

# The Vidette-Reporter.

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## The Vidette-Reporter

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During Collegiate Year S. U. I.

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R. C. CRAVEN, WM. DREW, JACOB CLOSZ,  
Managing Editors.

DORA GILFILLAN, J. E. PATTERSON,  
Associate Editors.

KATE LEGLER.

Associate Editors.

R. C. CRAVEN, Business Manager.

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All communications should be addressed,

THE VIDETTE-REPORTER,

Iowa City, Iowa.

Students of history will be entertained and profited by reading Prof. Perkin's article on our literary page.

The *Cornellian* not long since contained in its columns a very coarse, low joke in which a bustle figured prominently. And the *Portfolio* in its last number had the very poor taste and poor judgment to copy it. Such indecent and shameful business as this should meet with stinging rebuke. We trust both the above papers have heard from the students of their respective schools upon the printing of such vulgar trash.

LIEUTENANT CALIFF has been appointed to the rank of Major by Gov. Larrabee. The Lieutenant is making himself more esteemed by our students. The position he fills is one which, like all other positions connected with a college, calls for a man who is not only efficient in his work, but will make himself thoroughly respected by the students. Our Military Department has been fortunate the last few years in the men who have been at its head.

The *Portfolio* of Parsons College says: "The VIDETTE-REPORTER makes its appearance regularly. It always has a fine local page, and to the average student that is the most interesting part of a college paper." And this is the most interesting part of a college paper to the student also who is above or below the average. The *Portfolio* takes up with our idea that work on the college paper should be credited in lieu of curriculum work.

We have waited two weeks and no one has seen fit to take exceptions to what we said about the Sophomore-Freshmen scuffle. If there are those who did not regard the matter as we did,

we would have been glad if they had given their reasons. We are of the opinion, however, that a large majority of the students coincide with the views that we then expressed. We believe that the better part of the Freshman class are opposed to having any thing of the kind occur next year. When next year comes, if that part will take a manly stand against it, this old senseless custom will become a thing of the past in our college.

This is the way in which the *Aurora*, the very neat little college journal of Ames, pours out its soul:

"Vacation at most of the colleges being closed, we are beginning to receive a few exchanges again. Among the three or four that have come to our table we notice with some surprise the VIDETTE-REPORTER. We had been sending *The Aurora* with a "Please Ex." to the REPORTER nearly all summer, until we decided that it did not "please" to "ex." and struck it from our list. However, we are glad to see it and hope that it will come regularly now. We have the same hope in regard to the *Portfolio* and one or two other Iowa papers, but our hope is founded more on desire than past-experience."

Hope on, dear *Aurora*. We shall come to see thee often.

We would advise all the members of the Oratorical Association, to carefully read the constitution published in our last issue. If there are any changes or additions to be made, consider what they should be, and come to the next meeting prepared to act intelligently. We have the State Contest here this year, and the Association will have more than the usual amount of work to do. It is of more than usual importance then, that the constitution be definite and complete. If the constitution as we published it, is satisfactory to the Association, we believe it would be best to adopt it as a whole, just as though it were a new one. As it now stands, the amendments constitute a very large part of the constitution, and are a source of considerable complication. We fear that a person, so desiring, could raise some trouble some technicalities, that would seriously interfere with the business of the Association.

The Department of Pharmacy of the State University has just put into operation a new phase of work; which will give to its students a more thorough training. Hereafter the prescriptions used in the clinical practice of the Medical Department will be compounded in the pharmaceutical laboratory, and supplied direct. This work will be hereafter a part of the regular course. While the students will assist in preparing prescriptions, Dean Boerner will have immediate charge and personal supervision of the compounding of each prescription, and every one will be signed by him. This insures the greatest accuracy and care in every detail. The work in the

department will be wholly limited to clinical practice in the Medical Department, and prescriptions will, under no circumstances, be compounded nor medicines furnished except on the order of the department professor in charge of the clinical case. This is a very important step in the University work, and was brought about by the active efforts of the dean and faculty of the Pharmaceutical Department.—*Press*

