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VOL. XVII.

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THE VIDETTE-REPORTER,

Iowa City, Iowa.

IOWA CITY, AND THE UNIVERSITY.

The location of the State University, lately the theme of considerable discussion among the newspapers of the State, is a question of more than ordinary interest to the student. No word has been spoken which would in any way reflect upon the University itself, nor upon any one connected with it. To the institution, justice is done; but a universal regret has been expressed that the youth of the State should be compelled to breathe an atmosphere of lawlessness and disorder, in order to obtain the advantages so generously furnished by the State. The Cedar Rapids *Republican* expresses itself on this point as follows: "It is unfortunate for the State; it is unfortunate for the youth of Iowa, that the State University should chance to be located in a community that shields, protects and honors disturbers of the public peace, and in a county that grants a special privilege to sellers of prohibited wares in clear violation of the law, which created that privilege." Without undertaking any defense of the conduct of Iowa City, or Johnson county, (indeed, none could be expected from those who are denied the right of franchise) yet, from a student's standpoint, we must say that a great injustice has been done to a large and growing class of citizens to whom the students have every reason to be grateful. Their homes are open to receive us. Their sympathy is with us in every landable effort. That law has not been respected as it should be is candidly admitted; but the law abiding portion of the community is not in the hopeless minority as usually represented. Again Iowa City has been unfortunate in being grossly misrepresented. The riots of last summer of which so much was made over the State represented but a very small portion of Iowa City

people, and a portion, at that, with whom the student does not come in contact. The Nevada *Representative*, in discussing this question, makes the following suggestions: "There are but two ways of managing the crowd that disgraces Iowa City, and impairs the value of the University. One is to enfranchise the students, the four or five hundred votes they would cast on the side of law would settle the matter, finally, on the side of law in short order; the other is to take the enforcement of the law, out of the hands of local elective officers and to entrust it to appointative officials who would regard their oath of office. This measure is an extreme one; but the majority of the voters of Iowa City by their unblushing support of lawlessness have justified the Legislature in resorting to it, and in resolutely enforcing the law the State would be protecting its great University, and maintaining its own dignity." We publish the above not as representing our views but simply to show the feeling which exists in regard to Iowa City, and the necessity of surrounding the center of our educational system by the very best influence. The State University is an object of pride, and should be an object of care to every citizen of Iowa. But the discussion can but tend to injure the University; for an undue prominence is usually given to the hoodlum element; while the very existence is ignored of that truly excellent class of people, in whose society and homes student life is spent. It is natural to suppose that the growing mind and developing character will be shaped in a measure by environments, and so it is here. But as before said, the associations and contact of the students is with the better class of citizens and it is under their influence that the strength of character is developed so noticeable in the Alumni of the S. U. I.

YESTERDAY'S *Register* contained Gen. Grant's great speech delivered in Des Moines in 1875, but it is unfortunate that the interpolations which appeared in the first published report of it have reappeared in the re-issue. It may be remembered by some that while he said, in brief, "Resolve that the State shall support common schools," the interpolations made him seem to say, "Resolve that the State shall support no schools, except those called common." Gen. Grant's advocacy of common schools was greatly to his credit; the imputation of hostility to all State education above, or different from, that in the common schools, is an attack on his good name.

The proof that Gen. Grant did not oppose higher education by the State, as was given about nine years ago, consisted of his letter to Gov. Kirkwood saying he had no "idea" or "intention" of doing so, and also the evidence that his manuscript speech contained nothing

of the sort. This evidence was (1) Gen. L. M. Dayton's report of it, the only report ever printed from Gen. Grant's manuscript; (2) a photograph of Gen. Grant's manuscript secured by Gen. W. W. Belknap, then Secretary of War, and (3) the testimony of those who examined that manuscript in the White House to settle this very question of interpolation.

After the publication of this proof no effort was made to rebut it. Indeed, no friend of Gen. Grant would wish to show that he did say what he did not have in mind and did not desire, and no enemy of his (with an appreciable reputation for logic to lose) would dare to attempt such a feat.

"But how about the interpolation?" some may inquire. "Did the man, the motive and the opportunity to effect it co-exist?"

That question the VIDETTE-REPORTER will make no effort to answer. It is enough to know that Gen. Grant wrote to Gov. Kirkwood in 1875, "I feel no hostility to free education going as high as the State or national government feels able to provide;" it is enough to know that any opposing opinion imputed to him is untrue. It is needless to attempt to determine whether such an imputation was originally a slip or a slander. *

INTER STATE CONTEST.

