Our object in declaring is to improve car delivery. If you go at it rightly it will do much towards giving us an easy, graceful bearing, correct ideas upon general and a natural, effective use of the voice. But to do this we must go at it rightly; and we feel very sure of our ground when we say that the right way and the only right way is by construction. He who will put his energies upon one selection and work at that one, not until he has become worn of it, but until work ceases to bring a return to him, will find that he has accomplished much more by that concentrated effort than he would have been able to do by merely committing and reciting a dozen declama tions. The same thing may be said of technical and literary work; and the very much legally written oration is of little more to its author than it is to other people. If, however, the orations have been carefully and faithfully composed it has conferred a lasting benefit upon its author, that by no means proportional to the real merit of his production. But to prepare declamations and especially to write orations in this way seems work, and we do not have by the means of pronouncing clearly and distinctly, and the world offers incense in pure hearts, pure purposes, and pure lives. The divine which Christ gave us is in a degree practical, and can be appropriated by us, has been humanized. The blessed little charities which we shall bestow and receive are the tokens of the kind feeling and love for others which constitute the noblest and most valuable features of this higher and better life. It is a sign of the greatest influence of Christian teaching when Christian principles and precepts lose their distant and peculiar sanctity character and become social laws and usages, not in reality less sacred because more common, and felt and cherished in the hearts of men. Christianity has operated and does operate powerfully on society, and through society on law. It is interesting to observe the increasing tendency of legislation in enlightened states to occupy itself with moral questions. Many portions of the Bible in changed language are on our statute book. Many more will be there. But we shall hope that Christianity will eventually effect a primarily social revolution that will only be reflected in social laws. We believe that there are diversified and no incoercible manners among the rest, the works of Heaven. The kingdom of God on earth will have come when the greatest and minor truths of Christianity form a basis among men of sincere etiquette.

Our last considerable task this term is to present to our readers the finds number of the Verner Resources for 1888. The task is done. You have the paper. It was our privilege and pleasure a year ago to extend to our readers the complements of the happy season then approaching. That season is again at hand and again we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This year this not a nice farthing but with much heart. The Fourth of July is a state holiday. Thanksgiving is a religious festival and is set apart for the discharge of very just and grateful obligations calling for seriousness on the part of men and involving an audience of all Heaven. Christmas, secondarily now the character of a religion season is primarily the heart's holiday and is cosmopolitan. It is called a celebration of the birth of Christ, and it is. It is also a celebration of the life of Christ, of the whole Christ. It commemorates the advent not of a God but of a God-like man into this world and is a rejoicing over the love and charity and in the love and charity which he made possible in human hearts; not divine love but divinely human love. Hence its character is social rather than religious. We recognize the Great Gift first heralded by God's angels and the brightly shining star, and we hear the voice chanting: "Peace on earth and good will toward men." The angels long ago went back to Heaven. The shining star soon faded out. The shepherds are dead. The offerings of the wise men are consumed. The cruel cross has rotted. A score of centuries have nearly rolled away; but we retain the thought in this way. The gift of heavenly song, and the world offers incense in pure hearts, pure purposes, and pure lives. The divine which Christ gave us is in a degree practical, and can be appropriated by us, has been humanized. The blessed little charities which we shall bestow and receive are the tokens of the kind feeling and love for others which constitute the noblest and most valuable features of this higher and better life. It is a sign of the greatest influence of Christian teaching when Christian principles and precepts lose their distant and peculiar sanctity character and become social laws and usages, not in reality less sacred because more common, and felt and cherished in the hearts of men. Christianity has operated and does operate powerfully on society, and through society on law. It is interesting to observe the increasing tendency of legislation in enlightened states to occupy itself with moral questions. Many portions of the Bible in changed language are on our statute book. Many more will be there. But we shall hope that Christianity will eventually effect a primarily social revolution that will only be reflected in social laws. We believe that there are diversified and no incoercible manners among the rest, the works of Heaven. The kingdom of God on earth will have come when the greatest and minor truths of Christianity form a basis among men of sincere etiquette.

