

The Vidette-Reporter.

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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.

J. T. CHRISCHILLES, '84.

Managing Editors.

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THE VIDETTE-REPORTER,
Iowa City, Iowa.

We regard it within the province of a College paper to criticise, if need be, the habits of the few students, who, in leaving their homes, left their gentility and forgot the rudiments of etiquette that may have once strayed into their lives. We remark that we ourselves do not profess to be faultless nor immaculate, nor do we expect others to be utterly blameless. But what rule of conduct, what *rigime* of etiquette is that which permits a man to not only leave the remnants of cigars and the surplus of disgusting saliva upon the floor of the lecture room, but also *quids of tobacco*, the unseemly presence of which greets the succeeding class? This state of affairs is found to exist on entering the chemical lecture room, for the eleven o'clock recitation. It is unnecessary to add that the preceding class is from the Medical Department. If the characters who have indulged themselves to the above extent, will cease such conduct, they will have advanced a step nearer to true gentlemen, besides conferring a favor upon the ladies of all classes that are obliged to enter such rooms.

INVESTIGATIONS lately carried on in the Boston Public Library bring to light the fact that many volumes of books and many periodicals of an objectionable nature, are there for free distribution. It appears that Boston annually pays about thirty thousand dollars for reading matter for her people, a large proportion of which is unfit for decent people to read. This is certainly deplorable, as thought James M. Hubbard, who is officially connected with the Library, and under whose direction the investigations are progressing. Several thousand volumes of magazines and papers, chiefly devoted to stories, have been in the reading-rooms, where free access is given to children, who read them in vast numbers. But it seems that heretofore no competent judges have determined as to the fitness of these papers for general reading. But now it is gratifying to know that steps are being taken to weed out

the objectionable books and papers, and already many volumes have been withdrawn from circulation. Mr. Hubbard bases his objections to that class of fiction "which people of modern habits of thought are prone to consider hurtful," on the ground that if people will read such literature, they ought to pay for it out of their own pockets, and not expect the city to furnish it. Any movement that tends toward the banishment of literary trash and the wider distribution of pure and elevating literature, is to be hailed with delight by all good citizens. The influence of such an institution as the Boston Public Library is incalculable, and for the safety of the commonwealth which supports it, that influence ought to be for the good.

New members of the literary societies are confronted with the perplexing problem of selecting a question for debate. The objection very often raised is, that the question has been worn thread bare, and all the arguments are of a stereotyped character. It matters not if students before us have debated these same questions, and used the same arguments which must now be advanced in the discussion.

Do we not all study the same declension and conjugation which have been studied by our predecessors? Are they any easier because they have been studied before, and is their disciplinary value for us lessened on that account? So it is in debating. There are certain routes over which we all must pass; and the only manner in which we can expel is to observe carefully the points of a question. Questions of government, of social science, and of political economy are living questions, and should not be abandoned. In these there are changes going on, either of a progressive or retrogressive character, and it is our duty to inform ourselves, and discuss such questions in order that we may intelligently form our opinions concerning them. There is, however, a class of questions which involve the study of history from a theological as well as a political standpoint which it would be for the debater's advantage to study. In preparing for the discussion of a question of this sort we have the enthusiasm of a person desiring to win, and our minds are alert to the true bearing of every point. The facts will be more easily retained, and our knowledge of history will become more extended than if we simply read for the sake of gaining information. Then be not discouraged if new questions seem scarce take an old question, and if new arguments are to be found, find them; if not advance the old ones in as original a manner as possible.

Why do you smoke a poor cigar, when you can get a "Punch" or a "Pappoose" for 5 cents at Rigg's Drug Store, 113 Clinton street?

The January number of the *Byra Theta Pi* (a prominent fraternity periodical) reviews at length a recent book by Mr. E. E. Aiken, entitled "The Secret Society System." The real character, end, and aim of college fraternity organizations is so well set forth in the columns of the *Byra Theta Pi* that we are led to make liberal extracts therefrom.

"In a word," says this journal in one place, "secrecy in college fraternities is a pure humbug, and the sooner they cease to call them secret the better. There is no element of real secrecy about them. Their members are known, and they wear prominent emblems that they may be known. The times and places of their meetings are a secret to nobody with curiosity enough to ask about them. Their journals (and the very idea of a secret society having a newspaper is absurd) discuss their order of exercises and the doings of their conventions. If Mr. Aiken's information had been wider he would hardly have devoted twenty pages of his little book to a state of things which no longer exists."