The eleventh annual contest of the Inter State Oratorical Association was held in Columbus, Thursday night. J. A. Beveridge of Indiana, was awarded first honors and Victor A. Bender, of Knox College, Illinois, second. Iowa's representative Mr. C. H. Pomeroy stood third. Knox College taking second honors this year, it will be remembered, took first place at the Inter State contest held here last year, while Indiana second last year, takes first this year. These two states are making an enviable record. There was reasonable ground for expecting honors for our State this year; but the fates seem to be against us. However badly we may have been worsted, there is yet hope for the future in which to rejoice once an Inter State victory. But Iowa has no reason for grief, for in the final result are found below her Wisconsin, Ohio, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado. So you can see what might have been had not Depaw University sent her invincible representative and had our neighbor Knox of Illinois been satisfied with the honors of last year. Thus far reports from the contest are very meagre; but next week we expect to give a full account furnished by delegates in attendance.

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QUESTIONS.

Is it because Greek, Latin, French and German dictionaries must be referred to so often that our volumes of Webster show but little use and the number of mispronounced and misspelled words are as numerous as in any Grammar school?

Is it because spelling-schools have been done away with, or because unselfish individuals are showing the necessity of a spelling reform to their own disadvantage, that so many manuscripts "realy repleat" in thought and "excellent" in style show a marked degree of "inefficiency" on the part of the author in regard to his "speling"?

Is it a mark of modern culture that the young lady of to-day is so easily "horrified" when her "paternal parent" refers to "them colts" in the presence of an "eastern friend"? Is it because her own language is so much superior that she endeavors to draw her guests attention away from her father's remarks to a "divinely choice" specimen—lately added to her cabinet—which she glibly describes as a "Tringa hypoleuca—that came all the way from England"?

Are we not in dealing so extensively with superlatives losing the power of expressing ourselves in positives?

Are we unjustly treated by that critic who says that our "every favorite is a cherub, every unpleasing person a dark diabolical intriguer, and agonies, excruciations and ecstasies our daily bread?"

While educators are growing enthusiastic about the teaching of language in Primary Grades, must University students continue in their "we haint gots" and "if I was him's"?

How many Freshmen will have become Seniors before *lie—lay—lain* will be able to stand its ground, and *learn* will fear to encroach upon the territory of *teach*, before the favorite *hadn't oughts* will have been driven from the field and the true *ought nots* will stand victorious, before the usurping *hadn't sares* and bold *have comes* shall have been fatally wounded in the long-drawn but not sufficiently vigorous battle between "ingrammaticisms" on the one hand and correct English on the other?

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30 UNION SQUARE NEW YORK.
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Joseph GilloTT & Sons, New York.

Society Directory.

ERODELPHIAN SOCIETY.

MYRA CALL.....President
FANNY HAMMOND.....Secretary
Sessions on alternate Saturday evenings.

HESPERIAN SOCIETY.

METHA HELFRITZ.....President
KATE HUDSON.....Secretary
Sessions on alternate Saturday evenings.

IRVING INSTITUTE.

W. J. MAUGHELIN.....President
B. D. CONNELLY.....Secretary
Sessions every Friday evening.

STUDENTS' CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

N. M. CAMPBELL.....President
E. H. GRIFFIN.....Secretary
Prayer meetings every Tuesday noon in
President's recitation room. All
are cordially invited.

LOCAL.

Wanted—a new question for debate.
Some of the girls look awful lonesome.
Will Dart will spend Sunday at home.
An oration by Rawson is now in order.

Fannie Hammond returned last Monday.

The "perpetual spring" seems to have gone south.

Misses Ankeny and Preston went home yesterday.

D. W. Evans thinks of going off on a visit in a few days.

Prof.—what of the earls? Student—the earls had an early origin.

Etta Smalley went home Wednesday, to attend her brother's wedding.

Prof. Fellows is out of town, working as usual for Iowa's educational interests.

President Pickard's house is being improved by a small addition on the north side.

Iowa third. Not as good as we expected, but not by any means as bad as it might have been.

Prof.—"How old was Henry VI when he became King?" Senior—"W-e-l-l, he was a very small kid."

C. E. Mills and F. M. Fultz, are spending a few days at their respective homes, Cedar Rapids and Wilton.

Miss Pennock intends cutting the acquaintance of her unwelcome visitor, the measles, at an early day.

Next week we expect to publish the prize oration, at the Iowa Contest at Grinnell, by C. H. Pomeroy.

Marion Grayson, an old student has gone to Hartford, Conn, where she is employed by an Insurance firm.

Terry is in mourning, the result of an erroneous opinion. He thought vice-president's would not impose fines.

