

# The Vidette-Reporter.

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NO. 17

## The Vidette-Reporter

ISSUED

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During Collegiate Year, S. U. I.

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All communications should be addressed,

VIDETTE-REPORTER,

Iowa City, Iowa

### Notice.

On Wednesday, Feb. 11th, Mr. George Kennan will lecture at the Opera House under the auspices of the S. U. I. Lecture Bureau. The VIDETTE urges that it is the duty of every student in the University to attend. If we are to hold our rank as a first-class University, we must support a lecture course. You will be amply repaid for both time and money in attending Mr. Kennan's lecture; and furthermore, you will be aiding a most worthy cause in this institution. It is not the design of the Bureau to make a financial aim out of these lectures; their aim is to furnish this institution with a course of first-class lectures. Such an aim is praiseworthy, and deserves your hearty co-operation. See to it that you are there.

### The Contest.

The VIDETTE this week publishes two communications with regard to the late contest, one from a lady, the other from a gentleman. In reading these letters we wish it to be distinctly remembered, that Mr. Sampson wrote his article upon an urgent invitation from the VIDETTE editors; and in no way was it thrust upon us. Furthermore, we desire to say that, as editors, we are eminently satisfied with it, and believe that it marks an epoch in the criticism of oratory in western colleges. There may be sentiments and opinions to which we take exception, but that does not invalidate the article as a whole nor detract from its usefulness. In times past there has been too much of wishy-washy criticism for our own good, and if Mr. Sampson's article has

started—and we believe that it has—the students to thinking upon the subject, it has performed an inestimable service to college orators present and college orators yet to come.

However, this does not prevent us from saying that in the communications before us, there are some good points; for instance, that the Faculty should do more to make our orations better, if they are not up to the required standard. Let this strike home to the members of the Faculty concerned, and if they have any suggestions as to how to better our contests, the students will surely be glad to hear them. Let both sides take a common-sense view of these things and work in harmony.

### As Others See Us.

"None are so blind as those who will not see," and none are so foolhardy as those who will not accept of good, wholesome advice.

But there were a few statements made in the Oratorical Contest write-up of last week that partook of an extremely private and personal nature. The subscriber fully appreciates the apparent impropriety that he assumes in writing this article, but he does so without resentment or animosity, and believing in the adage, "Hew to the line,—let the chips fall where they may." Every man is entitled, and justly so, to private opinion, but as such, it should be confined to private means of communication. The VIDETTE is a paper of wide circulation, and without doubt reaches a large number of the friends and relatives of the contestants. To a disinterested reader the article in question would reflect quite seriously either upon the discretion of the judges or the radicalism of the writer,—either of which would bring any but pleasant feelings to the minds of the contestants. Different people have different ideals of oratory, but that ideal which disregards all others is, to say the least, narrow and unphilanthropic. To say that one oration excels another is admissible, but to express an opinion that a production marked sixth in thought and style by three competent judges, contains more original thought than all the rest "put together" is radical and uncharitable in the extreme. The first, and also the last speaker are "radically wrong,"—their ideals are positively ruinous, and their merits are the result of study rather than natural grace. For the second speaker, the writer has "only praise." For the first time in the history of oratory, the world finds a man in whom there is no fault, and to whose measure of eloquence and perfection no drop can be added. Such criticism betrays a mind either given to monstrous exaggeration or blinded with prejudice. However honest and candid criticism

may be, if it falls of charity and respect, its good effect will be greatly weakened, if not entirely lost. To all appearances, Mr. Nelson won first honors,—three or four other men to the contrary, notwithstanding. He did so in the opinion of six judges, and a large majority of intelligent auditors. The oratorical contest, unlike the declamatory contest, does not end with itself, but selects a delegate who shall represent our literary and oratorical interests in the State contest. It is certainly discouraging to that representative to know that his friends and rivals,—nay, even the judges on the State contest, will read such a fratricidal report from his own school. Let us place University interests before personal opinion, and let us have "Ethics" in criticism as well as in "Politics."

Again, I would suggest to the writer, that the contest was a contest of orations, not essays, of orators and not stump-speakers, lecturers, or reformers. Let the "survival of the fittest" rule in oratorical as political affairs. Give Nelson the support and encouragement that becomes a representative of S. U. I., and then abide results. "The rest is silence." \*

### Why Don't They Help Us?

The article last week in regard to the Oratorical Contest caused a decided division among the students. Being one of the few who agreed with Mr. Sampson in his choice of Mr. Wick as first, I desired to find out the objections which others raised. I discovered that many considered Mr. Wick's oration too much of a political speech,—that it savored too much of a stump speech. The opinion seemed to be that the oration was too practical; in fact, that it was not philosophical enough for a University oration. Is not this the best kind of philosophy, which deals with the public life of a citizen?