The officers of the Irving Institute were unanimously elected by acclamation. John M. Orton, was elected President, H. C. Gibson, Vice-President; Dr. Carl Stuttman, Treasurer, Mrs. Orton, Ree. Secretary; Cha. Clark, Cur., C. H. Maxson, Sergt. at arms.

A valuable lithographic collection was presented to the museum by an eastern lady. Further particulars will be given hereafter.

The officers of the Esperian society next term are Miss Kate Hudson, Pres.; Miss. Minnie Howe, Vice-President; Miss Florence Berlin, Secretary; Miss Kate Legler, Sergeant-at-arms.

A successful orator in the home contest of Drake University the other evening was Mr. F. A. Morgan, whose subject was "The Redemption of Christ." His younger brother took second honors.

The Zetegahian society will give their customary exhibition program this year. The members chosen are as follow: F. B. Tracy, Valedictorian; J. S. Nollen, Salutatory; Wm. Drew, Middle Oration; Debate, I. W. Bender; R. W. Walker, J. C. Patterson and W. A. B. Bord. Declamations, D. I. Coon and J. S. Tuttle. This program will probably be given the latter part of next term.

The joint session of Irving and Ewaldian societies attracted a crowded house last night. The audience was not at its expectations. The lecture from "Marie Stuart," in which the roles of the queens were admirably taken by the Misses Muner and Lay, was perhaps the best feature of the program. There was no ranting and raving, such as usually disgust audiences in its condition. This success is due mainly to Miss Lay's ability and skill as an orationist.

**Holiday Party.**

The closing days of the present term were embellished last evening by a very pleasant gathering at the "Hall of Bacon." The young people of the city united with the students in making the party one of the most enjoyable events of the year. The elegant engravings, lately procured at an enormous expense by Mr. Ham, were shown to their best advantage by the brilliant illuminations from myriad of twinkling lights. The immense music furnished by the Opera House orchestra was highly appreciated by all. Dancing was indulged in until a late hour, when the crowd repaired to some to the lunch counter, in default of a better place. It looked for a few minutes as if a famine were imminent in the immediate vicinity. But the proprietor rose nobly to the occasion, and furnished delicious viands for all.

Although the party was not a financial success, we are sorry to say, yet all united in pronouncing it a decided social success. We understand we are to have another party in the future, under the same management, which will eclipse all their former efforts. Let the good work go on.
LITERARY DEPARTMENT

"HELEN." (A SHORTER ESSAY)

About nine o'clock one March evening, my friend entered and handed me a letter. Weary with the tasks of the day, I turned from the open page before me with a sigh of relief as I recognized in the superscription the hand of a former pupil. As I broke the seal, there came a peculiar pleasure at the thought that I had a message from those and concerning whom I had for a time tried to instruct,—into whose growing lives something of my own life had entered. How rapidly, my thoughts went, from the book on the table to the old schoolroom and the faces that used to present themselves before me! How the old associations crowded back upon my memory! How vivid the picture in my mind, and how closely was I drawn again to the boys and girls! How heartily did I sympathize with them in their efforts—in their failures and in their triumphs! I would read that I might recall again the life of this notice of my fancy. The salutation—the same form that I had taught them—and then almost the very first sentence: "Have you observed, Mr. Bell-Bowers, — our Helen, he is dead."—A sudden darkness closed around me, and then I seemed as if awakening from a painful dream. Was it morning? It must indeed be a dream! Yet the lamp was still burning, and I held the letter in my hand. The voice of my friend recalled me. I read the written words again. "You know how I loved her." "She was my best friend." "You miss her so much." It was not a mistake. The words were there plainly written, and I, too, felt the intense sorrow of the writer. The reminder of the letter was scarcely glanced at. How earnestly I wished I might have seen her again. She came to my memory as I saw her last—strong, beautiful and happy. On her face was the bloom of perfect, joyous health. "I have said good by once. W. hy did you meet me again?" she said half reproachfully as she passed. Again and again I remember her the life and spirit of a light-hearted May-party, as we walked in the shadows of the trees on the bank of the stream searching for the wild daisies and the nodding bell-flowers, gathering clusters of the modest bluebells and the delicate little pink anemones that filled all the woods. The white pond lilies had not yet opened, but their broad rounded leaves floated at anchor on the water, and just beneath the surface we could see the green buds reaching up for the sun. Our ears were filled with the music of singing birds. Hope was supreme, and the mind of each was filled with thoughts of life and action.

