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The Vidette-Reporter.

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The Vidette-Reporter

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During Collegiate Year S. U. I.

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All communications should be addressed,

THE VIDETTE-REPORTER,
Iowa City, Iowa.

Now for the home stretch.

ALONZO STEELE, of Grinnell, has endowed the chair of mathematics in Iowa College, with $20,000.

WE recommend you to read the article on the sixth page from the pen of Prof. McBride.

MRS. HENRY SHAW, of St. Louis, has presented the library with a copy of the Botanical works of George Engelmann. The work contains a large number of beautiful plates.

WE hope all those who have not yet paid their subscription will not fail to do so at once. Please do not wait until you get more explicit notice of your delinquency. We wish to have our subscription accounts squared up as soon as possible. Please do not neglect this matter. It is important to us.

IT is rather late to announce the commencement speakers, but it would be strange if their names were not published in the VIDETTE-REPORTER, and those of our readers not actually in school have not learned as yet who they are. The immortal thirteen, then, who are to uphold the honor of class '88 on the commencement platform are:

J. W. Bollinger, Miss Alice Calvin, William H. Dart, John H. Gates, H. A. Hollister, D. P. Johnson, W. F. Lohr, F. W. Lohr, John S. Nollen, Miss Eva V. Rankin, William Rohde, Miss Annie E. Shepherd, Miss Bertha A. Williams.

These are they who crossed no dead line neither were at any time spotted.

FIFTY-TWO thousand dollars. That is the amount. It is not what was asked for, but it is all that the Assembly thought it could appropriate. It will suffice to run the University comfortably for two years, but no new buildings can be erected or facilities acquired. And the investigating committee is to be here with power to carry forward its work in vacation, and make a report to the Governor. We are glad that the University is to have the investigation. If things are rotton here, the quicker it is proven the better. If not, an investigation can do nothing but good to all concerned. The committee has decided to begin its work May 8th. If the instructions are followed out the investigation cannot be a farce. Let the committee "hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may." No where is there more need of it than among Iowa City saloons. More extended notice of the committee and its work will be found in another column.

THE editors of the *Varsity*, of the University of Toronto, sent out a circular during the the month of March asking the opinions of librarians of leading colleges in the United States and Canada as to the best methods of popularizing the library among the students. The replies are published in the issue of April 7th, and show a general unanimity of view. Nearly all agree that the library should be open as many hours as possible, should be thoroughly catalogued and indexed, that reference books be placed within the reach of all, and that much freedom of access to the shelves be granted. All urge that the efforts of librarian and professors be directed toward arousing an interest in the library and directing students in the use of books. In looking over these reports we are pleased to observe that our own library keeps well in line with the libraries of even larger Universities; and for the number of books and the amount of money set apart for its benefit, it is ahead of many. There is no doubt but that it is admirably conducted and the arrangements pertaining to it the best that under present circumstances can exist.

UNIVERSITY circles have experienced what pamphleteering is recently. We spoke in a former number of a pamphlet from the erratic pen and compounded ink of Dr. Gustavus Hinrichs. In the closing days of last term one made its appearance having for its author, Rev. Dr. Fellows. It contained the report which he had prepared for the investigating committee of the General Assembly, and set out to prove the charges which Dr. Fellows has constantly made since his removal from the University, that he and Professor Leonard were removed because they were prohibitionists, that a "deal" was made with this as one of its terms, that the University has been captured by the Democrats and that saloon influences prevail about it. A few days ago Dr. Hinrichs printed and published another little volume in paper covers, which is for the most part the first pamphlet in a stronger form. He has a chapter on Russian terrorism in Iowa, some mean insinuations against Dr. Peck and members of the collegiate faculty, and an open letter to President Schaeffer. This letter is one of the marked features of the production. We trust our worthy President will survive the hurling of this terrible missle from the hand of the wrathful Teuton. The doctor represents even the editors of the VIDETTE-REPORTER as cowed and trembling before the awful visage of the Terror Fiend. Not so. We are in the possession of life and liberty and are pursuing happiness.