Now, I have heard that Mr. Sampson, in his classes Friday morning, made the statement that he regarded orations as the bane of this institution, for this very reason, that the students do not appreciate an oration which deals with the practical side of life, but instead prefer discussions upon abstract ideas. Students, we see the truth in these statements. Such discussions as those I have just mentioned will never help us in active public work. Let us, then, live up to the light we have.

There is one question I would like to ask. Mr. Sampson quoted several of the professors as coinciding with him in his views. Now, if the professors do not approve of the methods pursued by the students, why do they not show us what are the correct methods?

The professors are all that can be desired in the class-room. But the

minute the student leaves the class-room and attempts something which will aid him *directly* in preparing for active life, that minute the professor says, "You may shift for yourself," or he says, "I do not approve of your methods, because they are wrong." I return to the former question—If our methods are wrong, why are we not shown the correct way?

I do not plead for a chair of oratory. That is by no means necessary. But I do plead for a greater knowledge of oratory on the part of the students, which knowledge can only be gained by instruction from those under whose guidance they are. Nor do I ask that the professors burden themselves with this part of a student's life, for professors and students should to a certain extent be independent. I ask only for a little more interest than has been shown, and a little more advice than has hitherto been given.

I wish to add one point which comes from one of the recent graduates. It is this: Those students who enjoy work of this kind study oratory during their school-life. At commencement time the speakers are chosen *not* according to their ability as orators. Many have never had any instruction in oratory, and are therefore subject to much humiliation on account of their lack of powers. Is this fair and just to each individual student? \*

In the January number of the *Dial* are two articles especially interesting to S. U. I. students. The first is by Prof. Anderson, on "Lowell for Posterity," in which Mr. Lowell receives candid and weighty criticism from an ardent admirer. The second is by Albert S. Cook, on "Anderson's Edition of Bacon's Essays." Mr. Cook is professor of English Literature in Yale University and ranks among the best two or three literary scholars in America. He has nothing but praise and echoes of "well done" for Mr. Anderson's Bacon's Essays. He believes the chief merit in the book to be the entire absence of that cunning self-glorification which editors find so agreeable; and pronounces it especially meritorious because of its sound text, judicious notes, and clear, concise Introduction.

Prof. Loos is to be congratulated upon the influence he had in the late contest. Three of the orations were decidedly economic in their nature and go to show that he has set his students to thinking upon these serious questions.

A member of the Faculty of the Medical Department gave his students permission to yell and disturb others. It is generally granted that a man of his age and supposed judgment knows better than to try playing at such boyish pranks.

### To a Skull.

Mouldy skull from ancient Rome  
Rescued from a catacomb,  
Crumbling, wierd, uncanny bone,  
Sombre, grewsome and unknown,  
Through the dusky twilight creep  
From thy ghostly sockets deep,  
Spectral shadows long and dun  
That beyond my vision run,  
That around me cling and creep  
Like the ghostly silence deep  
From the dark abyssal tomb  
Where thy bones have met their doom.  
Mouldy skull from ancient Rome,  
Hence, into thy catacomb,  
For thy shadows round me stealing  
Into rocky walls congealing  
Seem to be the winding crypt  
Where the mourner's taper lit  
Into graves from grey stone chipped  
Muffled corpses softly slipped.  
I can see the passage winding  
Where the soul no respite finding,  
With its low sepulchral moans,  
Seeks its own decaying bones.  
Ancient skull, I bid thee rest  
In oblivious soft caress  
And thy baleful shadows keep  
Locked with the in peace, asleep.

### News and Notes.

In the early history of Harvard, students were subjected to corporal punishment. They were thrashed in the presence of all their comrades, the exercise beginning and ending with prayer.

The judges for the State Oratorical contest are announced as follows:

On Delivery—W. L. Eaton, Osage; H. B. Larrabee, Creston, and Judge Phillips, Des Moines.

On Thought and Composition—Judge Day, Des Moines; L. S. Regue, Decorah, and Smith McPherson, Red Oak.

George Kennan, the traveler who gained such notoriety by his travels in Russia and Siberia, and gave the result of these in *The Century Magazine*, is now lecturing to immense audiences.—*The Portfolio*.

President C. K. Adams, of Cornell, has just returned from Europe and says after months of study at Oxford and Cambridge, that they are not as well adapted to the needs of England as our colleges are to the needs of America.

