The Vidette-Reporter

IOWA CITY, APRIL 14, 1888.

NO. 23

The University, (Des Moines Register.)

Acting under the concurrent resolution ordering an investigation of the State University, the joint committee, consisting of Representatives McFarland, Wilbur and Hotchkiss, and Senators Mearsvery and Dodge, met last evening and organized by electing Senator Mearsvery Chairman, and Representatives and Island Secretary. The committee decided to begin the investigation at Iowa City, Tuesday, May 8th, and that will be the first meeting of the committee after the present separation. The resolution, which was introduced at the House by Representative McFarland and under which the investigation is to proceed, and is as follows:

WHEREAS,) heavy charges have been recently made against the State University, touching its general management, which reflect upon the economy and even the integrity with which its appropriations have been used, the moral character of the institution itself, the influences and moral atmosphere by which it is surrounded, the character of the State buildings and improvements, the conduct of some of its professors, the action of its Board of Regents in entering into a contract to discharge a part of its professors in consideration of certain appropriations, and the general efficiency of the University,

WHEREAS, such charges publicly made are greatly injuring the usefulness of the University, as well as the cause of education in the State, therefore, be it resolved by the House, the Senate concurring, that the Speaker of the House, and the President of the Senate are hereby directed to appoint a joint committee to investigate the charges.

The Library was opened each day during vacation from 9 to 12 A.M., quite a number availed themselves of the opportunity for study and research. The references in Roman and English history and in American literature, have been placed in the Reading room at the right of the card catalogue case.

Attention is called to the rule admitting under classroom to the book-room upon Friday afternoon and Saturday mornings only.

Our T. M. C. A. is making preparations to send out an agent through the state next month for the purpose of inspecting the University.
THE VIDETTE-REPORTER.

LITERARY DEPARTMENT

COLLEGE ORATORY.

BY CHARLES H. MAXSON.

We have always been fond of college orators. Even as a Freshman, we tried to cultivate the acquaintance of the great orators of the S. U. L. We have journeyed with these to the fields of eloquent declamation, waiting when they gathered the dust of the dead Demosthenes, and we have admired when they scattered their ashes on the heads of an applauding audience. Indeed, we have many great orators—orators who have carried us back to the year one; inquired into the Gar­ner’s motives for eating unripe apples; acted as judge at the trial of Cain; circum­navigated the globe in the Ark; and have moralized on the confusion of Babel. Our own orators have taken possession of this, without any malice of antiquity, visiting Memphis, Thebes, the Lions of Nineveh, and the Babylonish Wonders. They have fished for croc­odiles in the Nile, the Tigris, and the Eu­phrates, and made a circuit of the solar sys­tem, doxes a meteor, returns to the earth, hears ominous thunder, and is in­vited to further investigate this planet. Our orators are truly orators of the evening stepped out upon the stage to do his duty, to be his model of college metaphor, comprehensively.

Our orators were on the campus when the "cray" took place at Marathon, they were at Thermopylae and saw Leonidas and a few other Spartan youths drive the Persian cavalry, and they sat upon the beach with Xerxes, drizzled under Darius, and drank from the cup of Alex­ander.

When the resources of the old world were exhausted they followed the tide of civilization across the stormy waters of the Atlantic, landed the Pil­grims safely on Plymouth Rock, named it New England, and watched with careful preparation and accurate biogra­phies of all American statesmen from Washing­ton down to Grant.

But much as our orators have done for us, and while we have been al­most whitened by walking in their shad­ows, we have still a desire to hear the eloquent men of other colleges. We have read in certain books and various journals, that all animals degenerated in the State University,—Professors and orators among the number. A great number of Cornell, Lowell, Wesleyan, must, we thought, be as much superior to our own Carls and Daniele as is the dignity of the Senior to the un­sophisticated inexperience of the Freshman. At last the men and the opportu­nity came. With note-book and pencil we repaired to the appointed place and waited anxiously to learn what events had taken place and what new discov­eries and inventions had been made since the time of Adam. The gas was turned on, the band performed, and the first orator of the evening stepped out to tell the stage and bowed to the expectant audience. The president of the evening had announced that this young man would speak on "The World’s Dual Con­frontation." This is a large subject, and the speaker treated it very comprehensively. His production is characteristic and should be studied as a model of college oratory. Following, we give a brief synopsis:

