the first of arts. It combines, in large degree, the powers of all the others, and hence may justly be pronounced the noblest and most universal instrument of culture.

WANTED.

Wanted—a lover!
Tender and true,
Just this session;
Most any would do.

Wanted—a lover!
For lecture and play,
Pretty fair talker,
Where is he, say?

Wanted—a lover!
Tall lad and strong,
Jolly good fellow;
Won't need him long.

Wanted—a lover!
Want him right soon,
Be done with, honest,
Early next June!

Wanted—a lover!
For lassie fair,
Funny young man
To drive away care.

Wanted—a lover!
For sleigh-ride and ball;
Can't use the fellow
Following fall.

Oh, for a Freshman!
Ah! Hearts of stone,
Gets so tiresome
Staying alone.

Oh, for a laddie
With double-blooms laden,
To set up oysters
To a sad little maiden.

Wanted—a lover!
Such awful luck!
Here it is Christmas,
Not a soul struck!

Wanted—a lover,
A Sophomore lad;
A Normal would do,
And I want him bad!

A large number of the officials at head of the present administrative college men.

President Arthur is a graduate Union, David Davis of Kenyon, Frelhuysen of Rutgers, Lincoln of Harvard, Folger of Hobart, Brewster of Princeton.

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President Arthur is a graduate of Union, David Davis of Kenyon, Frelinghuysen of Rutgers, Lincoln of Harvard, Folger of Hobart, Brewster of Princeton.

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Go to Whetstone's for a Hair-Brush.
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Prayer meetings every Tuesday noon in Prof. Parker's room.

LOCALS.

Got your oration finished?
Wickham is in school again.
The Seniors are grinding again.
The trains are all blockaded to-day.
Rather cold for star-gazing last night.
O. C. Rorabaugh is clerking in a law office in Chicago.
Ask Norman Campbell how he enjoyed his trip to Oxford.
Miss Lizzie Hess will probably not attend school this term.
Ed. Morgan writes that he will probably be back in a few days.
The boys are taking an active interest in the gymnasium this term.
Some of the boys have been under the weather lately. Bad winter for colds.
Glover is in the employ of M. George & Co., commission merchants of Chicago.
The home oratorical contest will take place next Saturday evening at the Opera House.
We are pleased to learn that Miss Rawson, of the Sophomore class, has returned.
C. L. Powell started on a short trip to Illinois last Wednesday. He will be back next week.
Remember the oratorical contest at the Opera House next Saturday night. Admission, 15 cents.
George L. Dillman will not be back this term. He writes that his course is not decided upon.
Miss Anna Hinrichs entertained a small company of friends at her home on Thursday evening.
Miss Hattie Martling, a graduate of Iowa College in '82, is a guest at the home of Prof. Parker.
Prof. Hinrichs gave the Chemistry class a three-days' vacation, this week, "to write up their notes."

The State Oratorical Contest comes off earlier this year than usual. The 1st of February is the time set.

She fell down, got up again, and didn't even look around to see if any one had been watching the performance.

We understand that a number of Dav- enport gymnasts will give an exhibition of their skill here, before many weeks.

Don D. Donnan takes the place as declaimer on the Irving Exhibition programme, made vacant by the resignation of Hal Allen.

On account of the influx of genius this week, Prof. Hinrichs concluded to give his chemistry class a few days in which to assimilate (?).

If you see a man whose face wears the expression of an interrogation point, you may take it for granted that he is going into the oratorical contest.

Miss Rose Southard, who was a member of the present Junior class has a position in the Brooklyn schools. She spent her vacation in Iowa City.

A member of the class in Italian thinks that a knowledge of that tongue will, in the future, greatly facilitate intercourse between himself and his patrons.

Mr. William George has decided not to return to school this year. He goes to Florida for his health. The best wishes of his many friends attend him.

Carl F. Keuhle, of Class '81, has a lucrative position at Denison, Iowa, in a lawyer's office. Carl, we are glad to learn of your success, and hope it may continue.

Miss Sarah A. Pangburn who graduated in the Medical Department in '81, has the position of assistant physician in the Hospital of the Insane at Independence, Iowa.

The home oratorical contest will take place at the Opera House one week from to-night. Considerable interest is being manifested, and many of the boys are beginning to wear anxious faces.

Joseph Gillott & Sons have our thanks for a card of their fine steel pens. No other pen manufactured has as wide a reputation as the Gillott pen, and no other firm patronizes the college press so liberally.