Elsewhere we note the following: "The subject of the second chapter (of Mr. Aiken's book) is the 'Intellectual Relations.' The first sentence in it is, 'The secret societies are claimed to be substitutes for the literary societies.' Who claims it? The societies at Yale, and at most of the New England colleges and a few in the Middle States, have really done much to lessen the influence of the old literary organizations. But a somewhat intimate acquaintance with the doings of the fraternities will permit us to assert that but three fraternities can be pointed to in support of this statement, and these are $\Lambda \Delta \Phi$, $\Delta \kappa \epsilon$, and $\Psi \Upsilon$. And even some of their chapters must be counted out. But without such deduction, the aggregate number of chapters in these three societies is sixty-four, while that of the remaining fraternities is not far from six hundred. The $\Lambda \Delta \Phi$ distinctly claims to be a literary society, and so practically do $\Psi \Phi$ and $\Delta \kappa \epsilon$. The chapters of these three societies have too many members to realize our 'ideally perfect' chapter. But their very size enables them to encourage a literary activity which is not usual in other chapters. The old literary societies in New England, to which Mr. Aiken doubtless refers in making his broad statement, have outlived their usefulness. They were schools of oratorical exercise, and oratory itself is losing its value. The newspaper has taken the place of rostrum. This is one reason for the decline of the literary societies. Another is to be found in the unwieldy nature of such societies and the resemblance of their exercise to those of the class-room. The chapters of the three fraternities mentioned give a better and closer literary training than the older organizations ever did, and no one ever regretted their

but older alumni, full of regret for all the inconsistent, impracticable, and useless things of the 'good old times.'"

The conclusion arrived at by the *Byra Theta Pi*, after a full discussion of the subject, is that "The college fraternity system is daily growing stronger. Its members are daily perceiving with increasing clearness what a wonderful engine for good it can become. It unites the colleges, and the increasing liberality and Pan-Hellenic spirit among fraternity men can have no other result than greatly to increase its power, and confirm its tendency for good. Educators are beginning to see that it is a powerful aid to discipline, and that it is aiding the colleges by attracting relatives of alumni, by keeping the colleges ever fresh in the minds of its former students, graduates or not, and by cultivating an acquaintance among educated men. The President of the United States, the judges of the Supreme Court, the members of the Senate and the House, the governors of the commonwealth, the presidents of colleges, the heads of churches, and hundreds of ministers of the Gospel are members of these fraternities, and encourage and help them. Can an intelligent public believe that a system such as Mr. Aiken says this produces such men?"

The contest of the S. U. I. Oratorical Association last Saturday evening, and the speakers were greeted with a full house. The band opened the exercises with an overture, which was followed by the invocation by Prof. Parsons, of the M. E. Church. The first speaker was Miss Mina Selby, whose subject was "The Teacher Poet." She brought out the characteristics of Holland in a manner which showed that she had made a thorough study of the subject, and her delivery was very pleasing. P. S. Galer followed with "Gustavus Adolphus," a carefully written oration, but the effect was measured by the monotonous tone of voice in which he delivered it. The next speaker was J. T. Chrischilles, who expressed his ideas on "Gladstone," in well chosen and effective language. His delivery did not equal the excellence of the subject matter of his oration. S. B. Howard spoke on "Individualism," and had the advantage of his competitors in the excellence of his thought and style, while his delivery in some particulars was very forcible. W. M. Walker ended the programme with an oration on "The Modern Impulse, Its Origin and Influence." Mr. Walker sustained his former reputation in his delivery, though his subject matter was not quite so good. The programme was interspersed at frequent intervals with music by the University Band, which merited the many compliments bestowed upon it. The judges were Geo. W. Ball, F. G. Hanchett, and Dr. E. F. Clapp, who rendered the decision in favor of S. B. Howard, an action generally approved. The second honors were bestowed upon W. M. Walker, and the third upon J. F. Chrischilles. Mr. Frank Leonard, President of the Association, presided.

THE MODERN IMPULSE—ITS ORIGIN AND INFLUENCE.

[Oration, delivered by W. M. WALKER, who received second honor at the S. U. I. Oratorical Contest, January 27th, 1883.]

The progress of the world has not been by accident. In the bitter schools of suffering and experience, humanity has learned the value of its beliefs. Grecian philosophy sprang from the genius which drove back the Persian invader. Roman polity and jurisprudence rose from the tumult of her battle fields and the conflicts of her forum. Thus it has been with the growth of modern ideas. Every principle that has attained recognition by the human race has passed through the fiery crucible of persecution and defeat. The one marked tendency of history has been toward a broader expansion of thought, a wider acceptance of truth. We may trace the operations of this principle through all the long course of human development, from chattelhood to liberty, from the depths of savagery to the heights of civilization.

Examined by the light of a single century, history seems to present a record of strange discoveries in science, of unexpected revelations in philosophy, of mysterious changes in government; but, in reality it is not so. While creeds and forms and charters have stood still, the great thinking brain of humanity has been toiling onward. Through centuries of seeming ignorance and superstition, which sought to destroy liberty and to extinguish forever the beacon lights of progress, mankind was slowly learning to grasp the great principle of human equality—that higher than slavery was human freedom, that higher than wrong was the eternal right. That idea, born from the cruelties of the scourge and lash, cradled in the strong arms of revolution, rocked into power by the whirlwind and the storm, heralded an epoch in human progress—the grandest that the world has ever seen since the morning stars first chanted together their songs of joy. It was the initial force of a new civilization, and through widening circles of land and sea it aroused patriotism, kindled anew the altars of religion, inspired poetry to sing and philosophy to think.