The drill on Wednesday and Friday was trying to the voices of the officers in command and the right and left guides.

We regret very much the necessity of excluding a four column article this week on the Chinese problem by one of our leading Seniors.

Any subscribers of the VIDETTE failing to receive their copies regularly will please address J. H. Liggett, acting business manager.

The seniors, that is fifteen of them, are laboring over their commencement orations. Some have been completed and handed to Prof. Booth.

No steps have been taken, as yet to choose class day speakers. From the abundance of material an excellent programme ought to be prepared.

C. E. White S. U. I. '74, is President of the Bank of Chester, at Chester, Nebraska, and O. H. Brainerd S. U. I. '76, is cashier in the same bank.

Mr. C. W. Pickard, business manager of the Portland, Me., *Transcript*, is spending a few days in Iowa City with his brother President Pickard.

"Jimmy" has resumed charge of the campus. The hum of his mower mingles its melody with the songs of the birds from early dawn until late at night.

The slightly arctic weather of yesterday had a tendency to lessen the usual degree of interest in drill but the first sergeants who commanded got along nicely.

R. A. Smith received the sad intelligence of the death of a sister at Marshalltown, on Sunday morning last and took the train for that place the same evening.

We are a week late in announcing that Fred J. Harris, class '83, has returned from Kansas with a bride, and may be found cosily domiciled on the west side of the river.

Anyone giving information to the library of the following missing volumes will confer a favor, "May's Democracy of Europe," vol. 2; "Chancer's Stories simply told."

Mr. C. L. Gillis C. E. '84, visited with Iowa City friends a few days in the early part of the week. Mr. Gillis is succeeding in the grocery business at Grundy Center, Iowa.

H. A. Hollister, formerly connected with the collegiate department is visiting in the city to-day. He has contracted for his third year as principal of the Springdale schools.

L. S. Kennington, class '84, shows his editorial zeal by announcing his intention to join the Iowa Editorial Excursion which starts from Council Bluffs June 9th, for Portland, Oregon.

Some weeks ago an overcoat was lost about some of the school buildings or elsewhere. It was a dark coat slightly torn in the pockets. Anyone finding it would confer a favor by addressing Box 1281.

C. S. Magowan C. E. '84, showed his familiar face to Iowa City people Thursday and yesterday. Chas. will go soon to Plattsmouth, Nebraska, on a visit, and does not know where he will be afterward.

Dr. Gilchrist's lecture entitled "A Royalist's View of Chas. I" which was

advertized for last Monday evening, and was given up on account of the storm will be delivered next Saturday evening, May 16, at Hesperian Hall.

Howard Gates informs his Iowa City friends that he so well pleased with his position in the First National Bank at Waterloo, that he cannot think of returning to school at present, so long as work and salary are agreeable as now.

Word has been received from the band boys to the effect that they have safely arrived at their destination, and are having a very enjoyable time. They have taking part in some marchings and serenades. The weather is cool but the streets are dusty.

"Only five colleges in the country have adequate endowments," says the *Collegian*. "These are Columbia, with \$5,000,000; Johns Hopkins University, \$3,000,000; Harvard, \$2,000,000; Cornell, \$2,000,000; Princeton, \$1,000,000. Less than half a dozen more have even tolerably liberal endowments; Tutts, \$750,000; Brown, \$720,000; Lafayette, \$600,000; Cincinnati University, \$560,000. So far as we can ascertain no other college has an endowment of over \$450,000."

The following publications have been lately received from the Signal Office, War Department U. S.:

"Signal Service Notes No. IX," containing a collection of weather Proverbs.

"Study of Meteorology in Germany, Switzerland and Austria."

"Report on Lady Franklin Bay Expedition of 1883."

"Elements of the Heliograph."

"Characteristics of tornadoes, with directions for the protection of life and property."

"Effect of wind-currents on rainfall."

The public are assured in the profatory note to the volume of "Weather Proverbs" that the "weather forecasts of the office are not based on the proverbs quoted!"

The following books have been added to the library:

"Griffith and Henfrey's micrographic dictionary."

"Life of John Marshall and Samuel Adams," in the Statesman's Series."

"American Almanac," 1885.

"Statesman's Yearbook," 1885.

Nobby Spring Styles of Pants at Clapp's Clothing House. Elegant fit guaranteed.

Tailor made suits at Clapp's Clothing House

Go to Moon's Drug Store if you need anything usually kept in a first class Drug Store. Pure goods only and at low prices. Soaps; Combs, Brushes, Perfumery, Hair Oils, Tooth Brushes, etc. Students specially invited to trade with the old University student.