The Juniors held a meeting the latter part of last term, and elected the following officers for the winter term: May Grear, President; Belle Andrews, Vice-President; Mrs. Cochran, Secretary; Jennie Hanford, Treasurer.

We are glad to make known to the many friends of Mr. Fred. Newcomb that he has recently been reelected Business Manager of the *Republican*, at an increased salary, and made one of the Board of Directors of that enterprising journal.

Mason City Express: Will Crane, one of Cerro Gordo's best young men, is up from Iowa University, where he has spent about five years, and is at present successfully filling a professorship. Mr. Crane is a rising young man, of whom

his family and our whole county may justly feel proud.

It gives us pleasure to note the rise of graduates of the University. J. P. Conner a graduate of the Law class of '72 is District Attorney in the thirteenth judicial district. He is also a member of the law firm of Conner & Shaw, of Denison, Iowa.

The Seniors, after many efforts, succeeded in holding a class meeting last Tuesday for the election of officers. The officers for the following term are: President, E. N. Brown; Vice-President, F. L. Haller; Secretary, S. B. Howard; Treasurer, W. H. Cobb; Sergeant-at-Arms, W. M. Walker.

The Rev. Samuel Storrs Howe attended Lieut. Thurston's lecture in Grand Tactics on Thursday, and at the close of the lecture, in response to an invitation from the Lieutenant, gave the boys a very glowing description of the Red Sea, and explained why Moses did not go straight through to the Promised Land. Can any one guess?

Next Monday and Tuesday evenings the "Merchant of Venice" will be presented at the Opera House under the auspices of Trinity Church Guild. All should avail themselves of the opportunity to see Prof. Gibney in his character of *Shylock*. The cast will be made up of the best local talent. The costumes will be elegant, and add to the attractiveness of this always popular Shakesperian play. Admission, parquet and dress circle, 50 cents; gallery, 35 cents. No extra charge for reserved seats. Tickets for sale at Allin, Wilso & Co.'s at 9 A. M. to-day.

MAUD MULLER.

Maud Muller, on a winter's day,
Went out upon the ice to play.
Beneath her Derby gleamed her locks
Of red-banged hair, and her crimson socks.
She straddled about from ten to two,
And then a hole in the ice fell through.
On the bottom of the pond she sat,
As wet and mad as a half-drowned rat.
A man with a hickory pole went there,
And fished her out by her auburn hair.
And her mother is said to have thumped her well,
Though just how hard Miss Maud won't tell;
And hung her over a stove-pipe to dry,
With a thumb in her mouth and a fist in her eye.
Alas for the maiden! alas for the hole!
And 'rah for the man with the hickory pole!
For the truest words of tongue or pen
Are, "A skating girl's like a headless hen."

It seems a character of literature that it becomes pure in proportion as it becomes powerful. While it is the mere vehicle for amusement or the exercise of wit and fancy, it does not care in what degrading quarters its materials are found. But when it feels that its voice is influential and its lessons attended to by a wider audience, it rises to the height of the great office to which it is called, and is dignified because it is conscious of its authority.—*White*.

Oysters at Madame Noel's.

This is the way a man tries to explain the puzzling relations formed by the nuptial tie: I married a widow who had a grown-up daughter. My father visited our home very often, and fell in love with my step-daughter and married her. So my father became my son-in-law, and my step-daughter my mother, because she was my father's wife. Some time afterward my wife had a son; he was my father's brother-in-law, and my uncle, for he was the brother of my step-daughter. My father's wife, *i. e.* my step-daughter, had also a son; he was, of course, my brother, and, at the same time, my grandchild, for he was the son of my daughter. My wife was my grandmother, because she was my mother's mother. I was my wife's husband and grandchild at the same time. And, as the husband of a person's grandmother is his grand-father, I was my own grand-father."

A sophist, wishing to puzzle Thales, the Milesian, one of the wise men of Greece, proposed to him, in rapid succession, the following difficult questions. The philosopher replied to them all without the least hesitation, and with how much propriety and decision our readers can judge for themselves:

What is the oldest of all things?
God; because he always existed.
What is most beautiful?
The world; because it is the work of God.
What is the greatest of all things?
Space; because it contains all that is created.
What is the quickest of all things?
Thought; because in a moment it can fly to the end of the universe.
What is the strongest?
Necessity; because it makes men face all the dangers of life.
What is the most difficult?
To know yourself.
What is the most constant of all things?
Hope; because it still remains with man after he has lost everything else.

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LAW DEPARTMENT

J. W. BOYD, Editor.

PUBLIC OPINION AND THE COURTS.