Through long periods of time the nations had been groping blindly in the gloom of barbarism. The wisest statesmen of antiquity had never risen to the sublime heights of a freedom that was for all men, a liberty that was universal. The political fabric was founded upon a recognition of the "divinity of kings." If this fostered lofty civic virtues, its influence never reached the masses. The millions of humanity remained the willing subjects of blind credulity, the tool of demagogues, the slave of despots. Christianity, it is true, had come with nobler teachings, but it was engrafted upon the already decaying trunk of Roman imperialism, and as a reforming agency it lost its power. It produced neither morals, nor worship, nor charity. It froze; it destroyed; it never gave life.

The impulse that was to destroy despotism and revolutionize society, was not born from the creeds of Catholicism.

It had a wider origin. Its source was as deep as the evils which it sought to overcome. It sprang from the sublime courage, the vast endurance of the past, and the resistless activities of the future. Against the restrictive tendencies of the age it was a reaction. It asserted itself in rebellions and revolutions; the fixed forms of government were broken up; the shackles of thought were swept away. An age of despotism was succeeded by an age of free institutions. The fore-gleams of a universal liberty had already illumined the political horizon of the world. What wonder that long-repressed energies sprang into life, that hidden forces found a vast development! What wonder that modern civilization had its origin in the newly awakened energies of that exultant age! Mankind was free; thought was supreme; and from the cottage to the throne the impulse swept with a reviving, regenerating life.

The reforming spirit of that impulse has never ceased to act. From its very nature it has been positive in its tendencies and practical in its results. It has broadened the basis of government, purified religion and given to the world a progressive faith. Under its influence the privileges of the few have been exchanged for the chartered rights of the many. A higher fealty to truth has permeated society. A faint consciousness of the inalienable rights of man, as man, has dawned upon the public mind. Compare the achievements of the era that has passed, since the spirit of the Reformation swept over Europe, with the grandest epochs of Roman or Grecian thought, and you are forced to the conclusion that in the great succession of historic forces, the modern Christian impulse stands supreme. It has survived resistance. It has triumphed over opposition. Upon all the various activities of the present age we may still trace the impress of its power. The world's great thinkers have been summoned from their books and the direction of human progress has been entrusted to their care. The monopoly of learning has given place to a universal diffusion of intelligence, and human inquiry has ceased to be a crime. Freed from the restraints that a bigoted priesthood had so long put upon their investigations, science and philosophy have joined hands with religion and gone forth to enlighten the world.

But, whatever may have been its victories in extending the limits of human knowledge, the great mission of this impulse has been to improve and elevate the humblest of the race. We are beginning to learn that human intelligence is not restricted to the mansion; that under the thatched roof of the cottage there are thinking brains and throbbing hearts. Statesmen no longer seek political tranquility in the corruption and debasement of the poor. The old systems of oppressive legislation have been swept away. The firmest support of a just government has been found, not in the valor of armies, nor in the number of ships, but in the strong arms of an educated peasantry. Guided by the teachings of experience and history, we have come to a realization of the fact, that the brawn and muscle of the people is the

only basis upon which a nation can make itself truly great. If England is the industrial work-shop of the world; aye! if her army of poets and statesmen and thinkers are among the intellectual leaders in the great confederation of mankind, it is because, from the bowels of the earth, his hands stained with the dirt of honest toil, the English laborer mines the coal, which sends the bright shuttle flashing through the loom. Every triumph of modern industry, every smoking furnace and humming factory that has resulted in giving added dignity to labor, has been a step onward in the great movement which is elevating the race. What a vast gulf rolls between the skilled artisans and mechanics of the present time, and the wild, warring, servile throng, which made up the common people of the feudal age!

The impulse, which has produced these improvements in the condition of humanity, in the centuries that have passed, is able to produce still further improvements in the long ages of the future. Under its guidance, we are hastening onward to a brighter day, when government shall be freed from the monopoly and corruption which still prevails; when civilization shall be yet more expanded and progressive; and, when the religion, for which Luther prayed, and Cromwell fought, and Orange died, shall make the "wilderness of heathenism bloom and join all nations in the bonds of a single faith."

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GLADSTONE.

[Oration, delivered by J. T. CHRISCH who received third honor at the S. U. I. Oratorical Contest, January 27th, 1883.]

There is a tendency in modern society towards symmetrical development. This tendency has stamped its impress upon the character of our age. In the world has presented two distinct classes of society—the ignorant masses toiling dumbly for the wages of servitude and the cultured few weaving images of beauty and thoughts of gold from leisure bought with the toil of slavery. There were only two ways by which a genius could reach the laurel of greatness, and of these, one led straight to the despot's throne through sickening scenes of slaughter; the other to a favored position at the feet of royalty by the subtle winding path of praise and flattery. This accounts for the romantic literature of the past. It explains why the men of great military heroes has come down to us woven in song and chiseled in marble. To-day genius finds a thousand avenues to fame, and seeks its greatness in the blessings it bestows upon society. Yesterday it acquired glory in a single field; to-day it seeks perfection in wide domains of science, literature, and art. Once it centered its mighty power in a single mind; to-day it gives its thoughts to a thousand names. From the brains of an army of thinkers flow thoughts that advance society. In an army the statesman holds his high rank. Others think, he must act; others hew the blocks, he must build them into the symmetrical structure of the State. Whoever is able to do this well, from conflicting materials at his hand, well deserves the gratitude of society. In no statesman has succeeded better than William Gladstone.