To Investigate 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 Meservey and Dodge, met last evening and organized by electing Senator Meservey Chairman, and Representative McFarland 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 in the House by Representative McFarland and under which the investigation is to proceed, and is as follows:

WHEREAS, grave charges have been made and are now being made against the Iowa 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 efficacy of the University, and

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 be composed of three members from the House, and two from the Senate, to investigate all charges made against the State University, and set out above, and said committee is hereby vested with power to subpœna, witnesses, books and papers, and to administer oaths, and may employ a clerk. The sitting of said committee shall begin in Iowa City, Iowa, on or before the third Tuesday in May, as the committee may desire, notice having been previously given by publication in the Iowa City *Republican* and Des Moines *Register*, at least ten days prior to said sitting. No member of said committee shall be chosen from a county containing a State institution drawing appropriations from the State, or in which resides any member of the Board of Regents.

The subjects to be investigated are set out in the preamble to the resolutions, but said Boards are hereby directed to investigate all charges made against said University, that if true, would be reprehensible. The members shall be entitled to five dollars (5.00) per day for each day's service on said Board, and five cents per mile mileage, and actual expenses incurred in said service. Upon the conclusion of the investigation, a full and complete report of the proceedings of the Board shall be prepared and transmitted to the Governor who shall cause to be printed in pamphlet form two thousand copies of the same, to be distributed as follows: Two copies to each member of the Twenty-second General Assembly, two copies to each county superintendent of public instruction, the balance to be distributed by the Governor. The original report is to become a part of the records of the Governor's office and in a regular form transmitted to the Twenty third General Assembly when it convenes. The clerk of said Committee shall receive five dollars per day for each day's service rendered, to be certified by the chairman of said Board the same as the salaries and general expenses of the Board.

LIBRARY NOTES.

Hon. Wm. B. Allison has presented the Library with a handsomely bound copy of the "Rules of the House of Representatives," 11th edition, 1888.

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 classmen to the book room upon Friday afternoon and Saturday mornings *only*.

Our Y. M. C. A. is making preparations to send out an agent through the state next summer in the interests of the building which it proposes to erect in the near future. The agent will probably be one of the students. It is realized that this year will mark the crisis in the enterprise, and the most energetic work will be required to meet the demands of this year.

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. I. We have journeyed with these to the fields of classic eloquence. We have been present when they gathered the dust of the dead Demosthenes, and we have admired when they scattered his ashes on the heads of an applauding audience. Indeed, our Iowana has many great orators, —orators who have carried us back to the year one; inquired into the Gardener'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 pleasure trips back into the obscurity 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, those wonderful rivers whose valleys nourished the infant race of man. They have called on the mummy of Cheops and taken toboggan rides down the sides of the great pyramids of the Pharoahs. They have enlisted in the armies of the Orient, marched in the awkward squad of Xerxes, drilled under Darius, and drank from the cup of Alexander.

Our orators were on the campus when the "scrap" took place at Marathon, they were at Thermopylae and saw Leonidas and a few other Spartan youths carve the Persian cadets, and they sat upon the beach with Xerxes when his canoes were upset at Salamis. They have exhibited the culture of Athens, and introduced us to all the renowned men of Greece. They have read the "Iliad" by moonlight, while the blind old bard wandered along the shores of the soft Aegean Sea, his sightless eyes kissed by the balmy zephyrs that wafted to his ears the plaintive melody from the lips of Helen of Troy. Our orators have given us to drink from the never-failing fount of Eschylus and Sappho. Herodotus, Pythagoras, Plato, Sophocles and others are intimate friends; while we have been called upon to drink the hemlock with Socrates, and have been invited to shovel pebbles into the mouth of young Demosthenes while he practiced the diaphragmatic stroke. But we can not dwell upon Greece. The Olympiads and hundreds of other topics are favorite themes for powerful and instructive Philippics and we very reluctantly accept an invitation to go over to the Italian peninsula to see how Romulus and Remus are getting on. Rome has been a thriving village in its day, and its history abounds in standard themes for the practice of the Ciceronian art. Plebs and Patricians, Tarquins, Neros, Hannibal and Carthage, The Gracchi, The Vandals of the North, The Barbarian Goths, the Teutonic Invasions. Charlemagne, Constantine, Brutus, and the renowned Julius Caesar and the Rubicon, The Agrarian Laws, the Gladiatorial Games, The Golden Age of Augustus, the Pantheon, the Coliseum; Virgil, Cicero,—these names of persons, places and events are as familiar as household words.

Yes, Iowana has produced many great orators who have cribbed prize essays from the wisdom of ancient and modern lore. They have explored all the great battlefields of Asia, Africa, and Europe. They have invaded Spain with the Saracens, followed the varying fortunes of the Crescent, and listened to the Last Sigh of the Moor. They have reviewed the Middle Ages and helped Luther along with the Reformation. Times without number have we been told of the merits of William the Conqueror, Mary of Scots, and Good Queen Bess.