IOWA COLLEGE will have a home oratorical contest this year. Heretofore its orator to the State contest has been elected. We are glad to hear the *News Letter* speak in this way:

"By our next issue we hope to be able to report the Iowa College contestant for State oratorical honors. Selection will be made by a home contest. Very good. Last year our delegate was chosen by vote. Though it was an easy matter to select the one best fitted, yet it speaks far better for the college, to make selection by contest from a number of aspirants to a high standard of college oratory. We hope to hear a contest of six orations as the constitutional limitation provides. We are not partisan. We care not who wins first honors here, provided that the judicial decision light upon the one that will merit highest rank at the State contest. A new interest is awakened in the college and we possess excellent speakers. We are especially desirous of seeing Iowa College once again appearing in the Inter-State contest and there, if possible, ranking first."

We fear that in a certain respect the students of the collegiate department are too kind to the editors—too much concerned for our mental improvement—inasmuch as they allow us to do nearly all the writing for our paper and thus derive all the benefit of such exercise. We believe that this is not so much the case in other colleges. The contributions seem to be more general. Those having charge of college publications like our own should rather act in the capacity of editors than authors, and especially so in purely literary matter.

You would like to see our literary page interesting and valuable. We desire to make it so. And in order to accomplish this end, we ask your interest and co-operation. If you happen upon a thought either in your reading or your thinking, that you deem worthy to appear on our literary page, please hand it in. We apply to you, kind reader, in particular. We do not ask orations; usually they are too lengthy and too hackneyed in thought. But rather short essays, pithy paragraphs and pregnant epigrams. Or, should you be favored with the "gift divine," do not hesitate to flood us with all-varied sentiment done up in artful verse and graced by rhyme.

We desire to do what we had not space to do last week. We desire to say plainly a few words from the student's standpoint with reference to the use of tobacco about the University. The Pres-

ident a week ago last Monday morning made a chapel address to the students of the collegiate department, specially summoned. The address contained an abundance of good counsel and salutary advice. But before it was brought to an end, attention was called to the rule prohibiting smoking on the campus or about the University buildings, and the impropriety of the use of tobacco in these places was dwelt upon at some length. We believe that, under existing circumstances, reference to this matter would have been quite unfortunate even if it had not involved the gratuitous admission on the part of the highest officer of the University that he was himself addicted in private to a habit which he was endeavoring to discourage in public, but with such admission the reference was far more unfortunate inasmuch as all protest was thereby rendered quite ineffective. The prohibition of smoking on the campus or about the University is not a faculty regulation. The rule was made by the Board of Regents, yet some of these very same Regents who for months past have pretended to cherish the highest welfare of the University and dictate progress to the institution, have habitually, when here, paraded the walks of the campus with cigars in their mouths. This rule was made no doubt to apply to all officers connected with the University, yet one of the officers of the Board itself hesitates no more to smoke on the University grounds and in the presence of students and in his office at the University than he would anywhere else. Moreover, the professor of one of the prominent chairs in the institution smokes regularly a remarkably large and long cigar both on the campus and in his room at the University. Besides, the professor of another prominent chair in the institution has more than once, since his arrival, made himself offensive to ladies in the library and elsewhere by the odor of tobacco about his person. Furthermore, it is said that the professor of still another prominent chair in the institution is not exempt from the use of tobacco in the way we are considering. These facts together with the confession heretofore mentioned are sufficient to cause any student who smokes at all to violate the rule of the Regents, and violate it without hesitation. We believe that the rule is a good one, but while circumstances are as they are, we maintain that it is and ought to be a deal letter, and that students who smoke in the very halls of the University buildings cannot be reproached. We would not wish to have anything that we have said construed into a palliation of this practice, but we would suggest that the proper way to proceed to remedy matters is to begin lecturing the desks before lecturing the chairs. Reform should come from the center rather than from the circumference.

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