The Vidette-Reporter

Vol. XX.

IOWA CITY, DECEMBER 10, 1887.

The Vidette-Reporter

Issued

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At a special meeting of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, held recently, Assistant Secretary Professor Samuel Pierpont Langley, LL.D., was elected Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, to succeed the late Professor Spencer F. Baird.

More than half of our subscribers have yet paid their subscription. It is as easy to pay now probably as it would be at any other time, and a great deal more convenient for us. It would suit us exceedingly well to have all subscriptions paid by the end of the present term. It is earnestly desired by us that we receive enough very soon to enable us to begin the new year square with the printer. Let each one now do his duty, and the state will be present at this meeting. In other parts of the program we find the names of several University alumni and we venture to say that in the attendance there will be many University students. Those who can make it convenient to attend the meeting should go.

The Portfolio of Parsons College comes to us in magazine form this year. The November number is a strong one and contains much interesting matter. We notice an article on "Do Oratorical contests Pay?" in which the author takes the ground that they do not, and proceeds to give his reasons for holding to that opinion. Although we are not ready to accept his conclusion that there is more evil than good in them, yet much of what he says is well founded and probably will continue to be, as long as contents are cared for.

Mr. Robert Weidensall, Secretary International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations, addressed a joint meeting of the Christian Associations last Tuesday afternoon, giving many practical suggestions regarding their work here. He especially proposed plans for advertising the building "that it is to be" throughout our state, emphasizing the fact that this project, whose significance to the university is greater than is generally supposed—claims the personal support of every citizen of Iowa. Mr. Weidensall is an enthusiast in his work. He is the founder of College Christian associations, and as such enjoys a national reputation. The increasing interest in our association work here may well delight everyone of the University.

Those who have attended smaller colleges in Germany point out some defects in German Universities. He says: "Nowhere does the student receive general and comprehensive views. He chooses his special subject, and hears lectures upon a single one only. The whole University is open to his choice; but the prospective examination for his degree prevents departure from a special line. The University is thus broken up into a number of schools for the training of specialists in their respective subjects. Students issue from the German Universities undoubtedly better trained in their chosen branches than the students of other nations; but what they gain in concentration they lose in adaptation. They are limited in their horizon, and contracted in their sympathies and energies. He who has not made natural science his special department leaves the University without an idea of the weighty discoveries of the natural philosophers. He who has gone through the course in medicine gets no general survey of the many branches of study necessary for his calling; he has explored but one; and all subjects beyond his professional range are absolutely closed to him. The law student knows nothing of the structure of the human body; the surgeon nothing of the elementary groundwork of law and justice; the first is a man of science, and the second a man of art, history and all those matters which every educated man ought to know something about, if he is to mix in society, are no more strange to those studying in special departments. The lecture rooms lie side by side; the many schools are under one roof; the professors belong to one senate: the whole society is tied together by statutes and external organization, but the spiritual link is missing: personal avocations insulate, particular studies separate the students; and the University is nothing more than a congress of schools for specialists."

We are inclined to believe that these very defects, while real defects so far as the German student is concerned, constitute the virtues of German Universities to the foreign student. It is the custom for foreign students only to finish their education at the German University, whither they go for training in one special line. They are to receive general and comprehensive views before they go there. Their general education is supposed to be quite complete. However, the German Universities are in the first place for Germany, and from Professor Lord we infer that the whole school system of that country tended to develop specialists, and not to produce wide views. If this be true objections may well be urged.

The secretary of the Oratorical Association has received notice that John G. Wirth, secretary and treasurer of the Iowa College Association, has resigned his position, and J. U. U. Wolf has been elected to fill the vacancy.

The constitution of the association provides that if a vacancy occurs when the association is not in session, it shall be filled by the association of the institution in which the officer was a member.

All communications should now be addressed to J. U. U. Wolf, Pella, Iowa, Box 42.

In the last issue of the "Vuerno" reference was made to the increase of library hours. The experiment of opening at one o'clock has been tried at a former period. No such general use followed as was anticipated, and the hours were reduced to the time required by the regulations. During the present term, however, the library has been open at about half past one, and a few students have availed themselves of the increased time. Continuing as do not many hours already granted, the library will open at one o'clock, until further notice.