Cromwell and Charles, James and the Prince of Orange, Louis XIV., Alaric, Peter of Russia, Frederic the Great, Napoleon and Wellington, Garibaldi, Gladstone and Bismarck would all feel insulted, if two out of three of our orators did not recognize them at each contest. While the Crusades, the Norman Conquest, the French Revolution, Waterloo and St. Helena have established the right to appear on every regular program.

Our own orators are truly great men. When the resources of the old world were exhausted they have followed the tide of civilization across the stormy waters of the Atlantic, landed the Pilgrims safely on Plymouth Rock, nursed the infant Republic, and have written carefully prepared and accurate biographies of all American statesman from Washington down to Grant.

But much as our own orators have done for us, and while we have been almost withered by walking in their shadows, we had 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 orator of Cornell, Iowa College, Drake or Wesleyan, must, we thought, be as much superior to our own Carls and Daniels as is the dignity of the Senior to the unsophisticated innocence 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 upon 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 Conflict." 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 skirmished around over snow-capped mountain peaks, fertile prairies, barren deserts, and trackless oceans, trying to get a shot at the white-winged messenger of 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 celebrate its demise on the field of another Waterloo. (Perhaps we ought to say in parenthesis that our 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 criticised for going abroad to fight and hurl human life into the maelstrom of death, when they should have been fighting at home.

The orator then got pathetic on the shoreless ocean of misapplication, reversed the process of time about twenty-five hundred years, and carried his audience right over into the Orient that they might see a fabulously rich and magnificent army of a million of men sweep through Asia Minor and on to the shores of classic Greece. He contemplated wicked Persia and remarked that if history had not recorded the example, fiction could scarcely have produced the illustration which illuminates this part of his essay. Xerses' character was pronounced unobscured by the mists of isolation,† and fame, power, and immortal glory were spoken of figuratively.

The scene changed, and the audience next saw the orator in the sunny land of France crimson in the blood of revolution. Twenty-five million starving peasants had broken their bridles and were wiping out the wrongs of centuries. The French people were put into a frail bark and rocked to and fro on a wild, surging sea of passion until the leaky dugout almost dipped water, when a magician appeared and waved a magic wand. At this, bleeding France got right up and marched with Napoleon amid the shadows of Egyptian pyramids; over the dizzy summits of the Alps; burned Moscow; and waved a flag of conquest over foreign lands.

Another scene upon the panorama, and the orator reviews the English army in India, chases the British Lion through Oriental jungles, marches Anglo-Saxon civilization through Hindoo superstition, lands his audience on the Emerald Isle within thirty leagues of England's shore and asks them a question about strategy and crime.

We now realize that we are in the twilight of the Nineteenth century. We look back several hundred years and see mighty Rome fall over and bury the ideal of nations,—universal empire. Another ideal, universal power, was born. Europeans fought weird and romantic battles on American soil. National ambition made Gladiators, darkened the sunlight of justice, and caused the approaching millenium to shudder and back off. Men fought for gold and power; millionaires were born and souls smothered; and man bound himself to the brute.

Then a young architect of life is brought out and shown a wonderful world—a curiosity in the museum of the infinite. The architect is shown the stars, makes a circuit of the solar system, dodges a meteor, returns to the earth, hears ominous thunder, and is invited to further investigate these phenomena in 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 unmusical, lawless "cowards who 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 when he thinks what a mighty mill-wheel they are capable of turning, and he is reminded of the "surging streams of humanity, madly coursing over the falls§ 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" many of its selfish ambitions. "But standing on the threshold of the Twentieth century and piercing backward 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 external and internal battles.

The orator then denounced the con-

*The first three opening sentences contain a unique metaphor which it is impossible to do justice to without quoting in full :—"The *world* has never closed its eyes in sleep. Upon the pillow of time its aching, throbbing head has never rested. Over *its* fertile prairies *its* snow-capped mountain peaks, *its* barren deserts and trackless oceans, the white winged messenger of peace has never flown."

The neuter pronoun "*its*" in the third sentence seems to mean the globe as a subject of physical geography, but on referring back to its antecedent "*world*" in the first sentence it would seem to mean the inhabitants of the earth collectively. We were not quite certain that we got the author's meaning clearly on this point, but on submitting it to a freshman who is studying rhetoric, it was thought to be a mixed metaphor, and as the style is highly poetic, therefore allowable.