The orator first discovered that the world had a bad headache, and that it was unable to lie down and sleep on the pillow of time. He then skimmed around over steep-capped mountain peaks, fertile plains, barren deserts, and trackless oceans, trying to get a glimpse of the white-winged, unconscious English peace, but the bird eluded his aim. He wrote history amid the roar of battle and read it in the glare of conflicts. He ushered in the Nineteenth century, crossed the waters and explained to us that Europe was a cradle, and we learned that something was going to be celebrated on the demesne of the field on the other side of the Adam. We have been told by in­habitants of the second mile that their knowledge of grammar being deficient, we were led into more difficulty with the pronouns and are unable to state just what was about to celebrate its demise. We thought it possibly might be Europe but as we had never heard of the demise of a cradle we abandoned this idea. It was his opinion that men tended toward the eternal. Nations and individuals were criticized for going abroad to fight and hurl human life into the maelstrom of death, when they should have been fighting its circles.

The orator then got pathetic on the shoreless ocean of misapplication, re­versed the process of time about twenty­four years, and the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars had taken their rightful place in the Orient that they might see a fabulously rich and magni­ficient army of a million swept off through Asia Minor and on to the shores of classic Greece. He com­mented upon the great power that had been established, the right to appear on every platform, that all animals degenerated, and while our orators are truly orators of the evening stepped out upon the stage to do his duty, to be his model of college metaphor, comprehensively.

The scene changed, and the audience was made to hear of the "invisible universe of the human soul." John Wesley is intro­duced and Marathon and Waterloo are incidentally mentioned. We are bidden to think of the astronomical, lawsless "cows, which never dare turn the telescope of investigation within." Slavery, patriotism, the Goddess of Fame, individ­ual sovereignty, and corrupt legisla­tors are discussed, and we are cautioned not to boast of Runnymede and Saratoga.

Our orator next appears before Niag­ara. As he contemplates the roar­ing waters, plunging headlong, he marvels at what a mighty millwheel they are capable of turning, and he is reminded of the "surging streams of humanity, madly coursing over the face of creation." Standing at this point in the darkness of history, and looking beyond the centuries into the daylight of the present, it is evident that the world has been slowly levelling itself in its selfish ambitions. "But standing on the threshold of the Twentieth century and piercing be­yond into the night of history," a para­graph of poetry from Lowell has a differ­ent signification. To-day, as well as in the past, mankind are afflicted with both internal and external battles. The orator then denounced the con­

Students who are interested in the study of psychological astronomy will find this recently invented instrument indispensable in bringing to light the many wonders of the newly dis­covered invisible universe.

The orator did not definitely locate the "isle of creation." Could they be found, however, many would doubt become a popular resort for the disappointed orators and bewildered cosmographers.

We were not informed by the orator who the individual was who stood at "this point of creation," and we presume the darkness prevented the identity of the person who did the looking.
dations that made it possible for Senator Inglis to advocate teaching England a lesson on angling, and for Bismarck to draw a sword against France. If nations would turn their powers within, fifty years would serve to revolutionize the world. "The new political fields of Ireland would be covered with the green verdure of justice," the liberal standing army "would be swept off the face of Europe," slavery would be plucked from the carnworn brows of Siberia, vexed problems would be solved; races would be amalgamated; around the entire world could be heard the march of education, rumbling in its mighty irresistible course, the optimist would realize his dream; and that "Brotherhood of Man" would cease to be a vagary of fiction.

At the close the orator was encouraged by tremendous local applause, which burst spontaneously from his own delegation in the dress circle, and which was heartily responded to by the audience at large.