The glass for the museum cases has arrived, and an early completion of the work will follow.
GERMAN UNIVERSITIES.

BY MRS. GESTICER DAVILY.

In the 12th or 13th century, associations of students were formed around whom flocked admiring students. From such associations, which were formerly attached to the monasteries, the German universities were developed. This higher school of learning was at first called studium or studium generale. But in the course of time the members of the studium genericum formed themselves, for mutual support, into a corporation of which the general name universities came to be bestowed. In this way the universities arose almost spontaneously. It has been stated, however, that the prototype of the universities of modern Europe may be found in the schools of Isocrates and Plato at Athens, and the Magistrates of Alexandria. These schools did resemble the universities. Like them they conferred on those completing the trivium or quadrivium, which together form the seven liberal arts and sciences something analogous to the degree.

Paris, Bologna, and Salerno are among the earliest in Europe, and were almost certainly founded by German princes, usually, although a few were established by the magistrates of the town. Having obtained papal and imperial permission, the founder invited teachers of renown, who in turn drew about them zealous students. The organization of the universities was similar to that of Paris. On account of the great number, the students and teachers were divided into four nations, over each a procurator. The university of Vienna was founded, or at least opened up next year, by the Duke of Austria, in 1365. The first nation denominated the Southern, was composed of those from Southern Germany; the second, the Saxon, of those from Eastern and Northern Germany; the third was the Bohemian, the fourth, Hungarian. The faculties were also divided into four separate and distinct divisions. This system is still followed. We find the faculties of law, medicine, theology and philosophy formerly called faculty of arts in modern universities. The status of the universities kept pace with the advancement of knowledge, and the systems and methods were introduced, and in the nineteenth century we find the German universities standing at the head of all educational systems in Europe.

Germany possesses more universities than any other country of Europe, owing to its subdivision into so many separate states. Each of the larger provinces, especially in Saxony and in the north of Austria, has its university, and the standard of these institutions is very high. Much is required for entrance. The gymnasia prepares students for the university, to which they are admitted without examination. The American college and the gymnasium of Germany correspond in the amount of instruction given. The organization of the university has been likened to a municipal corporation, since it has its executive, legislative and judicial bodies. The minister of public instruction has direct command. All orders are supposed to come from the crown itself. The universities maintain their autonomy, being dependent on the government. Subscriptions are granted to them by the state, though some are rich enough to dispense with such assistance. The student's body consists of a senate, the members of which are the rector, his predecessor, the four deans of the four faculties and six chosen from the professors. It represents the highest expression of academic power and its judgment is final. Every public document published by the Senate is exempt from censorship. The discipline is in charge of the university, at the head of which is a Rector. In case of ordinary offences he alone is the judge. The police officers of the court are called bailiffs and belong to the olden universities.

Paris, Bologna, and Salerno were divided into two parts, or into two lecturers, each of whom is divided into two courses or two years in succession to the same subject. A student is held to the faculty for the first ten days of the semester. At the end of this time he is obliged to make up his mind in regard to the courses, and present himself at the rector's office to be registered. He pays there for each course a certain fee fixed at the pleasure of the professor. He then may attend the lectures or not, but he must pay for the examinations. The faculties continue until he comes up for his degree. No one is allowed to graduate unless he devotes four or five years to his studies. The six years are divided into two parts.

Every one is obliged to contribute to the university from 1 to 200 numbers of a thesis. A copy is handed to the dean for inspection. If deemed satisfactory the degree is conferred. The examination, which is only upon one or two subjects, is held at the dean's house, very often. The candidate presents himself in full dress. Every German student must graduate, lose the court, or lose his social position. The examin ation on graduation costs from 800 to 100. Each student has or is supposed to have some special line of work. This is called his principal issue, while he may pursue some course in connection with it forming the side issue.