†As yet we have failed to sufficiently condense the "mists of isolation," to be able to say whether it is an aqueous vapor or a rhetorical gas, but it is our belief that in a well equipped oratorical laboratory it may be readily analyzed and its gaseous character clearly demonstrated.

‡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 "falls of creation." Could they be found, however, they would no doubt become a popular resort for disappointed orators and sorehead contestants.

‖We were not informed by the orator who the individual was who stood at "this point in the darkness of history," and we presume the darkness prevented the identity of the person who did the looking.

ditions that made it possible for Senator Ingalls 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 now desolate fields of Ireland would be covered with the green verdure¶ of justice;" the libelous standing army "would be swept off the face of Europe," "slavery would be plucked from the careworn brow** 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 "the '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, sandwitched in pairs 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 pusillanimous efforts 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 synopsis. 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 aspirant after oratorical 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 metaphorical plant that has been produced this winter by a process of spontaneous generation. It will no doubt be of great interest to oratorical scientists.

** We think no one can look upon the "careworn brow of Siberia" without being moved to pity, and we are hopeful that willing hands will soon be found to do the plucking suggested by the orator.

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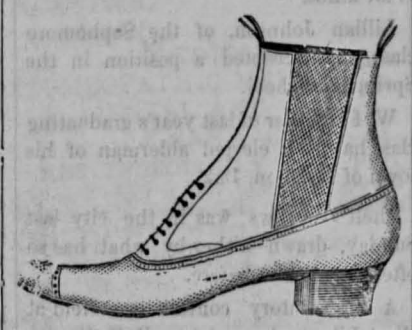

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S. V. FRIEND.....Secretary
Sessions every Friday evening.

STUDENTS' CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

Prayer meetings every Tuesday noon in President's recitation room. All are cordially invited.

LOCALS.

Lee, Welch & Co.'s Bookstore.

Fish market, 123, Iowa Avenue.

J. E. Patterson stays out this term.

We are all glad to see Stempel back again.

J. H. Ligget was in the city during vacation.

Look out for the investigating committee, May 8.

Misses Jewett and Clark were in Des Moines last week.

Schroeder spent his vacation with Bollinger in Davenport.

Douglas, one of the assistant librarians, leaves school to-day.

Quite a number of the students spent their vacation in town.

D. A. Long is one of the reporters in the Billings trial at Waverly.

Carl K. Snyder drops out of school for the present, and is at home.

Cal Lichty is conducting a large drawing class in the Academy.

Bonson will not be with us this term, owing to the illness of his mother.

President King of Cornell College was a visitor in the city the other day.

Morris Evans, after spending the winter in teaching, is in school again.

Seth V. Peck concluded to remain under the parental roof until next fall.

Orlup has finished his school at Concord, Minn., and enters the Law department.

Miss Sadie Hubbard, of St. Paul, formerly of this city, is the guest of Miss Bacon.

Prof. Leonard and family left yesterday for their new home in Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Miss Mitchell reports a very enjoyable visit with friends in Fairfield and Des Moines.

Go to the Opera House to-night for at first-class shave and hair-cut.

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

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. Craven 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 Hutchinson has gone to Witchita, Kansas, to make an extended visit with her sister Mrs. Clapp.

We are sorry to learn that Miss Susie Paxson, on reaching home found her mother so ill as to prevent her return.

Pres. Schaeffer went to Ithica, N. Y. last Monday night to atteud to some business matters and bring his wife back.

Now that spring has come it is about time for the plank steps to be removed from in front of the central and south halls.

One of our noble seniors was taken for a Freshman because he wore his uniform home during the vacation. Served him right.

Students patronize Waterman & Williams when wanting anything in the line of dry goods or notions. 124 Clinton street.

R. C., according to present arrangements, will enter upon the telegraph and newspaper work in Montana July 1st at a salary of $1,000.

O. R. Young writes asking that the address of his paper be changed from Dillon, Colo., to Leadville, at which latter place he now is.

The attitudes and positions allowable in a club room or smoking room are not suitable in a library which is a general resort for ladies and gentlemen.

The officers of the junior sophomore Oratorical Association are: President, D. I. Coon; Vice-Pres., V. T. Price; Sec., C. H. Maxon; Treas., J. S. Tuthill.