The news with many others passed rapidly before me and ended in the cruel truth—Helen's voice would never be heard and her face would never be seen among her companions again. Her sweet expressions of kindness must become a memory only. So intelligent! So worthy to be loved!

All of my pupils, none had promise of a future happier than the one Helen had. She seemed unspeakably sad. Death—how moreless and unrelenting—coming between us and our holiest friendships! Death! At all times most unbearable to the proud and fretful, and then especially so. It does not come with such a shock in the activity of midsummer and the heat of noon; nor yet when the autumn leaves are falling, and the renewing shadows begin to creep, for then we feel that the race is finished and the appointed time is near; but when the droodewell sparkles in the morning sun, and the violets are yet blue among the flowers of spring,—when the hand of lovely womanhood yet holds the white roses of youth,—death brings with it a fourfold sorrow.

Once more I read: "It may not be right, but I can not help thinking that the Providence is unkind that has taken Helen from us. — And her father! He is heartbroken! You would scarcely know him!" Yes, my grieving friend, you can not help thinking so, for life is sweet to the young, and you look at the world with the eyes of youth. The summit of the ages, may perhaps look down and see a different vision. Life is best enough of sorrow, and few to whom is given the brain instilled three score years and ten can say: I have used them wisely. I have spent them well. Who then may question the life of the Infinite?

To us there remains the hope that Helen is not lost, but that beyond the limits of time, the friend's esteem and the father's love may find a higher, more perfect fulfillment. M.

A FRESHMAN EXERCISE.

H. FRANK BAIL.

"Little Jacky Horner sat in the corner, eating his Christmas pie.

He put in his thumb and pulled out a plum, and said, "What a good boy am I!"

There are many of these old English nursery rhymes, which have come down from times long past, have amused our elders as children, and have in turn been taught to us. And we remember them in the simple rhymes of "Little Jacky Horner," "Hickory Dickory Dock," and others, have amused us by their pleasing rhymes and very similes. And yet, as we may find sermons in stones, books in running brooks, and good in everything, thus even these simple ditties have in them some truth for the seeking mind. Little Jacky Horner, is not the only person who has sat in the corner extracting plums from a Christmas pie, or who has made that modest decla-ration, "What a good boy am I!"

The politician of to-day hunts up his war record of perhaps thirty days' service at the close of the war, appears before the public modestly announced as a hero of that service. The florist relates that the lilies of the garden, senatorial, or official plum, breaks forth in triumphant strains "What a good boy am I!"

Then there is that loyal party man who has voted, fought and struggled for his party since last it was in power. But now it is again victorious, and he takes his seat in some comfortable government-office, and feasting on the rich plums of perhaps a presidential post-office, declares in tones not to be contradicted, "What a good boy am I!"

But there is the man also, who has returned his plum-pudding for some task done, and, though he retires self-satisfied to some corner, still has merited it. But the impression made by a good deed done is easily effaced by too much praising off. Modesty is ever landed as a virtue, though not a vice, yet is a fatuus many an otherwise noble character. Cicero would have been much more highly esteemed for his disclosures of the conspiracy of Catiline, and his other great services to Rome, had he not been forever occupied in keeping this before the Roman people.

For as often as he received honors, consular or senatorial, he must explain, as he extracted his official plums, like Jacky Horner after him, "What a good boy am I!"