The course commences early in the morning at 7 o'clock, and are kept up until 9 in the evening. Some last two hours, although the lectures never commence until 15 or 20 minutes after the hour. In Germany there are associations similar to these, but they are not secret. They are purely social, and meet once a week for an enjoyable time according to German custom. Jealousy arises between them occasionally, which is settled by dueling or fighting. They use swords, slasher, which are broad, blunt and sharp, about six inches from the end, or two feet towards the hilt. They use these when their persons well, with the exception of their faces. A scar is honorable, the sign of a student. Many of them, indeed, wear spectacles without glasses, are rare exceptions.

Germany owes a great deal to her universities, as indeed do all nations. Her university system is admirably adapted to the advancement of the best college papers we receive. It is published forthrightly and its circulation of 1,100 is said to be the largest of all college papers in the country. The paper is in many respects a model of its kind.
I

Universities owe their success to good professors and institutions. Definite though in some respects, no one has produced the effect of the time.

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Have you seen the mermaid?

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School will close on Thursday, the 29th. No purchase to be made.

The chemistry class had no practice last Monday morning.

Some fine pearl opera glasses just arrived at Lee & Green's.

Genuine Seal-skin caps at wholesale prices at The Golden Eagle.

Buy your holiday goods at The Golden Eagle, and save 50 per cent.

The fashions in hat trimming seem to stimulate new season.

Holiday gift books at Lee's Pioneer Bookstore, 118 Washington street.

"Only a Farmer's Daughter" is a play of the day. Don't fail to see it.

B. C. Corby, our State orator in 1876, is now pastor of a church in San Diego, Cal.

No "prompting" permitted in Sophomore recitations. A good suggestion.

All Overcoat and heavy winter goods have been marked down, as we must reduce our stock by Jan. 1st. -The Golden Eagle.

Co. G would be glad to see you at the opera house Friday evening, December 19th.

H. J. Trundy at Millie's dye works blocks and repairs hats. Silk hats a specialty.

Finest display of holiday goods at Lee's Pioneer Bookstore, 118 Washington street.

Go to Cash & Hunt's meat market, opposite Opera House, for choice meats of all kinds.

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Miss Mary Kelley, Kinnas, Is., is a guest of Miss Nellie Harvey. Miss Kelley will join the University as a freshman next term.

Less noise in the Senior Law lecture room from 9 to 10 o'clock would greatly oblige those engaged in recitation below. Please, gentlemen.

All students are cordially invited to attend the dance at Frank's Hall next Tuesday evening. A very enjoyable time is anticipated.

We have as yet failed to chronicle the magnetic effect of the gift letters on the secretary's window. "Bobby" is the only word that expresses it.

The introduction of chestnuts into the Presbyterian program last Saturday evening was such an unusual occurrence that the president was overcome and forgot to adjourn the meeting.

One of our quietest sanitary officers was delinquent in the collection of his funds, and was bemoaned into bidding upon a crape bag board, the use of which he was ignorant of. Well, he got the crèpe board, and some time later invited a friend to teach him the game. The climax was reached when Anthony produced the board and pegs ready for business, but unaided by the required auxiliary.

The gymnastic lessons have received a favorable postmortem, owing to a disagreement between the proprietors and management. A new house for our athletes will be found within the next week.

An Ohio belle, when asked if she had met a certain lady replied in a very captivating tone of voice: "I have not seen her since she has come. I would have sent round, but I hadn't no time at all!" (The Golden Eagle).

Lancie Hunter, a student of Cornell in '89, and also a graduate of Iowa City, is now the presiding genius of a home at South English. Her sister, also a graduate of Iowa City, is teaching at Harvard.—Cornellian.

Prof. Anderson contributes to the December number of The Dial a review of Bowdler's Life of Johnson, edited by Mr. George Birkbeck Hill of Pembroke College, Oxford. The Professor bestows high praise upon Mr. Hill.

One of the windows of the museum bloomed last week falling on a case of mounted skeletons. They were badly damaged, but the dexterity of Prof. Nutting returned all but one part of their former appearance.