At the threshold of public life, when all eyes were turned toward him as the idol of his party, Gladstone laid aside Tory principles and renounced the traditions of his youth. In the great conflict of his age, he saw the struggle of principles which had fiercely disputed at every step of the world's progress. It was the old conflict of the new against the old of Radicalism against Conservatism. With the insight of a great mind, he saw that both had benefitted society; that when properly balanced against each other, progress had been steady and healthy. At that moment his decision was made. He closed his eyes to the glittering prizes ambition offered as the reward of party service, and took his stand as the champion of the people's rights and the herald of true progress.

Among the abuses of legislation which stained the fair name of England, Gladstone saw none so dark as the despot's treatment of unhappy Ireland. Across the sea, from her beggared people, came the cry of poverty and the wail of discontent. For centuries that wail had mingled with the plaintive music of the sea, but never before had it reached the ear of an English statesman, whose soul

SMITH & MULLIN

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could feel the sorrow of which it told. Gladstone heard, and resolved to strike terrible blows at the crust of Conservatism, until the evils of Irish legislation should be replaced by the policy of liberal government. He saw an established church maintained by the robbery of the poor, and collecting its tithes at the point of the bayonet, from a people who cursed it. England had failed to learn one great lesson from the history of the past. She had failed to learn that a religion cannot be forced upon a people by the argument of arms. Attempts to do this in the past had filled centuries with horror, and written the blackest pages of history. But deaf to the voice of experience, England has struggled to maintain the Irish church, with the same terrible result. You may enslave a people and rob them until the spectre of famine crouches at every fireside, before human endurance gives way in rebellion; but attempt to lay the hand of power on the altars of their faith, and you arouse a resistance which no army can quell. As Protestants, we glory in the courage which sent our martyrs to the stake, and curse the Catholic church for the awful cruelty it inflicted; but if we will turn to the history of Ireland, we shall see our own church enacting deeds as horrible as any that scourged humanity in the darkest days of the Inquisition. Under the protecting power of the English Parliament, the Irish state church for centuries did more than any other abuse to render Ireland poverty-stricken and rebellious. When the great Commoner arose in Parliament to demand its abandonment, Ireland saw a great star of hope rising from the midst of her oppressors; she saw in this act only the first of many reforms which would gradually lead her people out to the blessings of liberal government. The Irish church went down, and Gladstone next turned to the ignorant laboring classes which formed the great sub-stratum of English society. Step by step he has led this class out of the slough of contempt, to which the prejudice of centuries had consigned it, until the English laborer no longer toils as a slave in the workshops and collieries of England.

Human progress has received a mighty impulse. Despotism has gone down before the march of liberal ideas in every influential nation of the world, but nowhere do we see a more steady development than the English nation presents. One by one her grand reforms have been wrested from king, church, and nobles, till now the English constitution stands before the world the survivor of a hundred conflicts, the pride of Britain, and the conservator of the people's rights. How much Gladstone has done to build up that constitution will not be understood by the world until his work passes into history.

It is customary to criticise the living and laud the dead. Humanity looking along the pathway of the ages bows with reverence o'er the graves of its departed heroes, but its dull vision cannot pierce

the mist of prejudice with which it enshrouds its living characters. It is only after the bitterness and hatred of party strife have passed away, that the great actors in the struggle can be judged with fairness. Every step in England's progress has been won by a desperate battle. Magna Charta, Religious Toleration, and the Reform bill are no trifles. They were fought for by great, earnest men who had only the welfare of England at heart. And yet their countrymen have been ungrateful. Gladstone is no exception. No man ever did England greater service, and perhaps no man has been more fiercely censured. The reforms he has introduced have looked to the elevation of the lower classes, at the expense of the traditions and privileges of the aristocracy. The aristocracy despise him, but the people love him as a father. Ask the poor Irish tenant who responded to his plaintive supplication in the Parliament of England; ask the English peasant whose voice was raised for his emancipation; ask the London collier who provided for the education of his children—and the lips that once cursed a tyrannical government will speak with gratitude the name of Gladstone.

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Don't fail to hear Alice Oates at the Opera House to-night.

Miss Lathrop is not able to attend recitations on account of sickness.

Miss Prof. Smith returned from St. Louis on Tuesday of this week.

Douglass Terry will spend Sunday in Wilton among his many friends.

A couple of Freshmen treated a certain Senior to water. He did not drink it either.

Fred Flickering, of the Freshman class is confined to his room on account of rheumatism.