On their return from the vacation, the students of Cornell University found at the entrance to the college grounds a snow bust of Prof. Corson. It was over eight feet high, and was an excellent likeness. It was the work of Prof. H. D. Williams and Mr. Willis, of the department of industrial art. Two years ago Prof. Williams constructed a similar bust of Shakespeare.

Drake University will be represented in the State Oratorical Contest by J. E. Northup. The subject of his oration is "Our National Destiny."

Yale's Faculty numbers one hundred and twenty-one.

The aggregate College donations for last year were \$4,000,000.

The average age of graduation from Oxford is said to be between twenty-two and twenty-three.

Connecticut has the largest number of college students in proportion to population—3 out of 549.

Instead of the rush and the nightly hazing tours, it is the custom at Wellesley for the Sophomores to serenade the Freshmen at the beginning of the year.

E. R. Smith will represent Parsons College at the State Contest.

Seventy-one American colleges were represented by 185 students at the University of Berlin the past season.

The latest registration report from Harvard shows a total of 1,300, of whom 269 are seniors, 256 juniors, 277 sophomores, and 361 freshmen, besides 137 special students.

Canada has forty colleges; Brazil has forty-five colleges and scientific schools, and India has eighty colleges.

The University of the City of New York, in all its departments, will have enrolled this year at least 1,300 students. This is an advance of 300 over last year. It is expected that of these, 700 will be in the medical college, 200 in the school of law, 150 in the college of pedagogy, 100 in the resident graduate department, and the remainder in the departments of arts and sciences.

Prof. A. N. Currier has an article in the January number of the *Popular Science Monthly* on the decline of rural New England. Prof. Currier is one of the oldest and best known of those connected with the State University at Iowa City. For many years he has been Professor of Latin there, filling his position with ability and satisfaction to authorities and pupils alike. But in the midst of his labors he finds time to study up and write out his views upon the decay of rural New England, and makes as clear and perspicuous a statement of the subject as any that has ever been given to the public.—*Iowa Normal Monthly*.

Tolstoi might have taken the following from the "Blue Laws" of New Haven as the text for his *Kreutzer Sonata*:

No gospel minister shall join people in marriage. The magistrate may join them, as he may do it with less scandal to Christ's church.

The sum of \$200,000 is proposed to be raised by the students of Williams to build a chapter house common to all the fraternities in the college.

The larger proportion who fail to pass physical examinations as West Point owe defective vision. The next greatest cause of failure is cigarette smoking.

Then let us have a yell—a Texas yell for Texas students of the Texas University.—*Texas University*.

We wait and tremble.

The *Mount Union Dynamo* advocates a uniform size for college papers. Why not establish a co-operative printing establishment, and make the reading matter uniform?

It is rumored that the new Vassar dormitory will have two mirrors in each room, instead of heating apparatus. The girls will keep warm by constantly walking from one mirror to the other.

Strange as it may seem the "Kirmess" was originally a Flemish religious festival.

The Simpsonians recently astounded the faculty of that institution by concluding chapel exercises with the college yell.

At the University of South Carolina, tuition is free to an applicant filing a certificate of inability to pay. The same is true at S. U. I.

The University of California at Berkly, opposite the Golden Gate, is one of the wealthiest educational institutions in the Union. Besides an endowment, it receives an annual income of one mill on every \$100 of property. Last year that income exceeded \$100,000.

The violent efforts of the *Breeze* scribe to "explain" the recent "scholarly attainments" of some of Cornell's students is quite commendable and no doubt essential; but we think it would have been more effective had the reference to S. U. I. morality been omitted. Our Y. M. C. A. building, the result of voluntary contributions of students and friends of S. U. I., is a standing monument to intellectual and spiritual purity, while the flourishing condition of religious and literary organizations speak for themselves.

A recent notice calls attention to a strange coincidence in the careers of Frederick Schwatka and Emin Pasha. Emin wandered around in the jungles of Africa for years, encountering untold dangers, and received his most severe injury by walking out of a second story hotel window after he had returned to civilization. Schwatka bearded the Frost King in his den, played musingly over icebergs and escaped from all sorts of perils and privations, only to return to civilized Iowa and fall down stairs, narrowly escaping death. Civilization has a bad effect upon these men.

A recent newspaper letter from a student of an eastern college is criticized by a reader in these words: "There is an unbroken stream of Philistinism running through it." If you don't know what "Philistinism" is don't look in your old edition of Worcester. It is not defined there. The *New International* places "recent" after the word and gives Matthew Arnold's definition as follows: "On the side of beauty and taste, vulgarity; on the side of morals and feeling, coarseness; on the side of mind and spirit, unintelligence,—this is *Philistinism*." Don't apply this epithet to a writing unless you want to use a pretty strong term.