Tickets can be obtained of members of Co. C also at J. H. Whittredge's Drug Store and Lee, Welch & Co. Bookstore, and can be reserved at Frank's without extra charge on Wednesday morning, December 19th.

Students of the University and their friends will find C. L. Moncrief's 123 Washington street, the best place to buy supplies in the line. His stock represents the novelties as they appear in market and is large and varied, and his prices are always popular.

President Schaeder in Des Moines a part of the present condition of the University and its prospects. He did not fail to say a good word for the students too.

President Schofield was in Des Moines a part of the present condition of the University and its prospects. He did not fail to say a good word for the students too.

Report has just reached us of another Junior who was a victim of the auction. He bid up high on what he supposed to be a fine German dictionary. After he had outstriped all other competitors and paid for the book, it was found to be a Catholick Bible.

This morning we met Mr Baker, who is engaged in working up the play "Mikado" that will be seen at the opera house Dec. 19th. Mr. Baker spoke enthusiastically of the prospect of success. The character of the rehearsal points to a splendid rendering of the play.

The following series words come to us from Cornell College: "The S. U. I. Christian Association has raised $2,000 of the $6,000 for a new building which they intend to erect. This is a move in the right direction, and we are glad to see it. Success to the project."

The Dental Department hands in the following: Dr. W. J. Brady, whose work in the Dental Department we noted some time ago, returned to Newton Friday. The Board of Regents will do well to bear him in mind, for the combination of artist and scientist is a rare one, and in the future he may prove invaluable to the University.

Farmer's Daughter, Dec. 18th.

Some of the classes are occasionally annoyed by noises emanating from the upper N. E. room of the central building. We strongly appreciate the enthusiasm manifested in which the students are preparing themselves to enter into the spirit of the active duties of their profession. We recognize its importance, but we have a strong prejudice against noise during class hours. Peace and quiet are desirable, if possible.

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 6—Justice Harlan delivered the opinion of the court yesterday in the two so-called prohibition cases of Peter Mueller, plaintiff in error, vs. the State of Kansas, and in the case of the State of Kansas vs. Herman Ziebold and others, affirming the judgment of the lower court, in the two "Mugler" cases, and reversing the judgment in the Ziebold case. The effect of the latter is to declare valid the prohibition laws of the State of Kansas, and of course is a decided victory for the Prohibitionists. The decision is very important, and likely to be far-reaching in its consequences. The judgment of the court was pronounced in a long and elaborate opinion by Justices Harlan, who said:

"The general question in each case is whether the prohibition statutes of Kansas are in conflict with that clause of the fourteenth amendment which provides that "no State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States, nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." That legislation by a State prohibiting the manufacture within its limits of intoxicating liquors, to be thereafter sold for general use as a beverage, does not necessarily infringe any right, privilege or immunity secured by the constitution of title United States, nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law. This legislation by a State prohibiting the manufacture within its limits of intoxicating liquors, to be thereafter sold for general use as a beverage, does not necessarily infringe any right, privilege or immunity secured by the constitution of title United States, nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law. This legislation by a State prohibiting the manufacture within its limits of intoxicating liquors, to be thereafter sold for general use as a beverage, does not necessarily infringe any right, privilege or immunity secured by the constitution of title United States, nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law.

"In this latter instance, the right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are respectively interfered with by the legislation of the State, and it is proper to inquire whether these rights are thereby impaired or affected.

"The argument made in support of the first branch of this proposition, briefly stated is: that in the implied contract between the State and the citizen, certain rights are reserved by the latter, which are guaranteed by the constitutional provision for the protection of life, liberty and property against deprivation without due process of law, and with which the State cannot interfere; that among these rights is that of manufacturing, for one's own use, either food or drink that while, according to the doctrine of the Common, the State may control the taste, appetites, habits, dress, food and drink of the citizen, our system of government, based upon the individuality and intelligence of the people, does not claim to control him except as to his conduct to others, leaving him the sole judge as to all that affects only himself.