The telegraph brings word that the Supreme Court of Iowa has held a prohibitory amendment to be of no validity on account of defects in the proceedings preliminary to its submission to the people. These columns would probably not be the appropriate place to discuss the decision, even if the full opinion were accessible, but in view of the comment made in some of the newspapers in anticipation of such possible action, and the severe criticism to which the decision will unquestionably be subjected in many quarters, it is worth considering in what relation the court does stand, regards public opinion, and to what length newspaper criticism may properly go.

That the Judges are not to be looked upon as out of the reach of public comment or opinion must be frankly granted. They are public servants, elected to perform certain duties. Their fitness for the performance of these duties faithfully and ably is proper to be canvassed. If they are unfaithful or incompetent, let it be known, that their places may be filled with abler and better men. Neither is their action in any particular case to be unquestioned as something too sacred to be discussed. If they have erred in the law, let it be made apparent that the error may be corrected in time. There is little to be gained and much to be lost by blindly assenting, with owl-like solemnity, while error is being propounded for truth.

But in criticising the action of the court in a particular case, it is to be remembered that it is not designed, in our form of government, to decide questions of law by popular vote. The Judges are servants of the people, not to carry out the will of the people in each particular case—for, alas! *vox populi, vox Dei*, is but a demagogue's cry—but to perform a higher and more responsible duty, for they are required to take an oath "that without fear, favor, affection, or hope of reward, they will, to the best of their knowledge and ability, administer justice according to the law, equally to the rich and the poor." Whether or not they have faithfully performed this duty, is the only question that can rightly be raised as to their action. It is necessary, therefore, in calling their action in question, to look at it from a legal standpoint. It is certainly not presumptuous to say that no one who has not a legal training is competent to do this. No matter how well informed a man might be, or how able, he would not think of criticising a doctor for using one kind of medicine rather than another, in a particular case, but would leave that to medical experts. Law, like medicine, is a branch of special knowledge and skill. Popular opinion can have no weight with the honest judge. If it seems sometimes that the courts hold them-

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J. W. BOPP, Editor.

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Popular opinion can have no weight with the honest judge. If it seems sometimes that the courts hold them-

selves rather haughtily indifferent to public interests, it must be remembered that by our scheme of government they are, within their limited sphere, made supreme over every power or authority, even that of the collective people, and that in this fact our form of government is thought unique, and superior to any preceding system. There is no longer, among English-speaking peoples, any danger of despotic use of power, except on the part of the popular majority, and against that there is no possible safeguard except in the judiciary. The executive and legislative branches are the subservient tools of the party having the most votes, even though such votes be those of the ignorant and irresponsible, but they can touch no vested or personal right until they have beaten down the bulwarks which law has placed around them. Once that is done, there will be no safety anywhere.

There have been special dangers besetting each step in our progress as a people, and one of the special dangers now seeming to threaten us is a popular contempt for the law and for the results of judicial proceedings. For this courts have been unquestionably somewhat to blame. They have been too narrow, too officious in their reasoning. But the fault no longer rests principally with them. They have become, in the main, liberal and progressive within the narrow limits within which they may move; but to the legislative department has been expressly given the exclusive power to make and alter the laws. If the laws, as they are, produce unexpected and undesirable results, the blame rests on the legislature and the people, to whom it is directly amenable. Unless the court unreasonably and falsely interprets the laws as they are, no blame can attach to it for the result.

If this misfortune to a popular measure should have the effect of calling attention to the slovenly manner in which much of the legislative business is transacted, the inexcusable carelessness with which, in many cases, measures that affect the public welfare are hustled through the legislative assemblies, and induce greater care in selecting men to fill the responsible position of lawmakers, it would not be without great benefit to our State. * * *

Judge Adams on Monday.

Quinton and Tracy spent Sunday in Burlington.

Keep up full interest in the Moot and Club courts.

THE VIDETTE-REPORTER the balance of the year, 75 cents.

The Literary Society starts out in a flourishing condition.

Bingham was badly put out by the loss of his library key on Wednesday.

No definite action taken yet in the organization of a Short-Hand class.

Laws enacted in advance of public sentiment, if prudently administered, improve public manners.

"Wright & Morgan, Attorneys at Law, Wapello, Iowa." From this it appears that W. C. has found a place for his little sled.

We have still a large supply of chromos on hand for those who hand in locals. Bring them in and make your selection.

Norris' best girl has a peculiar way of whistling. One of the Laws has also a peculiar way of whistling. For particulars ask N.