MILTON MOON, the drug man.

For the latest styles of Hats, Neckties, Collars, Cuffs, and Gent's Furnishing Goods, go to Clapp's Clothing House.

LAW DEPARTMENT.

B. F. GOOD, Editor.

There are 22 candidates for graduation in the present class.

Eagle tailing is the latest euphonism for curtailing an oration.

Ready made, gilt edged orations are wanted by several members of the Law class.

Job must have been satisfied with his trials. He was never known to move for a new one.

"A soft answer turneth away wrath," but it takes a short one to turn away discussion.

C. C. Carpenter, a member of the class of '84 was in the city the early part of this week. He has not located thus far and contemplates taking the Senior year with the class of '86.

From private intelligence we learn that G. W. Riley is now practicing at Wayne, Nebraska. The bar of that state gains a sound lawyer and the Senior class loses one of its best men.

The subjects of "Probate Law" and "Chattel Mortgages" were completed on Friday. Evidence, Carriers and Constitutional Law will occupy the leisure moments of the Laws for several days to come.

C. W. Bingam L. L. B. '83 was in the city this week on legal business. His many friends will be pleased to learn of success in the profession at Cedar Rapids. In addition to his legal business, he was recently chosen Secretary of the board of trade of that city.

The following collection letter will have the desired affect: Sir: in order to establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to yourself and posterity, call at my office, at any time between the hours of 8 a. m. and 5 p. m.

Thoughts for Readers—A book follows the methods for the presentation of knowledge, but not for its acquirement. Book learning is second hand learning. One should always have an object whenever he takes up a book. Reading a sign-board does no good unless one knows where he wants to go. If one is reading a book aright he will know it as he finds himself to a greater or less degree beginning to anticipate the conclusions of the author. One should never read faster than he can think. One should not read a book he cannot follow. The very fact that it comes hard shows something wrong, either with the author or with yourself. As far as is in your power confirm the thought of the author by your own thought, do not possibly let him carry you along. A good memory may be a dangerous gift.

Townsend's Premium Gallery still continues to be headquarters for everything in the photographic line.

See Seydel for anything in the grocery line.

Largest Assortment of HATS AND GENT'S FURNISHING GOODS at STERN & WILLNER'S

Everything marked in plain figures. One-price only.

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FROM THE SOUTH.

MOBILE, ALABAMA, May 7th, 1885.

Here we are, all of us, band, military company and everything else. Although we started out under a rather inauspicious sky, the weather has been as favorable as any reasonable person could desire. Our first night on the road was one of little sleep; the following day from 7 A. M. to 9 o'clock, A. M. was spent in St. Louis and all day long little squads of militia men might be seen sight-seeing at all the places of interest there. In the morning the great bridge and Shaw's Zoological Garden were the principal places of attraction; in the afternoon many of the boys witnessed the first league base-ball game ever played in St. Louis, and fortunately enough the game was between the nines of those two great rival cities, Chicago and St. Louis. The game was a most interesting one and at times very exciting. The Chicago nine did the better playing as is evidenced by the score of 9 to 5.

Saturday morning found us in Cairo where we were joined by General Bentley and several other Northern companies and bands filling to their utmost capacity eleven cars. After a delay of few hours at Cairo, the train started south in earnest, and all Saturday afternoon there was one of those supremely enjoyable times which rarely falls to the lot of mortals. Saturday is darkey day, and they were all out on dress parade at all the stations along the line to welcome us with singing and dancing, standing on heads, wrestling, etc.

At Columbus, Ky., we had a better time than at any other darkey town. At this place, in addition to the regular programme, we visited the ruins of an old fort and also the scene of Grant's first battle—Belmont.

At Reeve, Ky., an incident occurred which illustrates in one way the estimation which the white has of the black in the South; a colored porter, a fine looking fellow, of one of our sleeping cars went into the hotel for supper; he was meet by the landlord with a knock-down spirit; a fight ensued in which the white man came out second best.

At every station where it was possible we talked with men of both colors, as to voting in the south, with but one exception they replied, that the negro had not the chance to vote, and that one exception was an old negro who had never voted and who did not know how his own town went. He said he did not exactly understand what voting was and so "should not bother," but went "goin' long de way he was goin'." They are the happiest mortals I ever saw and some of them talk very intelligently; but the ignorance of the masses is indeed appalling and the lower class of whites is even more ignorant and certainly meaner than the colored people. On Sunday morning at one place where we stopped a colored woman in homely but meaningful words told us of their condition and the

impossibility of educating their children through their own efforts. Wages for common laborers are very low, and a northern man could well wonder how they even live on them.