Miss Nan Shepherd has been visiting the Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., whither she went as a delegate to the convention of the Delta Gamma fraternity.

A New York paper has sent letters to a number of our students, requesting essays on the subject, "What kind of a girl does a college boy like best?" No doubt the information which they receive will be of great value.

A notice of a declamatory contest open to any lady student in the College is posted up. The preliminary will be held the 20th of this month; the final about the middle of next month.

We notice an account of the Beloit College home oratorical contest in a recent copy of the Beloit *Press*. The work of Prof. Booth there is very much appreciated and highly commended.

E. Frank Brown spent Sunday in the city renewing S. U. I. acquaintences. He returned to Jefferson Monday, but next week will go to Sterling, Colorado, where he will shortly begin the practice of law. We wish "Brownie" the best of success.

It is something unusual for a senior to mistake his own name for that of another when the commencement speakers are announced; such an instance occurred this year, and the speaker is to be doubly congratalated.

Edmund B. Edgar, Law, '84 has lately been united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Day, only daughter of Hon. James G. Day of Des Moines, Ex-chief justice of the Supreme Court of Iowa. They will reside at Redfield, Dak., where Mr. Edgar is 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 800th anniversary of the University at Bologna.

Frank S. Aby, who will be remembered as a former member of '88, is at present principal of schools at Neponset, Ill. and is doing well. To our surprise he writes: "I have quit music. The only thing that I indulge in musically is whistling, and that but once a week." Strange thing things *will* happen.

The last page of this paper will hereafter be conducted by Stern & Willner, 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 band 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 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.

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Mr. J. M. Grimm of the senior class left for Sioux City last week. where he has accepted a lucrative position with Wakefield, Hill and Wingeland, one of the most prominent engineering firms in the north-west. Mr. Grimm does not 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 assignments of the 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. Grim: Class Poem, Mr. Closz; Presiding Officer, Mr. Gardner.

Horace 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 composite, and will probably adorn it with a saintly halo about the lower part of the face—a golden beauty borrowed from his full beard. Mr. Hollister used to be one of the editors of the *Reporter*—the maiden name of this journal before it married the *Vidette*—in the year '77-'78. During the past year he has been teaching as principal of the Bellevue schools, and his services are highly commended.

Orville D. Wheeler, recently very pleasantly surprised his friends. He was married on the 4th inst. to Miss Helen E. McCune, of Solon, Rev. G. W. Brindell of this city officiated. Mr. Wheeler graduated from the collegiate 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 Council Bluffs. We congratulate him on his present happiness and on the prospects of future success. He is to be congratulated, also, in that he is to have for 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 his aid 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 Sophomore and Junior classes. This is our first number

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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 result, and we have thought that a few observations may not be be uninteresting.

The contestants were, of the Sophomore class, J. T. Bailey, W. B. La Force, J. C. Monnet and C. H. Maxson; of the Junior, C. H. Burton, W. A. DeBord, G. B. Thompson and V. T. Price. President Schaeffer presided and informed us that it was not arranged that there should be four 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 $15 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 this is the second contest in declamation in which he has appeared.

Following him came Mr. DeBord with a translation of Schiller's "Diver." Mr. DeBord has proven himself in literary society, 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 places he invariably pitched 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, "Unjust National Accusation." 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. La Force who had a speech on Indian corn, an article perhaps more useful as food than as a subject for poetic meditation.

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 oration "The Cause of the Gracchi." Mr. Monnet would have had difficulty in finding any thing better suited to him than was this. He entered into it thoroughly and expressed much feeling. No one held the attention of the audience better than he did.

The last speaker was Mr. Charles Maxson. He had chosen, "The Treason of Slavery." The selection called for a very energetic, intense delivery. Mr. Maxson's delivery was energetic, but hardly equal to the demand. His gestures were not always elegant.

The judges, Miss Loughridge, and Profs. 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 Zetagathian. Good music was furnished throughout the program by the University Band.

ORDER NO. 8.

H'D'Q'RS. UNIV. BATT., APRIL 13, 1888.

As previously announced, it is proposed to have a competative drill between the companies of the University Battalion during the Spring term. In addition to giving to the best drilled company the right of the line and the designation of Prize Company of the University Battalion, this company will be given a small silk color, with proper inscription, which it will carry on parade and occasions of ceremony, and remain in its custody until won by some other company at a future competition.