The following is an extract from "Hugo's Shakespeare," Book II, Chapter I. It is a fair example of the style and worth of this much prized work:

For our part, we think that the strict duty of science is to test all phenomena. Science is ignorant, and has not right to laugh; a scientist who laughs at the possible is very near being an idiot. Therefore, let us expect always to be expected by science. Her duty is to stop it in its course and search it, rejecting the chimerical, establishing the real. Science has but the right to put a set on facts, she should verify and distinguish. All human knowledge is but picking and testing. The circumstance that the facts are mingled with the true, furnishes no excuse for rejecting the whole mass. When was the tare an excuse for refusing the corn? How out the weed of error, but reap the fact, and place it beside others. Science is the sheaf of facts.

The mission of science is to study and sound everything. All of us, according to our degree, are the creditors of investigation; we are its debtors also. It is due to us, and we owe it to others. To evade a phenomenon, to refuse to pay it attention because it has been shown to us, is a crime. Let the man bow it out, to show it the door, to turn our back on it, to laugh, to make truth a bankrupt, and to leave the signature of to be protected. The mission of the tripod of old, and of the table of to-day, is entitled, like anything else, to investigation. Physical science will gain by it, without doubt. Let us add, that to abandon phenomena to credulity is to commit treason against human reason.

Homer affirms that the tripods of Delphic were picked of their own accord: these were delivered; and he explains the fact (Book XVIII of the "Iliad") by saying that Vulcan forged invincible wheels for them. The explanation does not much simplify the story, but the idea seems to have been adopted by those of the succeeding Greeks. Plato relates that the statues of Delphic were deluged in the darkness, had wills of their own, and resisted their master, and that he was obliged to tie them up, so that they might not walk off. Strange things, the invention of the philosophers! M.

To the great conspiracy of the philosophers, referred in another column, under the heading of "Palent" is the very best publication in existence for those interested in the science, engineering, mechanics, inventions, etc.
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A large number of students enjoyed a very pleasant evening at the reception of the President last Wednesday evening.

Prayer books, Bibles, hymnals, the largest assortment at lowest prices, Lee's Pioneer Bookstore, 117 Washington street.

Old students of the University and their friends will find C. L. Moster's 125 Washington street, the best place to buy supplies in his line. His stock represents the novelties as they appear in markets, is large and varied, and his prices are always popular.

It has been suggested that we amend the University constitution, if there is one, and close school Fridays, instead of holding over until the next Tuesday. It would undoubtedly be a wise plan for the faculty to lay the matter before the students to decide.

W. B. Allison writes to our librarian saying: "I have yours of the 5th inst. and will take pleasure in sending you the Daily Congressional Record as requested." So this record will hereafter be on file in our library, and Mrs. North should be thanked for obtaining it.

Now that the walks are so icy anyway, one appreciates the convenience and safety of the plank steps on the stone steps in front of the central building and of the south hall. One can begin the descent without fear and trembling and exceeding carefulness.

The program for next term is very nicely arranged. An account of increase in number of studies, however, unfavorable hours of recreation seem unavoidable. We hope it will not be necessary to keep that arrangement long. It is a great strain upon the conscience to slight dinner.

Miss Bollinger and Misser have rec

THE VIDETTE-REPORTER.

We have not heard of any provisions for reduced rates before the 24th last.

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

Go to the Opera House tonight for a first-class shave and haircut.

Lischer and Pickett distinguished themselves as speakers at the late Senior of Veterans' meeting in this city.

Professor and Mrs Carrier gave a reception Monday evening to the members of the faculty and a few friends.

Ladies will find a choice assortment of costume jewelry at Lee's Pioneer Bookstore, Lee & Welch & Co.

Keep a watch on Lee, Welch & Co.'s windows for the finest display of holiday goods over shown in the city.

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Miss Bollinger and Lischer have received a challenge from a Davenport editor and Davenport attorney to a public debate in one of the halls of that city upon the question as to whether the recommendations of Pres. Cleveland as contained in his last message should be carried out. We understand our boys have accepted.

Miss Gronewog, one of our fair freshmen representatives was unfortunate enough to be subjected to an ice bath, while skating above the dam last Friday night. That we might have been the disaster was prevented, and then if necessary, be consigned to the icy deep. We are glad to hear that the accident was attended with no serious results.