Mr. Traverse E. Stout returned to his class Wednesday, and his hearty welcome indicated the pleasure of the class at his return after his long illness.

The Laws who slipped on the ice during the past week seemed to make about the same remark as a Cad. or Medic would under similar circumstances.

The Chancellor still makes it a point to be at home on Wednesday evening of each week, and is always glad to see members of the class on that evening.

The Chancellor paid a beautiful tribute to the ladies a few days ago, when he said that most of the useful reforms in our land laws were brought about by them.

"Where is the palladium of our liberty?" exclaimed an elocutionary Law recently. Can't say. Haven't seen a single palladium this term. However, we will try to bear it in mind.

Chas. D. Hine, Law '78, a graduate of Yale, has been chosen Secretary of the Board of Education of Connecticut. He has been, since his graduation, practicing at Omaha, Neb.

Don't talk to us about there being too many lawyers. They can't wait until this class gets through, for already Moore has a Justice Court case, in which there is a good fee, whether he wins the case or loses it.

The students from Illinois have organized a club court, whose proceedings are to be conducted according to the laws of that State, with the venue in Cook county. Carrithers, Judge, and H. W. Cole, Clerk.

It now leaks out that the reason Jones was so late in getting back was that he had three Justice Court cases while at his home in Corning, in the southwestern part of this State. Good for Jones—if he got his pay.

Mr. Hanchett has been chosen as the referee in the oratorical contest of the Collegiate Department, next Saturday evening. This is an excellent choice, and a compliment to Mr. Hanchett, for certainly the successful orator at the Inter-State contest last year ought to be a good judge.

In the Burlington *Hawkeye* of last Sunday we find the following personal:

Frank Gray, of Iowa City, is spending a few days in town with his friend Charley Byington.

Mr. Gray was one of the boys who came from "down East," and was consequently unable to spend the holidays at

home. He is a close student, and deserves all the rest which he takes.

J. W. Bopp, of Iowa City, was out on furlough during the holidays, and shook hands with many friends up this way. He is working like a Trojan down there—runs the editorial law department of the college paper, and is also on the staff of the *Daily Republican* as night hawk. With a little more cheek, "Boppo" would make a rustler.—*Mason City Express*.

There is no place like a law school to develop it, and we think that by spring we shall have our sample case full for any emergency.

Prof. Booth's selection of Julius Caesar for elocutionary drill this term is proving very acceptable, and should be attended by all. It will be well worth the time spent on it to hear the comments brought out during the hour, besides the new lights in which many familiar parts appear. The Professor has given this grand old play a great deal of study, and much may be expected from the term's work.

The Chancellor has this week given the class several highly interesting lectures or talks on Justice Courts. Many think they will absorb, so to speak, enough of that kind of knowledge, only to find themselves some day tripped up by some poor excuse of a lawyer, simply because they have never given that attention to the matter which the subject demands. Practice in a Justice Court is simple enough in itself, but there are a good many little loop holes that will bear watching. There is always more than one hole in a skimmer.

Now that the heating apparatus is in good order, some one should be appointed to regulate the temperature and ventilation of the lecture room. As it is now, it is nobody's business to turn steam on or off, or lower or raise a window, but everything is shut down tight in the morning, a full head of steam is turned on till the room is overheated, when a window or two is raised, and part of the class is compelled to sit in a draught, from which they catch cold. At other times they are all left closed until most of the class feel more like going to sleep than paying attention to the lesson, simply from the bad condition of the air in the room. This is all wrong. If the regular janitor cannot look after the room once an hour, we have no doubt there are members of the class who would do it for a reasonable compensation, as others now take charge of the library. It is a matter which demands attention, and, if properly arranged, would add very much to the comfort and health of the class.

Evil is not presumed.—*Coke*, 72.

A general expression is to be construed generally.—*Coke*, 116.

Odious and dishonest acts are not to be presumed in law.—*Coke*, 78.

When the number of witnesses is equal on both sides, the more worthy are to be believed.—*Coke*, 279.

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Something new in fine stationery at
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cream and oysters at Noel's.

Fine stationery, is what you can get at
Allin, Wilson & Co.'s.

Shrader's "N. K." 10-cent cigar
is one of the finest in the market.

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Ladies' plush card cases and
mirrors at Shrader's.

Elegant display of everything in the
jewelry line at Marquardt's.

A fresh supply of "Marie Stuart"
Perfumes at Shrader's.