In the city of Mobile and on the campground (three miles from the city) we have been very hospitably entertained. Every one seems anxious to do all in his power to make our stay as pleasant and profitable as possible.

Yesterday was the first day of competitive drill in which the maiden companies participated. The Muscatine Rifles—the pride of Iowa took part in this drill and will also compete in the "free for all" drill. The sons of Iowa, are prouder of her than ever, she furnishes the commanding officer—Gen. Bentley, his staff; more men than any other State, acknowledged as the finest looking company and lastly, but best, in our opinion, she has, as all admit, the finest uniformed and best band in the encampment—they lead in everything. Did we say lastly? We'll take it back, for Iowa furnishes from her State University what is here called the Farmer's Brigade, consisting of the captain of the Battery with his first lieutenant, first and second Sergeants and a Quarter-master Sergeant. It attracts no little attention on account of its novelty and variety of uniform and evolutions. There are between thirty and forty companies on the ground, comprising at least two thousand men. The company above and beyond all others that attracts attention and applause is the Busch Louaves of St. Louis. The novelty of their evolutions and the accuracy with which they execute them is wonderful. But I must stop, for the Iowa City people are going on an excursion on the gulf to-day. Be assured we are having the most thoroughly enjoyable time we have had. There is no serious sickness among any of the boys. The weather has been very favorable thus far—the only trouble being that the nights have been so cold that we couldn't keep warm. To-day, however, bids fair to be very hot. We cannot wish you anything better than to hope you are enjoying yourselves as much as we.

KEENE AS SHYLOCK.

Seldom has Iowa City turned out a larger audience to greet an actor than assembled at the Opera House Thursday night to greet Keene as Shylock. Loud applause followed the first appearance of the great tragedian on the stage, and attended him throughout the evening. Much was expected from him, and was fully realized. So natural did he appear and so perfectly did he counterfeit the character of the Jew, that in demanding his bond and calling down the maledictions of heaven, on the heads of the Christians, we could readily believe ourselves in the court of Venice. While his acting approached near the border line of human perfection, as much can not be said of all of his support. Antonio failed utterly in appreciating his part. Antonio was not given to expressing ex-

treme emotions, it is true, but the entire indifference under all changes of fortune as represented in acting, robbed him of that part of his nature which made him the friend and led him to an act of sacrifice for the gallant Bassanio. To our mind Lancelot in adhering to his character was second only to Keene himself. The character he represented is not a leading one it is true; but so well did he represent it that when his first words were spoken we realized our ideal Lancelot. Jessica was a very pretty little girl, but we failed to recognize in her the daughter of Shylock. The character of Portia was very well sustained by Miss Prindiville. In her appearance at Venice as a young doctor of laws her disguise was so very incomplete that we momentarily expected Bassanio to recognize her. The scene in the court, with Shylock demanding his bond and Antonio yielding himself to the exactions of the Jew, then Shylock's complete humiliation, was greatly marred by the meaningless laughter of the attendants expressing neither joy at the restoration of Antonio, nor pleasure at the downfall of the Jew. Taking it all in all our expectations were realized and it is safe to say that Keene on his next appearance will be welcomed by a large audience.

ACADEMY COLUMN.

GUIDO H. STEMPPEL, Editor.

D. C. Abrams was in town Tuesday.

Another excursion up the river is being talked of.

Lincoln Swickard has gone to Colorado for his health.

W. I. Mouser, class of '84, called at the Academy last week.

Miss Martha Buchheister has taken charge of her school in Sac county.

W. H. VanDyke is at home on the farm near Baxter, Iowa, but intends going on "the road."

We never knew it was so hard to find the picture of a really ugly baby, until we tried this week.

Miss Jennie B. Adams is teaching a school near Solon, and among others her favorite study, elocution.

O. W. Anthony was called twelve miles out into the country, the fore part of the week, by the death of a relative.

The Junior who intended to carry home a mustache, has concluded, that if he cannot do so, he will content himself with a pompadour.

The requirements of the Academy have made a summer term necessary. The term will open Monday, June 15th, and continue six weeks. The work will be principally normal.

Prof. Shimek has quite a reputation as a pedestrian, and our friend Mackey, can give ample proof of this. He vows that he will never again take off coat, hat, shoes, etc., in order to keep step with the Prof., for it's no use.

SHORT-HAND COLUMN.

EDDON MORAN, Editor.

Lackey has gone to Washington on a visit.

Isaac Bennett will take a position in the South.

Shrope is reporting for the Fargo express company at Council Bluffs.