The remaining speakers upon the program, sandwiched in between appropriate numbers of music, appeared in regular order and were listened to with considerable interest. They had all been anticipated, however, by the first. One or two, indeed, attempted to treat recent and interesting topics, but they failed hopelessly in ancient history, and on this account hardly deserve notice.

The four others who entered the French Revolution were mercilessly slain upon the field. It is true they made a few feeble thrusts at "the five and twenty savage millions," but their pallid Annus Mirabilis are not worthy of contrast with the vigorous manner in which the first orator met the mad, unbridled multitude and poured out their blood in civil revolution.

We have said that this is a comprehensive and characteristic type of college oratory. We have failed to do it justice in the foregoing apogee. In a few instances we have ventured to call attention to points of special interest. Every paragraph, however, abounds in rhetorical figures and instructive historical references. The amanuensis who edited the orator's honors, should not fail to give his days and nights to the study of this production.

"The green verdure of justice," we understand, is a new species of metaphysical plant that has been produced this winter by a process of spontaneous generation. It will not double be of great interest to scientific men.

As we think no one can look upon the "carnworn brows of Siberia" without being moved to pity, and we hope that willing hands will soon be found to do the planting suggested by the orator.

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OPPOSITE OPERA HOUSE.
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Go to Cash & Hunt's meat market, opposite Opera House, for choice meats and poultry.
Lillian Johnson, of the Sophomore class, has accepted a position in the Springdale school.
W. F. Kessler of last year's graduating class has been elected alderman of his town of Langdon, Dak.
Shell Burrows was in the city last Sunday, drawn hither by what has so often drawn him before.
A declamatory contest was held at West Liberty last night. R. C. Cravens acted as one of the judges.
Mrs. N. C. Young, whose visit we recorded not long since, has returned to her home at Bathgate, Dak.
W. D. Lovell of the Freshman class was called home Sunday night on account of sickness at his home.
Miss Ada Hitchcock has gone to Wichita, Kansas, to man James G. Day of Des Moines, Ex-Quint of the Supreme Court of Iowa. They will reside at Redfield, Dak., where Mr. Edg. will be practicing.
Members of the history classes find their work unusually hard this term on account of Prof. Perkins’ anticipated European trip. The Professor has been appointed to represent this institution at the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the University of Bologna.
Frank B. Aby, who will be remembered as a former member of ’88, is at present principal of schools at Napoleon, Ill., and is doing well. To our surprise he writes: “I have quite music. The only thing that I indulge in musically is whistling, and that but once a week.” Strange things will happen.
The last page of this paper will hereafter be conducted by Sterling & Willet, the proprietors of the popular Golden Eagle. This Eagle spread its wings and took a short flight recently, which event was elaborately celebrated. The University and furnished part of the music for the occasion.
Our readers will be pleased to know that at the Opera House Restaurant they can have warm meals promptly and quickly served at any hour, and can, if there find at any time a good oyster stew, the best of soda water and lemonade, and the choicest line of confectionery and cigars. The best quality of goods kept on hand.
It is all right enough to buy your jewelry at a jewelry at a jewelry store. Books at a book store. Drugs at a drug store and creaky at a china store. But do so at some future time. We are not going to make a good razor, jack knife, pistol, or anything usually kept in a first class hardware store, call on Lichty & Thomas. They make a specialty of that class of goods.
W. F. Grim of the senior class left for Sioux City last week, where he has accepted a lucrative position with Wakefield, Hill and Wingsland, one of the most prominent engineering firms in the north-west. Mr. Grim doesn’t expect to graduate this year, but hopes to do so at some future time. We are sorry to lose so bright a student and so genial an associate.
We predict “success” for him in the race of life, and would augment his natural energy and business tact by our best wishes. So long.