Carl Pomeroy was active at the State convention in securing the admission of Callanan College.

The Lieutenant gave the Juniors a fine compliment upon their recitation in Tactics this week.

Ask Miss C—— why she was so frightened on entering the Chemistry class last Thursday?

Frank E. Day has gone to Cedar Rapids to spend Sunday with his parents and look after his interests.

Mr. W. H. Norris, of Law class of '82, reports a growing business in his chosen profession at Manchester, Iowa.

Prof. Parker, of Independence, and Prof. Graves, of Ackley, were among the visitors of the S. U. I. this week.

The band will soon discourse the sweet strains of "In the Gloaming," and other popular music which has just been ordered.

Gen. Weaver made many friends among the students by his kindly manner, and by his warm appreciation of the college spirit.

Contempt for one's studies is wrong; familiarity breeds contempt; ergo, one should not be familiar with his studies.—Senior.

Miss Belle Stewart, the orator from Coe College, received many compliments, and represented that growing institution with great credit.

The most masterly and attractive work in Political Economy we have seen recently is Prof. Walker's (Yale)—just published.

Don't fail to hear the grandest scenic and dramatic picture of the age, Herne's Hearts of Oak, at the Opera House, Tuesday Eve., February 6th.

A party of students that were out sleigh-riding one day last week collided with another party much to the terror of the fair sex. Fortunately no serious accident resulted.

The ladies of Callanan College went down to the contest at Indianola in a body. They made a fine appearance, and won many compliments for their college.

In the nine contests held since the organization of the Iowa Collegiate Association, the State University has taken three first prizes, and second every other time except once.

Students, if you would take more exercise and occupy your spare time in recitations, instead of sitting by the fire, you would be able to go to more recitations and feel better.

Two of the Preston boys, and McCloud are on the sick list. A good many are complaining, and at this season of the year particular care should be exercised to guard against taking cold.

Mr. J. H. Dickey, of the Freshman class, has for the past week been confined to his room on account of a severe attack of lung fever. We are glad, however, to report that he is convalescent, and hope to see him in school soon.

A sagacious classic Fresh has discovered that *id* is the "root" or *alpeid*, as well as of "all evil." Another declares that he would rather *carry ice* all day than decline *Xapiez*. Dost see the point? Yes, *ici*.

The Freshmen business. In spite of the jeers of the Sophs they are going to have a sociable. Committees were appointed yesterday to make arrangements for the great event. The Freshmen say it will be the finest affair of the season.

That the fame of the University has gone abroad, the following incident bears witness: At the reception some Simpson students came up to the Iowa City delegates and asked them if they represented the S. U. I. Being answered in the affirmative, they explained their question by saying that they had heard so much about the University that they just

wanted to see what kind of men it really did send out.

The *Iowa State Daily Register* is on file in the library from the date of the decision of the Supreme Court in the Amendment case. The paper of January 19th contains both opinions in full. The comments of the *Register* and of State press at large, quoted in its columns, are interesting reading, and everyone who wishes to be considered as posted upon this question will of course desire to read the opinions. The *Register* will be kept on file hereafter.

Our orator and delegates met with a hearty reception upon their return. The two literary societies headed by the S. U. I. band, marched down about half past ten to Mr. Howard's room. A committee was sent up to bring him out, and upon his appearance he was greeted with a "hip, hip, hurrah for the champion orator of Iowa." The procession then proceeded to Madam's, where refreshments were supplied. Messrs. Howard, Walker, Chrischilles responded to calls for speeches, and after many warm congratulations over S. U. I. victories, present, past, and future, the boys adjourned.

For the benefit of new students, and of old ones having defective memories, we will repeat the library rules as to privileges: "Students of the law and medical departments, and of all collegiate classes below the Senior, are admitted inside the bar to examine books on the shelves *only upon Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings*; at all other times they should ask the librarian for such books as are wanted, reference books and periodicals being kept in the reading room are at all times accessible to all. No continued conversation nor study in groups is permitted. We rank this as a privilege on the score of the resulting quiet which is expected to prevail, and in which all may share.

The Sophomores held a lively and interesting meeting Thursday afternoon, and elected officers for this term as follows: President, Miss Loring; First Vice-President, Miss Ross; Second Vice-President, Miss Rankin; Secretary, Miss Goodwin; Treas., Miss Mitchell. The most important business transacted, besides the election of officers, was the appointment of a committee to make arrangements for a sleigh-ride, which will come off as soon as the weather permits, which will be next July, judging by present indications. But the Sophomores were wise in commencing in due season. Their caution in this respect will doubtless insure the complete success which has heretofore attended all their enterprises, the fates and the Freshmen being propitious.

Oysters at Madame Noel's.

Try some of Rigg's Cough Cure.

Largest line of gold pens at Marquardt's.

The finest and largest assortment of Christmas cards, to be found at Lee's.

STATE ORATORICAL CONTEST.

The State University Again to the Front.