R. E. Williams who is still reporting at Denison, visited in the city this week.

Miss Hutchinson will report the Pharmaceutical Association at Council Bluffs next week.

Harry Martin, of the Coe college class, has taken a position in a bank at St. Helena, Neb.

Prof. Dukes, Principal of the West Branch Schools, is organizing a correspondence class there.

A number of correspondence classes will be organized in other colleges next year. We would be pleased to hear from persons who wish to be appointed leaders.

Myron Wheeler, of Lincoln, Neb., visited in the city this week. He still holds the position of official stenographer of the Fourth District, at a salary of \$2,500.

Miss Werden has accepted a responsible situation as practical stenographer. During the past few months she has organized successfully the Short-hand departments of the commercial colleges at Lincoln, Neb., and Burlington, Iowa.

New correspondence students are: Miss Luella Neff, Rockford, Ill.; Miss Hanna Baker, Melbourne, Iowa; Miss Virginia Roemer, Ottumwa, Iowa; Miss Fannie Rogers, Topeka, Kan.; Miss Alice Cavalier, Lyons, Iowa; Mrs. H. W. Sharp, Topeka, Kan.; Jas. S. McGinnis, Onawa, Iowa; Daniel Springer, Belknap, Iowa.

The type-writer, although a wonderful success, does not do away the necessity of learning to write; and good penmanship is still at a premium, as it will always be. There are persons who are fearing, lest some mechanical contrivance will be invented which will supersede the demand for manual skill. What the future may do in the way of perfecting machines for writing, we do not pretend to divine. But the "stenograph" can no more take the place of Short-hand than "lightning calculators" and "adding machines" can do away the need of a knowledge of practical arithmetic. Stenography will supersede long-hand much sooner than any machine can be had to take the place of either.

Remember Townsend makes no difference in small, medium, or large heads on cabinet cards.

Boarding clubs supplied with groceries at the lowest rates at Seydel's.

A dollar will buy more good groceries at Seydel's than any place in Johnson county.

Flour by the sack or car load at Seydel's grocery.

THE NOBBIEST STOCK OF CLOTHING AT THE GOLDEN EAGLE CLOTHING HOUSE.

Custom made student's uniforms always in stock at the lowest prices

STERN & WILLNER'S

SHAKESPEARE'S RELIGION.

By V. R. Lovell, taking first honors at Junior Contest.

On the banks of the beautiful Avon, stands the little parish church of Stratford. Within its gray, stone walls, just beside the altar, is seen the tomb of Shakespeare; and beneath the marble slab reposes all that was mortal of the world's great poet. Pilgrims flock yearly to the spot. And standing there before his venerated dust, subdued by the guardian divinity of the place, thoughts throng the mind regarding the well-known mystery of his life. How did he live? How did he die? What were the character-forming influences moulding his childhood? What were the joys of his old age? And doubly mysterious, with the lapse of years, arises the question of his religious belief. What answer did his all-comprehensive mind give to the great queries, "What am I?" "Whence came I?" "Whither am I going?" Was he a papist? Did he cherish any religion at all? Meagre and unsatisfactory is the evidence found in tradition and the incomplete records of his life. But in the works of the poet himself, there is testimony less equivocal. There, in lines immortal, stands forth a faith in immortality. There, he breathes the eternal and underlying principles of the highest religion; virtue, patience, meekness, mercy, justice, truth. There, is depicted the light of heavenly purity, side by side with the blackest darkness of human guilt. He never shows us a demon without creating for us an angel, thus exalting virtue by contrasting it with vice. This results from the intent of the poet no less than from the power of his genius. His highest and most intellectual characters constantly recur to the subject of human life and human destiny, and their musings on the awful questions of the great hereafter are always marked by a reverent attitude of mind. The poet's religious feeling is fused into all the highest workings of his genius, and his conceptions are always true to "the everlasting distinctions of right and wrong, to the dignity of man and to the sovereignty of God." Yes, Shakespeare had a religion. Not the debasing religion of the sects or creeds of his time, did he profess, but that religion twin-born with genius, which holds the thought of the invisible, which "apprehends the infinite," which sits humbly at the feet of the great unknown. Before creeds were born, an innate religion of the soul "guided the chisel of Phidias," and attuned to divinest harmony the lyre of Homer. And when the light of Christianity went down in darkness, Dante, helped of heaven, painted his dark Infero and his heavenly Paradise. And thus, Shakespeare, disdainful alike the assumptions of popery and royalty, communed with himself and with his God.