Mr. Chairman.

Peck surveyed a dam for Secretary Haddock this week.

The silk wear Henrietta cloth for overcoats at Horne's.

Cloaks must go at Horne's if low prices will sell them.

Those pretty, long pocket-books and handkerchiefs at Louis & Green.

The realistic reading, successfully conducted by Miss Barnard, was simply "killing."

D. A. Swindler class '87 was in the city this week. He stopped over on his way to Colorado. It pays to trade at Horne's where you can find anything you want and so cheap.

A number of the students will stay over here until Saturday in order to take advantage of the reduced rates.

Miss Mable Berry of Iowa City presented to the museum a number of bird skins. They will soon be mounted.

Mr. Fred Cochran gave to the museum a fine specimen of a short eared owl. It is the only one of that kind in the museum.

Remember, Horne is showing novelties in handkerchiefs, mufflers, lace scarfs, fascinators, toques and muff, not to be found elsewhere.

We heard a "medic" say in a very dej ected tone: 'I wished my chauffeur would hurry up and kiss him, so he could get the "hunch" off his mind."

Diamonds, Pearl Opera Glasses, Music, Instruments of all kinds, and elegant Perfumes at Louis & Green's, Drugists and Jewelers. The gentleman who thought he had discovered a valuable treasure in the Erdelpian program last Sat. evening is hereby notified of his mistake.

Some of the seniors seem to be unable to keep track of their plug hats. Jim, we are sorry you had to take her home in a hurry because of design of dignity.

The greatest display of holiday goods at Lee's Pioneer Bookstore, that will quote your prices, call and see. James Lee's 117 Washington street.

Remember Horne is headquarters for fine novelties for the holidays. We carry the finest line of fine linens handkerchiefs in the city.

There was a meeting of the oratorial associations at the Irving hall last night. The judges of the oratorical contest will be elected by the contestants Jan. 8th.

One of the Senior orators after being corrected by Professor Anderson, put into the hands of Miss Ley, in showing the senior his faults (they ever have any), she could not see the justice of the criticism of the Professor when he wrote the word, "hastily" at the end, although the oration was considerably broken up; that was too severe a criticism. On taking the oration to headquarters the word was deciphered as "hasted."
Clarks at almost your own price to close them out at Horne's.

A set of new novels just opened at Horne's for the holiday trade.

The cheapest and nicest presents in the city for sale of FINK'S BAZAAR.

Bohemian cut glass bottles, the finest made, diamonds and all kinds of jeweled, elegant, plush goods, and everything in the drug and jewelry lines suitable for the holiday trade, at Louis & Green's.

Curtain program at the Hersepin Hall to night. Jeane Ingleow's, Songs of Seven. One of the living and attractively beautiful was herennes, the only living instrument known to be in existence. A phenomenon rare and attractive.

The officers of the Zetaetaian society are: R. C. Gardner, President; J. T. Bailey, Secretary; C. A. Lighty, Treasurer; G. S. Coon, Corresponding Secretary; and Will Duffield, Sergeant-at-arms.

Horne's for the holiday season.

The curtain rose at Horne's with the famous Turkish Ballet for the holiday season.

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Enter the conflict Monday afternoon.

The Department extends to the Faculty a cordial invitation for a pleasant holiday vacation.

Corporations have been illegally awarded to the State for the year, and the advantages cannot be excelled. There are first festation.

The system of agricultural serfdom has not been fulfilled. Slavery indeed wields the full power of its evil power.

The law of the United States is subject to the railroads which are steadily advancing along their chosen line of march toward abolution. They control the hereditary succession. They control the instruments for the work of self protection.

The conflict is just closed, the three week course of lectures on the law of patents, and any one acquainted with him need not be told that they were of great worth to the department.

In three days more the full term of the department will be at an end, and the work accomplished has met with satisfaction from all. This being the last issue of this paper for the year, and the last one in which your present editor will be connected, it is his wish to extend thanks to the department, and also to the members of the editorial staff, for the kind manner in which he has been received and treated by both, and can assure to his successor pleasant work and associations during his term.