Last Wednesday the trains entering Indianola were freighted with students hastening to the scene of action to prepare for the battle of Thursday. Everybody was excited, and the delegates from the various colleges were busily engaged in laying their wires to secure the honors in the next day's convention. Upon arriving at Indianola, we were met by a committee of reception from Simpson College, and assigned places of entertainment. In the evening a reception was held at the college for the orators and delegates. After the audience had assembled in the chapel, Mr. Everly, president of the evening, introduced Mr. C. H. Evans, who welcomed the orators and delegates in a few well chosen words, to which Mr. G. W. White, of Cornell College, responded in a happy speech in behalf of the visiting colleges. The President then introduced Prof. B. C. Mathews, who, under the pretense of giving a few "words of cheer," took occasion to display his learning in a lengthy and irrelevant lecture, with the evident intention of *impressing* the foreigners. He began with the Iowa Collegiate Association, then gave us a detailed history of Greece and a biography of all her celebrated characters—except the one he forgot. He next dragged us about the ruins of Rome for awhile, and finally got down to the discussion of American ladies' toilets. After this brilliant display, the audience proceeded to the society halls, where a couple of hours were very pleasantly spent in making acquaintances and discussing the prospects of the rival orators.

Thursday morning the convention met in the college chapel. Representatives from eleven colleges were present. The Simpson students and the citizens of Indianola manifested their interest in the proceedings of the association by filling the large chapel room almost completely. At ten o'clock President Kessell called the representatives to order, and the business of the meeting began. From the first there seemed to be a purpose upon the part of some to undertake to set down on the University. Remembering the result of last year's contest a number of colleges were inclined to refuse even the most just demands from our delegates. There was a warm fight, but the University finally succeeded in carrying its point. By a vote of the convention the executive committee were instructed to secure a new judge in place of Mr. Russell.

Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:

President, E. C. Saunderson, Oskaloosa; Vice-President, Edward Beyer, Central University; Secretary and Treasurer, S. W. Wyatt, U. I. U.

Geo. White, of Cornell, was elected as delegate to the Inter-State, and the contest for next year was located at Ames. While the executive committee were, we think, wrong upon some points, yet they

made excellent officers, and showed they were well-fitted for their position.

At eight o'clock in the evening Opera House was full with not a seat vacant. After music Mr. Kessell, president of the Association introduced the speakers in the following order:

Miss Erville A. Harris, subject, "Modern Progress;" S. B. Howard, "Individualism;" Miss Aggie M. West, "Charles Corday;" H. H. Kennedy, "The ending Monument;" L. B. Avery, "Plus tra;" H. F. Kling, "Elements of Progress;" Ernest O'Neal, "Social Materialism;" Geo. W. Jones, "Tragedy Skeptic;" V. A. Carlton, "Man a Progressive Being;" Miss Belle Stewart, "Nature and Revelation;" J. S. Dent, "The Price of Truth;" J. H. Danaher, "Caledonia."

Mr. Howard received first honors; M. Kling, of Fayette, second; Miss Erville A. Harris, of Oskaloosa, third. The announcement of the decision, giving Mr. Howard first honors, was received with great enthusiasm and applause, indicating that in the minds of his hearers he was justly entitled to the position given him by the judges. The *Des Moines Register*, in a report of the contest speaks in high terms of Mr. Howard's oration and ability, and says that he made a splendid impression on the audience, winning by solid merit first honors. The markings of the judges will be given next week.

ORATORICAL JOKES.

Moses, what an ear!

"An infamous insult."

"Look out for those Iowa City fellows."

A slippery deligate—that man from Pella.

The longest pole takes the persimmons.

"Say something real nice about the Callanan girls."—S. U. I. Orator.

Musician, poet, parliamentarian, but a second class orator.—Fayette.

"Every cause has had a champion." Even Callanan finds in C. an advocate.

Vigilance, eternal vigilance, is the price of going as an Inter-State delegate.

Simpson men complain that while they were watching Pella Callanan got away.

"Suffering is a necessity of advancement;" if you don't believe it look at W——'s ears.

Let us rally around our glorious executive committee—Sandstone, chairman Oskaloosa delegation.

The S. U. I. delegates confess that if they could stay at Des Moines, "life would be worth living."

One of the delegates at Indianola desires to be informed whether an amendment or the original motion is voted on first.

It took three of the fair Callananites to keep Loomis, of Grinnell, straight, but he kicked when it came to paying their 'bus fare.

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CONTEST.

to the Front.

trains entering with students action to pre- saturday. Every- delegates from busily engaged ure the honors. Upon ar- were met by a from Simpson faces of enter- g a reception for the orators audience had Mr. Everly, pre- introduced Mr. ed the orators l chosen words, uite, of Cornell nappy speech in ges. The Presi- of. B. C. Math- ense of giving a ook occasion to a lengthy and the evident in- foreigners. He legiate Associa- ailed history of of all her cele- t the one he for- about the ruins finally got down merican ladies' ant display, the e society halls, were very pleas- quaintances and of the rival ora-

convention met Representatives re present. The e citizens of In- r interest in the iation by filling most completely. at Kessell called order, and the g began. From o be a purpose to undertake to nity. Remember- year's contest a e inclined to re- demands from our a warm fight, but succeeded in car- vote of the con- committee were w judge in place

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It took three of the fair Callananites to keep Loomis, of Grinnell, straight, but he kicked when it came to paying their 'bus fare.