"There is here no justification for holding that the State, under the guise merely of police regulations, is aiming to deprive the citizen of his constitutionally recognized rights; for we can not shut out of view the fact within its knowledge of all, that the public health, the public morals and the public safety may be endangered by the general use of intoxicating drinks. Nor can we ignore the fact, established by statistics accumulated in every one, that the disorder, pauperism and crime prevalent in the country are in a large measure directly traceable to this evil. If, therefore, a statute would make the absolute prohibition of the manufacture and sale within her limits of intoxicating liquors for other than medical, scientific and manufacturing purposes, to be necessary to the health and safety of society, the court cannot, without usurping legislative functions, override the will of the people as thus expressed by their chosen representatives. It is a fundamental principle in our institutions, indispensable to the preservation of public liberty, that one of the separate departments of government shall not usurp powers committed by the constitution to another department. And so, if in this judgment of the Legislature, the manufacture of intoxicating liquors for the maker's own use as a beverage would tend to cripple, if not defeat, her efforts to guard the community against the pernicious effects of such liquors, it is proper for this court, upon their view of what is best and safest for the community, to disregard the legislative determination of the question. So far from such a regulation being inappropriate to the general end sought to be accomplished, it is easy to be seen that the entire scheme of prohibition, as embodied in the constitution and laws of Kansas, would, in all probability, fail if the right of each citizen to manufacture intoxicating liquors for his own use as a beverage were recognized. Such a right does not inhere in citizenship. Nor can it be said that the Government interferes with or impairs any one's constitutional right of liberty or property when it determines that the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks for general or individual use as a beverage are or may become hurtful to society and to every member of it, and thereby give it power to regulate in what manner and by whom or by what authority is or may be lawfully engaged. This conclusion is unavoidable unless the fourteenth amendment of the constitution takes from the States of the Union those powers of the State subject to the same system is the adoption of the fourteenth amendment. This court has declared, upon full consideration (in Barber v. Connell, 113 U.S. 31) that the fourteenth amendment had no such effect.

"With reference to the assertion that the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of liquors deprives liquor-dealers of their property without due process of law, the court says that all property under our form of government is subject to the condition that it shall not be used so as to injuriously affect the rights of the community, and therefore, by the necessity of means. The State of Kansas had a right to prohibit the liquor traffic. It did not thereby take away the property of the brewers. It simply abated the nuisance. The property is not taken away from its owners; they are only prohibited from using it for a specific purpose, which the Legislature declared to be injurious to the community.

"It will be observed that the proposition and the argument made in support of it equally concede that the right to manufacture drink for one's personal use is not within the condition to which manufacture does not endanger or affect the rights of others. If such manufacture does prejudicially affect the rights and interests of the community, the property and the Legislature declared to be injurious to the community.

"But by whom or by what authority is it to be determined whether the manufacture of particular articles of drink, either for general use or for the personal use of the individual, shall not be considered to be injurious to the public? Power to determine such questions, so as to bind all, must exist somewhere, else society will at the mercy of the few, who, regarding their own appetites or pecuniary gain, may be willing to imperil the peace and security of the many, provided only they are permitted to do as they please.

"Under our system that power is lodged with the legislative branch of the government. It belongs to that department to exert what are known as the police powers of the State. It must, by being determined primarily what measures are appropriate or needful for the protection of the public safety.

"It does not at all follow from these principles that every statute, enacted ostensibly for the promotion of these ends, is to be accepted as a legitimate exertion of the police powers of the State. It must, by being determined primarily, as to the policy and the necessity of the same, legislation can not rightfully go. As the courts must obey the constitution rather than the law-making department of the Government, it must upon the correctness of its own determination whether in any particular case these limits have been passed. The courts are not bound by mere forms, nor are they to be misled by mere pretences. They are to determine, and exercise a solemn duty—to look at the substance of things whenever they enter upon the inquiry whether the Legislature has transcended the limits of its authority. If, therefore, a statute purporting to have been enacted to protect the public health, the public morals or the public safety, has no real substantial relation to those objects, or is a pretense in reality to laws of the constitution, it is the duty of the courts to so adjudge, and thereby give effect to the constitution of the State.

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J. E. LANDIS, M. D., Editor.

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