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To the best drilled corporal, a pair of gold-lace sergeant's chevrons.

To the best drilled private in each company, a pair of gold lace corporal's chevrons.

To the two best drilled privates (Sophomores) of the Battery, the appointment of corporal at the beginning of the Spring term.

To the best drilled private in the whole battalion, a copy of Upton's Infantry Tactics.

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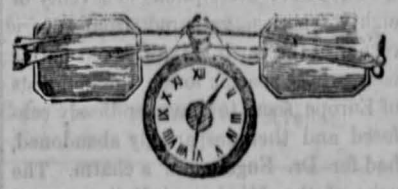

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A NEW BOOK.

There has recently come to the University a book which on many accounts merits something more than the formal notice which additions to the library usually receive. This book is entitled "The Botanical Works of George Engelmann." Published by the University Press, Cambridge, under the supervising editorship of the late Dr. Gray, the volume comes to us as a magnificent gift from that distinguished patron of Natural Science, Mr. Henry Shaw, of St. Louis. The book is large, 4to size, 535 pp. text, contains a portrait of the illustrious author, and more than one hundred full page plates, three-fourths of them steel engravings. To botanists of today and of the future the volume will be a treasure trove, a body of information of the most authentic kind on some of the most important topics relating to American botany; while every scholar must behold with admiration the amount of exact and original work which Dr. Engelmann has been able to bring to completion during the *leisure* hours of his busy professional life.

The papers composing the text are arranged for the most part in chronological order, *i. e.*, in the order of their appearance, and the work of the editor has been simply to collocate these papers, meanwhile subjecting them to such revisions as the author's MS. notes rendered possible and proper. Each paper is complete in itself, both in the extent and the perfection of the investigation recorded. Of the series the most important relates to the *Cactaceæ* (*Cacti.*) Here we have what is practically a monograph of the order, as found in the United States; a synopsis followed by full descriptions of more than 100 species of these most difficult but beautiful plants. Any obscure and difficult region in the botanical field seems to have had special attraction for Dr. Engelmann. The Dodders, a group of parasitic phaenogams, attractive enough in themselves, but very intractable in classification, have been thoroughly elaborated, and we have here descriptions of seventy or eighty species gathered from every corner of the earth. Likewise our native oaks, whose specific forms the botanists of Europe seem to have endlessly confused and then desparingly abandoned, had for Dr. Engelmann a charm. The oaks of the Mississippi Valley passed under his discriminating hand, and the names by which in the future the species shall be called, are those which Engelmann established or confirmed. One fourth of the California species are likewise of his authorship. His touch is also upon all our conifers—one is called by his name and one he names for his friend Dr. Parry. As Dr. Gray says: "He was the recognized authority in those departments of his favorite science which had most interested him." Wherever he chose a field he exhausted it, leaving exceedingly narrow margin for subsequent gleaners. Thus his notes on the Aloe and the Yucca were illustrated by photographs and constitute really a monograph on those genera. He became interested in the cultivation of the vine in Missouri, and accordingly investigated the native species of the genus *Vitis* elaborating the subject completely until "all that we know scientifically" on the subject is his work. So with the rushes (*Juncus,*) the Gentians, the pond-lilies, asclepiads, the quillworts, each came to him with irresistible attractiveness, as to the mathematical genius rises some problem new, unsolved,—his opportunity.

But I must not fail to notice the very first chapter in the book, although the limits here afford scant room. Here we have Engelmann's graduating thesis presented in 1832 at the time of his taking at Wurzburg, Germany, his degree of M. D. The thesis is all written in Latin and treats 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 Lesquereux and Gray. Many also will be 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 parsonage and whose "rocking cradle stood the altar near."

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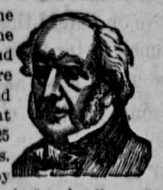

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Words fail to describe the large line of Spring Overcoats we carry. We show more styles than all the others combined. Buying them in very large quantities for our many different stores enables us to sell them at prices never before heard of. Below we quote a few of our best sellers

All wool Cassimere Overcoat, three shades.....$5.00
All wool Melton Coat..... 7.50
Wool Silk Mixed Coat..... 8.50
Fifty All Wool Cheviot Coats, Silk and Satin faced, **$8.50,** worth double.

Our stock of

Odd Pants

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

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They are cheap at $5.00.

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

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" " " 25c., worth 50c.
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