Strange, wasn't it, that the Iowa City and Grinnell Juniors should both have been so enthusiastic in favor of having the contest at Des Moines next year.

One of our delegates says it does not pay to get mashed on a girl that lives twenty-five blocks up town, when the thermometer is thirty degrees below zero.

This is what an S. U. I. delegate was humming to himself on the way home: "My heart is at Callanan, my heart is not here, my heart is at Callanan, a chasing the deer."

One of the fair delegates was heard to remark to a large crowd of girls right after the convention, "some how or other those Iowa City fellows always get there."

The following applies well to W—'s ears:

Lift them up tenderly,
Handle with care;
Fashioned so slenderly (?),
Hung out in the air,—to freeze.

Coming home the business manager of the *Republican* was so interested in a game of euchre, that he handed the conductor the right bower when asked for his ticket.

THE VIDETTE-REPORTER Law man and the *Republican* manager on Wednesday deemed themselves invulnerable. On Friday they barely escaped missing the train while trying to arrange with the fair ones for a visit to Des Moines next week.

C. was so far gone that he was overheard arranging to stay over until next week, in order to investigate, as he said, the Callanan College educational system. His room-mate, fortunately, was able to take him by main force, and get him into the train.

"Put some sponges in her bustle,
She is going out to skate;
She will need their yielding softness,
When she tries the figure eight."

"Hearts of Oak," as given by Mr. Jas. A. Herne's company, was accorded a hearty reception last evening by a large audience at Colonel Sinn's Brooklyn Park Theatre. The picturesque drama, which was handsomely mounted, was artistically rendered by Mr. Herne, Miss Katharine Corcoran, and the other members. Since the presentation of "Hearts of Oak" in that city last season, several novel effects have been introduced in the stage machinery. An opportunity will be afforded the patrons of the Park to enjoy the popular play at the evening performances and at the Wednesday and Saturday matinees of the present week.—*New York Herald*, Sept. 13, 1881.

A COMPARATIVE DEGREE.

Miss Emma Blank, tutor at Vassar,
Once said to a Cornell professor,
"I should like a degree,
And I think that M. D.
Would make me a happy possessor."

The Professor, like a bold chevalier,
As he drew up his chair somewhat near,
Said, "Of greater degree
Shall you be than M. D.,
I confer the degree, Emma Dear."—*Record*.

LAW DEPARTMENT.

J. W. BOPP, Editor.

Eick can tell all about getting up these cold mornings.

The Short-Hand class is well pleased with its work so far.

We are short on locals and long on juries this week. Experimental local.

Mr. Morse has been kept rather close by sickness in his family during the past week.

Lay the absence of more locals to our absence at the State contest at Indianola this week.

Dr. J. F. Sanborn, lecturer in the Dental Department, S. U. I., was a visitor on Monday.

To move or not to move the Law Literary into one of the other society halls seems to be the question.

We are prepared to exchange photos and certificates of good moral character with members of the class.

Duncomb has quietly folded his paper collar about him and gone home. He will probably not be back this year—"some other year, perhaps."

Mr. Carrithers has been unable to be out most of the past week. Quite a number of the boys are only just able to keep moving. Sitting in warm rooms for hours, and then going out into the severe cold, is what does it.

The Law school at Ann Arbor has a twelve months course instead of nine, as we do. The principal difference between nearly all the two-year schools and ours is that they take three months more time than we do to go over the same schedule of studies which we have in nine months.

Programme of Law Literary for next Friday evening:

Declamation—Rice.
Debate—*Resolved*, That Protection does not increase the purchasing power of wages. Affirmative: Tallifson, Ross, and Baldwin. Negative: Nichols, Carleton, and Erwin.
Oration—Stout.

Some of the best members of the class are forming small private literary societies, in which each one delivers, in an off-hand way, a five or ten minutes' talk on some subject to which he has given some thought. It seems to be a good idea, and is well liked by those who have tried it. Five or six members are enough.

Among odd verdicts noted in a recent exchange, we find the following: "The deceased came to his death by excessive drinking, producing apoplexy in the minds of the jury." In another case, where a man was tried for stealing milk from a neighbor's cow, the jury, after mature deliberation, returned a verdict of "Guilty of milking a cow in the first degree."

This week brings up the study of Real Property again, to advance work. The synopsis prepared by the Chancellor has given the class a large amount

of very hard work, but we think we speak the sentiment of the class when we say that in no other branch, for the time spent, have we made as much solid, enduring advancement as this one. When we consider the amount of work necessary in the preparation of the synopsis, and its convenience when completed, it will be readily seen that he has done much more than his share, and a great deal more than the class could ask. We hope, in the near future, to see it printed, so that all may have it for ready reference.