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The seniors have decided to have a Class Day, The following are the assigned exercises to be carried out:

Class History, Miss Copeland; Class Prophecy, Miss Lloyd; Address to Undergraduates, Mr. Lischer; Oration for School of Letters, Mr. Tracy; Oration for School of Science, Mr. Greski; Class Poem, Mr. Ross; Presiding Officer, Mr. Gardner.
Horsie Hollister of this year’s senior class, one of the commencement speakers, was in the city during vacation week. He left his impression on the class as a whole, and probably could not, with a slightly hazy mind, the less part of the face—a golden beauty borrowed from his left hand. Mr. Hollister used to be one of the editors of the paper—the only name of which he will ever be remembered.
Orrville D. Wheeler, recently very pleasantly surprised his friends. He was married on the 4th inst. to Miss Helen E. McConie, of Soton, Rev. G. W. Brilliant of this city officiated. Mr. Wheeler graduated from the college department of the University with the class of 1884, and from the Law department only a few weeks since. On May first he enters into a law partnership with Ex-Chancellor Ross, at Concordia. We congratulate him on his future happiness and prospects of future success. He is to be congratulated, also, in that he is to have a partner in his profession a man of the ability and experience of Ex-Chancellor Ross, and the latter is to be congratulated in bringing to this country a young man of the excellent character and winning qualities of Mr. Wheeler.

The Declamatory Contest.
On the last Saturday evening of last term, or the 24th of last month, there took place at the opera house, the declamatory contest between eight selected gentlemen from the Sophomores and Juniors. This is our first number.
since that time. Although it is rather late for an extended notice, a contest of this kind always deserves more than a mere announcement of the results, and we have thought that a few observations may not be out of place.

The contestants were, the Sophomore class, J. T. Bailey, W. B. LaForce, J. C. Monnet, and C. E. Maxson, of the Junior, C. D. Burt, W. A. DeBord, G. H. R. Emerson, and V. T. Price, President of the Student Body.

Schaeffer presided and informed us that it was not arranged that from each class, but that the preliminary contest merely turned out so, that there would be two prizes awarded, the first one consisting of books worth $10 and the second one, $10 also in books.

The first speaker was Mr. Burton. His selection was, "The Power of Poetry in Battle." He spoke with his characteristic power and was duly appreciated. Mr. Burton early proved himself a good declaimer and has proved himself a very strong declaimer, and he was far from weak here; but we think he would have fared better with a less difficult selection. On pathetic parts of his declamation he invincibly depicted his voice too high and this caused him to be less strong on the best passages than he was on others of a less importance. Notwithstanding this, at times he displayed a power that was hardly approached by any other speaker of the evening.

Mr. Thompson next presented a selection entitled, "Union National Asses­ sation." He also is a veteran of last year. He spoke very creditably, was never weak, but seemed to lack, perhaps it was force, we are not sure what it was. Mr. Bailey, with Hugo's "Man Over­board;" seemed but partially to get into the spirit of his work. The same might be said of Mr. LaForce who had a speech on Indian corn, an article perhaps more useful as a subject for poetical declamation.

Mr. Price then came forth with, "There is a God." He made a very good appearance. His expression was good, his gestures easy and applicable. He had a commanding presence and it was soon apparent that he would stand very high.

He was followed by Mr. Monnet, who had taken Arthur J. Craven's contest on "The Cause of the Gracchi." Mr. Monnet would have had difficulty in finding anything better suited to him than this. He entered into it thoroughly and expressed much feeling. No one could hold the attention of the audience better than he did.

The last speaker was Mr. Charles Max­ son. He had chosen, "The Treasure of Slavery." The selection called for a very energetic, intense delivery. Mr. Maxson delivered with vigor, but hardly equal to the demand. His ges­ tures were not always elegant.

The judges, Miss Longbridge, and Prof. Perkins and McClain, awarded Mr. Price first honors and Mr. Monnet second. The decision was very generally satisfactory. The contest between Mr. Price and Mr. Monnet was very close, and there would have been little surprise had either taken the first place. Mr. Price belongs to the Irving society and Mr. Monnet to the Zetepagian. Good music was furnished throughout the program by the University Band.

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NEW BOOK.
There has recently come to the University book which on any account merits something more than the formal notice which additions to the library usually receive. This book is entitled "The Botanists of George Engelmann," published by the University Press, Cambridge, under the superintending editorship of the late Dr. Gray, the volume comes to us as a magnificent gift from the friends of the botanical sciences.