There was little in the Elizabethan era calculated to nourish a religious sentiment. The absolutism of the throne had seemed able to popularize for a time the shamelessness of Henry VIII., no less than the bloody conscriptions and venal policy of his successors. Religion from being a matter of immortal welfare

had become one of temporal convenience. During the first half of the sixteenth century civil strife and religious bigotry had vied in the number of their victims. A mammoth wave of corruption and tyranny was surging over England, to recoil with destructive force in the approaching puritan revolution. To have shown even a tender regard for humanity in such an age would mark the character of an author with peculiar lustre. But in the immortal bard we find this, and more. Throughout the network of his genius runs the golden cord of a humane religious spirit, leading up from the bloodthirstiness and immorality of his time, and placing him upon the loftier plane of the modern conception of Christian duty. Shakespeare was a tolerant man. Before the Smithfield fires had passed into history, he admonishes those in authority,

"Gently to hear, kindly to judge;"

and when across the channel the Council of Blood was making the Netherlands one mass of smoking ruins, the poet says,

"It is an heretic that makes the fire,
Not he who burns it."

It was a time, also, of brutality and coarseness. Men entertained little reverence for human life. Amusement was found in the infliction of torture. In the greedy strife for power between the papal party and the established church, little heed was given to the scriptural injunctions to individual purity or brotherly love. Justice's balance tipped heavily on the side of gold and corruption besmirched even the chaste robes of royalty itself. Mercy, obtainable only by bribes, had fled the judges' bench and the seat of power, but from the pen of the poet, it was distilled like heavenly manna to a starving people:

"Tis mightiest in the mightiest; it becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown,
It is an attribute to God himself.

With a fawning servility to the religions of the times, Shakespeare cannot be charged. His words are without the flattery heaped by the current literature upon power, both ecclesiastical and secular, and he has left himself unrecorded upon the hypocrisy of the clergy;

"In religion,

What damned error, but some sober brow,
Will bless it and approve it with a text,
Hiding the grossness with fair ornament."

The depraved characters introduced by Shakespeare, are adduced to show the immorality of the man; but it must be remembered that he wrote plays, not to serve as a standard of morality, but to please an English audience of the sixteenth century. If some of his characters are indecent, they are a reflection of the times. If they are immoral they but "hold the mirror up to nature." He does not seek to ennoble them. He paints the beggar as faithfully as the prince. Take away his naturalness from Shakespeare, and he is Shakespeare no longer. Only in his highest characters is it, that we must look for the poet himself. But even in his Hamlet, where the poet is said to show his inmost soul, it is alleged he exhibits an infidelity;

"For who would bear the whips and scorns of
time,
But that the dread of something after death . . .
Puzzles the will."

That an agnosticism is there displayed, cannot be denied; but it is an agnosticism not inconsistent with the most exalted religious belief. Between the material and spiritual worlds has been placed a veil which the human eye cannot penetrate, and which Divine Revelation has not seen fit to illumine. And if Shakespeare, with his clear mental vision could only see through a glass darkly, when a bigoted theology felt secure in its infallibility, is he on that account an atheist, or does he not, on the contrary, show a humility in the acknowledgment of the eternal mystery which is said to be the perfection of the Christian faith? What is modern Christianity, and whence comes its beneficent influence? What has made it the world's great civilizer and entwined it in every step of progressive culture? Does it consist in a blind adherence to creed, or is it valued for its warring sects? Or is it not rather known and honored because, under a divine guardianship, it has spread over lands of ignorance and darkness, a mantle of charity and light; because it has succored weakness and helplessness; because it has strewn all along its bountiful path the heaven-born principles of Peace, Truth and Brotherly Love? This is the very essence of the highest type of religion to-day, and this is the divine spirit that echoed from the lips of Shakespeare three centuries ago:

"Love thyself last; cherish those hearts that hate thee;

Corruption wins not more than honesty.
Still in thy right hand carry gentle peace
To silence envious tongues. Be just and fear not.
Let all the ends thou aimst at be thy country's,
Thy God's, and Truth's. Then if thou fall'st,
Thou fall'st a blessed martyr."

CHARLES SUMNER.

By D. W. Evans, taking second honors at Junior Contest.

Knowing does not suffice; men must feel. The springs of human action lie deeper than knowledge, reason, logic, or ironclad argument; they are found in the emotions of the soul. Intelligence and reason are only headlights; the feelings are the propelling fires. "Every great and commanding moment in the annals of the world is the triumph of some enthusiasm." Untrained armies, inspired with an absolute faith in the justice and ultimate triumph of their cause, have often overcome the best disciplined forces of arbitrary power. In every great moral movement, there are more hearts to be stirred, made brave, regenerated than there are minds to be changed. It is the activity of its deeper nature that is purifying and redeeming the race. This gives to the world its reformers and makes moral heroes of men. This made Charles Sumner, a hero in American history.