Railway Influence in the U. S.: It was predicted in the early days of the anti-slavery struggle, that with the emancipation other freedom would follow, and that the aristocratic spirit in all its manifestations would be purged out of the country. But it has not been purified, and the alienation of the community in either section of the Union has been simply repugnant in other forms, and it is still putting forth the full measure of its evil power. While the railway system of the country is at an end, the animating principle of the old slave masters still finds manifold expression. It reveals itself in industrial servitude which burros its life from the alliance of concentrated capital with labor-saving machinery.

Its maxim is that the chief end of government is the protection of property which is easily translated into the kind of maxim that capital should own labor. Its root is pure crudity, and if left to itself it degenerates into a system of robbery with consent and consequence turned admiral. Commercial feudalism is a new form of aristocratic rule. It yields its power through the machinery of great corporations which are practically endowed with life and hereditary succession. They control the makers and expositors of our laws and are steadily advancing along their chosen line of march toward absolute supremacy by the manipulation of great and the influence of the rail road companies. Their view of the law has been received without question.

How can any trust of land, after being the manipulation of great power, thus severed from the public mass, by any subsequent law or grant be inclosed therein? This is the main question and has been repeatedly answered by the land department that it is illegitimate. But in 1875 came an adverse decision, to the railroads which was to the effect that only the lands held absolutely by the United States was subject to survey, and that such lands were not applicable to these and indemnity was not due for land conveyed before the grant, which were within the limits of the act of 1850.

Although it is now more than twelve years since this decision, the railroads have not lost any acre of land which has been illegally awarded to them as a kind of royal indemnity. Thus these are allowed to continue, and a recital of them would take columns. All that can be said is that there is want of a thorough discussion of the machinery and working force of the department. Congress must strike at the very root of this evil and cannot strike too vigorously or too soon. The mischief to be remedied involves the very existence of republican government. The commercial greed of great corporations reinforced by great landed estates threatens the subjugation of the people, and the people must organize for the work of self protection.

ASSIGNMENTS.

Thursday evening occurred the first public meeting of the 'Justice of the Peace' of the department, and the verdict of all present was that it was one of the best ever witnessed in the halls. The following program was rendered without a fault. 'Rocking on the Billows,' by Junior Law quartette composed of J. E. Lewis, W. S. Searle, H. B. Herberling and H. Quirkenden. Declamation, 'What we may,' by J. C. Cown, Piano duet, by Misses Stover and Lloyd. Declamation, by G. Van Anken. Five minutes speech, by E. Novak. Declamation, by J. P. Laffy. Vocal duet, by Mr. Heberling and Mrs. Cutter. Then followed the debate. Resolved, that superstition has been of greater detriment to the Christian religion than skepticism, which was affirmed by C. J. Searles and E. L. Stover, and denied by H. Quirkenden and J. E. Williams. The debate was argued by both sides, but decided for the affirmative. A feature of the evening was the oration by H. Hoffman, a declamation by S. Bebee, and the program was then concluded by the quartette with a song entitled 'Hooting in the Tide.' Success to the society must follow this their first undertaking.

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The performances that are to be given at the Opera House on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of July.

A Refreshing Fact.

Once legally appropriated, and becoming thus severed from the public mass, by any subsequent law or grant be inclosed therein? This is the main question and has been repeatedly answered by the land department that it is illegitimate. But in 1875 came an adverse decision, to the railroads which was to the effect that only the lands held absolutely

by the United States was subject to survey, and that such lands were not applicable to these and indemnity was not due for land conveyed before the grant, which were within the limits of the act of 1850.
Holiday Excursion Rates.
For the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Ry will sell excursion tickets between all stations on its line, at one and one third cents for the round trip. Such tickets will be sold December 24th, 25th, and 26th; also, on December 31st, January 1st, and 2nd, and be good to return until January 3d, 1888.
For full information call on or address any agent, or
J. E. HANSDAN,
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