The most difficult but beautiful subject of this book relates to the tree of these most difficult but beautiful conifers—one is called W j oak8, whose specific forms the botanists must behold with admiration the treasure trove, a body of information of Europe seem to have endlessly under his discriminating order, i. oC oak8, whose specific forms the botanists have been able to bring to him with admiration the best of his busy professional life. Engelmann's graduation thesis presented in 1832 at the time of his taking at Wurtzberg, Germany, his degree of M. D. The thesis is all written in Latin and consists of the morphology of flowers as illustrated by floral monstrosities. Forty years before, Goethe had followed much the same line of work and made himself famous in the world of science; so to Goethe a copy of the thesis was sent. The old poet expressed his hearty and unqualified approbation, and offered Engelmann for further prosecution of the subject, all his own unpublished botanical notes and drawings. It is interesting to think that Dr. Engelmann, thus links us back to Goethe, and that these two men represent in their lives and labors, extending over nearly a century and a half, almost all there is of modern natural science. The early companions of our author were Braun, Schimper and Agassiz, each since known to fame, his associates in this country Leopzreux and Gray. Many who have been interested to learn that Engelmann's father was a life-long teacher, and that his line of ancestry, extending back from his father's father, included several generations of Lutheran ministers; so that one more name is to be added to the already lengthening list of noted naturalists whose inspiration came from the parentage and whose "rocking cradle stood the alar near," Me B.

The B. C. R. & N. E. railway announces a special of Null Fand excursion from Iowa, Minnesota and Dakota points to the principal land centers of the West, Southwest, South and Southeast. The dates to be March 8 and 9, April 3 and 4, May 1 and 2 and June 2 and 3, 1888.

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The, thirty yearly Course of Instruction will begin Tuesday, September 25th, 1889, and close Thursday, March 25th, 1890. The course of instruction is divided into first, second and third year classes. Qualifications for admission are, either a degree of A. B., a certificate of a reputable academy, a teacher's certificate or a preliminary examination.

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Medical Department of the Northwestern University.

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>All wool Melton Coat...</td>
<td>$7.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool Silk Mixed Coat...</td>
<td>$8.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifty All Wool Cheviot Coats, Silk and Satin faced,</td>
<td>$8.50, worth double.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our stock of Prince Albert Suits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our stock of Prince Albert Suits is one of the attractive features of our establishment. We have just received 500 Pair all wool Pants, bought for 50 cents on the dollar, that we place on sale this week at the ridiculously low price of $2.50 per Pair. They are cheap at $5.00.

Our custom made Pants can only be equalled by the best eastern merchant tailors.

Furnishing Goods Department.
We do not wish to blow, but can say the Furnishing Goods Stock we now carry has never been equalled in the state. We carry the best line the market affords. Glance over a few of our prices,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fine Silk Neckties, two for 5c., worth double.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;&quot; 2c., worth 10c.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 Dozen Neckties, 50c., worth 1.00.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Linen Collars, all styles, 10c.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best white Shirt, 50c.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All styles of Fancy colored shirts, from 35c. to $1.25.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just received, FIFTY DOZEN finest French flannel Shirts, in fancy and plain colors.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We also carry the best assortment of Kid Gloves ever brought to the city. We have put in a full line of the celebrated Dent's gloves, every pair warranted. It is needless for us to say anything about our Hat Department. One glance will convince anyone that we have the best line shown in the West.

Will Positively Save You Money on Every Purchase

They can buy or rent our stores, but they cannot compete with us either in quality or prices.
CALL AND SEE US IN THE FINEST STORE WEST OF CHICAGO.

THE GOLDEN EAGLE
ONE-PRICE CLOTHING HOUSE.

LOOK FOR THE RED FRONT.

TOWNSEND'S PHOTOGRAPHIC PARLORS, THE FINEST IN THE CITY, 22 CLINTON ST
Students will find it to their advantage to go to this old and popular gallery. All are welcome.