See Shrader for tooth, nail, cloth,
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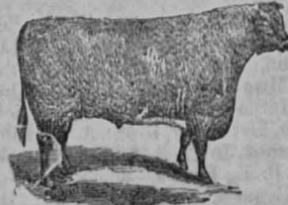
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New class meets at 7:30 Monday evening.

The demand for clerks who are expert Short-Hand writers, is rapidly increasing, and the greater their knowledge of the law the better.

Over sixty persons attended the first meeting of the new class last Monday night. Class meets again Monday evening at lecture room of Commercial College.

Among new students by Correspondence are—

Ben D. Hugel, Clinton, Iowa; Ed. C. Austin, Lineville, Iowa; Sadie E. Harker, Olin, Iowa; E. F. Smith, Kalona, Iowa; Miss Prelun, Eagle Grove, Iowa; L. B. Hathaway, Reinbeck, Ia.; Michael Condon, Lytle City, Iowa; A. H. Gillette, Mt. Vernon, Iowa; J. A. Kirby, Keokuk, Iowa; F. E. Brown, Washburn, Iowa; Isaac Bennett, New York, Iowa; H. C. White, Ida Grove, Iowa; J. E. Brooks, Leon, Iowa; M. C. O'Hara, Wyoming, W. W. Rynor, Lineville, Iowa; Horace Potter, Gilman, Iowa; D. A. Gregg, West Liberty, Iowa; M. W. Ryerson, Omaha, Neb.; Chas. T. Reynolds, North Auburn, Neb.; W. G. Knight, Lincoln, Ill.; Nellie F. Paine, Lewiston, Me.; O. L. McCune, Niles, Mich.; Saville Johnson, Port Byron, Ill.; H. F. Merrill, Berkeley, Cal.; S. C. Cremer, Maddenville, Penn.

A practicing lawyer could well afford to give a thousand dollars for a knowledge of Short-Hand.

JNO. F. DUNCOMBE.

I would advise Law students who have a fair opportunity of becoming expert in Short-Hand to do so.

JUDGE McCRARY.

In law practice Short-Hand is a prime necessity. No student will ever regret the time and slight expense necessary to acquire the art.

COL. CLARKE.

I certainly think there is no other one thing that equals this art in giving a lawyer who passes it advantage over another who does not.

JUDGE LOVE.

I take pleasure in endorsing the School of Short-Hand under the management of Mr. Eldon Moran, and in recommending it especially to law students. It appears to me that any practitioner, who has made even moderate attainment in stenography, must derive no inconsiderable advantage from it.

JUDGE ADAMS.

My experience in public life has convinced me of the great importance and benefit of acquiring a knowledge of Short-Hand writing. The want of a personal knowledge of the subject has caused me much inconvenience, and I would earnestly advise young gentlemen studying law to learn it.

Gov. KIRKWOOD.

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VOL. XV.

The Vidette-Reporter

ISSUED EVERY SATURDAY AFTERNOON

During Collegiate Year S. U. I. Office in Republican Building, Washington

S. B. HOWARD, '83. I. B. RICHMAN C. W. WILCOX, '85. RUSH C. LAKE, J. T. CHRISCHILLES, '84. Managing Editor

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Iowa City, I.

A CRITIC of one of the London de speaking of musical performers, "Take away the fiddle or the piano what remains?" In the line of instrumental music we might answer scarcely anything remains. It is that occasionally a cornet soloist appears but there are few really fine cornetists compared to the number of equally fine pianists or violinists. Where are numerous other instruments, and are they not used? Fashion changes most everything else occasionally why not this? It is true that far east fashion does have something to with the kind of music that prevails there is no radical change. One reason why the piano holds its sway so presently, is the fact that those instruments are so expensive; changes are impossible except with the rich. The opposite reason may explain why the violin remains universally popular; they are cheap every lady can have one. The piano and violin may perhaps be the finest instruments, still in this their monopoly attention some other instrument must have a share; the result would be the light of the public and popularity of artist.

A WRITER in THE VIDETTE-REPORTER the college paper at Iowa City, contributes an article to that journal under caption, "Gambetta, Skobelev & Co, the course of which he says:

Germany has indeed reason to feel relieved at the death of such a man, only as a respectable person will feel relieved when the police lay hands on ruffian who insults peaceful people.

This is a brutal sentiment, and it comes from no spot outside of France itself, where it would have been more popular than in America.—Dubuque Times.

The Times evidently thinks that a truth must not be spoken, if it runs counter to a widespread prejudice. The article was written because of that prejudice and the information of just such well intentioned but misinformed people as person who penned the above item.