It is true he was a man of the highest intellectual attainment. His culture and learning were vast and varied. Even as a young man he was courted by the highest and most exclusive circles of American and European society. History, government, law, language, literature and art were all his own. But with all these, Charles Sumner might have lived and died as nothing more than a brilliant headlight, grand in its efful-

gence, yet adding nothing to the power which moves the wheels of progress and brings about the reformations of the world. He was foremost in one of the greatest moral movements the world has ever known. For over two hundred years the blight of slavery had corrupted the genius of our free institutions and vitiated the vital energies of our civilization. When freedom found a home at Plymouth Rock, slavery had begun its blighting influence on the beautiful banks of the James. It stamped its malignant spirit upon the young and rising institutions of all the land. When the colonists declared their independence, and the foundations of the government were laid, the indispensable condition of union was silence upon the question of slavery. Silence was all that slavery demanded, and silence was all it needed. Throughout its history it never asked for more. Every compromise forged anew the fetters of the slave and increased the deadly venom of the cancer, the fibers of which were clasp the vitals of the republic, the excision of which drew the very life-blood of the nation.

When Truth compromises with falsehood, when Right compromises with wrong, it is always a triumph of error. Vice, indeed, is cunning, an artful deceiver, who offers the kingdoms of the world, but demands entire obedience to her own bidding. Slavery promised the physical aggrandizement of the republic, but demanded absolute subservience to its own imperious sway. It seized within its deadly clutch every department of the government; and, finally, by the compromise of 1850, the whole nation bearing aloft its banners of freedom, proclaiming to the world the equality of men, it enlisted, like bloodhounds, to hunt the slave and drive him back to bondage. The shrewd politician was dumb. The old Whig party had been a friend of freedom, but she spake not a word. Daniel Webster, whose burning eloquence could plead so well for the oppressed of other lands, needed courage now to utter a word of sympathy and hope for the enslaved millions of his own. Infatuated by the allurements of fame, he allowed the murmur of popular applause to suppress the highest promptings of his noble heart, and stifle the still small voice of duty. Even servants of the Most High, who, in their hearts, execrated this foul blot upon our Christian civilization, in their zeal for denominational aggrandizement, forgot the sacred trust reposed in and them, allowed the behests of man to overcome the commands of God. The whole nation cowered in more servile bondage than the slave it delivered up.

It was now that Charles Sumner appeared upon the scene. There was a crisis then, as when the adamant rock arrests the progress of a mighty wave. Alone, he stood in the councils of the nation, and hurled defiance at the mandates of slavery. He would not compromise, he would not swerve. He raised his great courageous voice, which echoed through the land like the clarion note of a trumpet. He called the nation to its feet. The slave in his weary toil heard the joyful sound and thanked

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Heaven for the herald of a brighter day. It fell on the ear of the master like the note of a judgment call. The friends of freedom, taking new courage, breathing new enthusiasm, rallied to their standard again; and with all the mighty energies of moral heroes, they gave that last and final command, "Get thee behind me, Satan."

What was the secret of Charles Sumner's power? Why did not slavery wrest from him a compromise, and win over him the same old victory? With few exceptions, the culture of the land was against him. The most powerful political parties were against him. Precedent was against him. All the influences, that from the foundation of the republic, had controlled the actions of our statesmen were pressing him to yield. Why would he not support the Crittenden compromise, when his followers were beginning to fail, when every argument that ever did exist for concession, was now brought forth with new and startling emphasis? It was because Charles Sumner allowed conscience to be his guide. Right only was expedient; justice to fellowman alone was right. His undaunted words, "Slavery is Wrong," baffled the logic of Calhoun, put to shame the concessions of Webster, called the nation into a new and more exalted life, and made Charles Sumner the crowning hero of his age. This, this was the secret of his power; this is the secret of his fame. No intellectual greatness can ever transcend the moral grandeur of his unflinching devotion to the brotherhood of man. When "man's inhumanity to man" shall cease, and the Golden Rule shall sway the world, when across continents, over mountain ranges and underneath the billows of the sea, shall stretch the bonds of universal love, when around the globe shall swell the glad anthems of universal peace; then will the principles for which Charles Sumner strove completely triumph, and his name and fame will shine with a brighter glory increasing as the ages roll. Knowing does not suffice. men must feel.

"There is yet a liberty, unsung
By poets and by senators unpraised,
Which monarchs cannot grant, nor all the powers
Of Earth and Hell confederate take away
'Tis liberty of heart, derived from God."

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