CLIPPINGS.

Geometry Class Room. Professor: "You do not seem to have studied this very carefully." Freshie (a little deaf) excitedly: "Yes, sir; that is just what I am trying to prove."

First Soph: "Say, fellows, have you heard the latest on corset?" Second Soph: "No, what is it?" First Soph: "Why, a waist basket." Third Soph (of journalistic inclination): "The only difference is that what gets into the waste basket never gets into the press. See?"

M., reading Virgil: "Three times I strove to cast my arms about her neck, and—" "that's as far as I got, Professor." "Well, Mr. M., I think that was quite far enough."

Professor of English Grammar: "Now, then, what is the gender of egg?" Student—"Please, sir, you can't tell until it is hatched."

It was a Chaddock boy, who, believing in translations as free as the genius of our country, translated *dux femini facti*: The fact is, woman is a duck.

The chap who could do all the business he wanted to without advertising has been compelled to advertise at last. The new advertisement is headed, "Sheriff's sale."

Student to Professor in Chemistry—"How is it, Professor, that living toads are sometimes found in the heart of a solid rock?" Second student—"By cutting the rock open."

Here's from one of our theological seminaries. Professor in Systematic Theology; "Where is the lesson to-day, gentlemen." Student: "It begins at good angels and goes to the devil.—*Monmouth Courier*."

We believe immortality because we have not proved it, but we forever try to prove it because we believe it.—*Martineau*.

The manner of a vulgar man has freedom without ease, and the manner of a gentleman has ease without freedom.—*Chesterfield*.

All men, I believe, enjoy an ill-natured joke. The difference is that an ill-natured person can drink out to the very dregs the amusement which it affords, while the better molded mind soon loses the sense of the ridiculous in the sympathy for the pain of the sufferers.—*Scott*.

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Students' note books, at Allin, Wilson & Co.'s.

Large stock of French Kid Shoes at Schell Bros.

Bargains in Books at Allin, Wilson & Co.'s.

Don't fail to examine the fine Shoes at Schell Bros.

Marquardt's new store is a beauty, and will repay a visit.

Allin, Wilson & Co. are offering a large lot of miscellaneous books at half-price.

Something new in fine stationery at Allin, Wilson & Co.'s.

Days alternately warm and cool—ice cream and oysters at Noel's.

Grand opening at Marquardt's every day until Christmas.

Best brands of cigars and tobaccos, at lowest prices, at Fink's store.

Students will find many excellent bargains in books at the One-Price Cash Bookstore.

Call and see those fine gift books at Lee's Pioneer Book Store.

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.

Fifty cents will buy Chatterbox at Lee's Pioneer Book-store.

Gentlemen's toilet cases just received at Shrader's.

2,500 good and useful books at half-price at Allin, Wilson & Co.'s.

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, hair, and shoe brushes.

Now is your time to buy books cheap—only half-price at Allin, Wilson & Co.'s.

Optical instruments, combs, brushes, etc., large assortment, at Fink's store.

Special sale of miscellaneous books at One-Price Cash Bookstore, commencing September 25th.

Try a Pappoose or New Era cigar at Shrader's.

Ladies' fine Shoes at Schell Bros.

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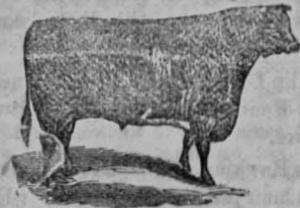
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VOL. XV.

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THE VIDETTE-REPORTER.

Iowa City, Iowa.

The general feeling of satisfaction manifested by the press and college journals throughout the State over the oratorical contest held at Indianola, deserving of the heartiest commendation. With a single exception, and this of little consequence, the reports of the contest in the different dailies and weeklies have been entirely free from that expression of dissatisfaction and soreness which usually follows an event of this kind. This general concurrence in the final decision, however, is no more than every candid minded person who was present at the contest expected. It is no more than an expression of approval which the competency of the judges and the productions of the successful contestants warranted. The remarks offered by a "sore-headed" individual in opposition to a general and prevalent opinion, then, scarcely deserve recognition, and would in this case be utterly ignored, were it not for the fact that by some they will be regarded as coming from one who was entirely unprejudiced in the matter. The report which appeared in the *Grinnell Herald* a few days ago was not written by an unbiased or fair-minded person, but on the contrary, was the laborious effort of a "sore-head," who was sorely disappointed in the result of the contest. His motives are readily detected in his extravagant statements. For example, he says that the gentlemen who received first and second honors did not deserve them, and more than this, has the effrontery to affirm that the speakers who ranked among the lowest, should have stood first. This is not only setting his own individual opinion against that of a large majority of the prominent papers in the State, but also reflects, in a most contemptible manner on the competency of the judges, who in this case were men eminently fitted by their literary attainments and ability to act in that capacity. With all due deference for the unsuccessful contestants and confidence in their ability as orators, we nevertheless cannot but express our surprise at the action of one or two of