There is a ludicrous combination of extremes, down on south Clinton street. A little one storied stone house, with two windows and one chimney, sports an electric bell on the front door. This is rather funny and makes the passer-by laugh when he sees it. It is however, significant of an important fact, namely, that the advance of electricity has brought its advantages home to the poor as well as the rich man.

President Eliot, of Harvard, in his annual report, which has recently been made public, takes what seems to be a very sensible view of inter-collegiate athletic contests. He holds that "the best number of inter-collegiate contests is the smallest number which will maintain a keen interest in each sport." This is something that the S.U.I. teams would do well to keep in mind when arranging for inter-collegiate contests: that these contests are not primarily to test the athletic proficiency of the different colleges, but to arouse and retain a necessary interest in beneficial exercise.

At Harvard College, a certain man who has about completed the law course, says he is going into business. He believes that lawyers and doctors, as a rule, do not rank up quite as high in general estimation as successful business men. This is undoubtedly true in Boston and in all large cities. The explanation is simple. Successful business men, in large cities, are always richer than successful lawyers and doctors; and (between the two classes) money is respectability in the general estimation. In small cities and in the country the successful lawyers and doctors are as well off financially as the business men, and are hence held as high in general estimation. Moreover, general estimation in the country is based on broader criteria than it is in the money centers, genuine culture and worth being elements as well as bank account.

President Eliot, of Harvard, is said to be looking forward to a trip through the west early in the spring. There is one thing we are sure of—his swallowtail will not come into play so often as it does at Cambridge. It is said that Dr. Eliot never appears in the evening in anything but a dress suit. If the worthy President has any old sack coats left over from his youth, we suggest that he throw them into his trunk, as he will have an excellent chance to wear them out.

At Knox College, last week, one of the literary societies expelled two of its members for securing Stanley to lecture in Galesburg on the evening for which the society had already booked Dougherty. The two disloyals will probably not miss the society while their pockets jingle with the rocks that Henry M. made for them.

Mr. Sampson says the man who wrote the essay on "Why don't members of the Faculty attend the sessions of the literary societies?" is the same who asked last year "Why don't the Faculty go to Chapel?"

Robert Louis Stevenson will soon go to Samoa, where he expects to spend the remainder of his life.

President Angell, of Ann Arbor University, says that the Chinese have no straight streets or walls, because they believe the devil travels in a straight line. They are great believers in signs and portents, thousands in number.

Beloit College, Wisconsin, has been given \$25,000 for a new dormitory.

They are having University of Illinois and military class rel. The military city of Illinois is what different plan students being admitted they have attained their studies. For this rule has been letter. William M one of the comp study, thus falling grade. The dead forced in his case ranks. He made ing by a special Faculty refused to consequence of th of the Faculty, tw in their resignation form their duties reinstated. What it is difficult to s students are in ses matters up. The happened at Chan

Chicago Herald doomed; nothing Palmer.

Inter Ocean: nothing can beat

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Mardi Gras

For the Mardi February 10, 1 Cedar Rapids & make a very low from stations on sale February 3 until February accomodate part this trip, a throug started from Ced New Orleans, le February 4. For regarding time o etc., apply to an company, or, Ge

**\$3000** A Year in their own localities, the situation or employment. No money for me unless su leamed. I desire but one w have already taught and number, who are making d and **SOLID**. Full part **E. C. ALLEN**, Bo



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YUWILL A

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They are having a time of it at the University of Illinois. The Faculty and military class have got into a quarrel. The military class in the University of Illinois is arranged on a somewhat different plan from our own, students being admissible to it only when they have attained a certain grade in their studies. For some years, though, this rule has been comparatively a dead letter. William Miller, '92, captain of one of the companies, failed in one study, thus falling below the necessary grade. The dead-letter law was enforced in his case and Miller reduced to ranks. He made up the required standing by a special examination, but the Faculty refused to reinstate him. In consequence of this action on the part of the Faculty, twenty officers handed in their resignation and refused to perform their duties until Miller should be reinstated. What the outcome will be it is difficult to say; the Faculty and students are in session trying to patch matters up. The same kind of affair happened at Champaign once before.

Chicago Herald: Uncle Dick is doomed; nothing can beat General Palmer.

Inter Ocean: Palmer is doomed; nothing can beat Uncle Dick.

The Sophomores and Freshmen of Smith College engaged in a game of snow-balling lately. The battle was pursued on military principles and heroically fought. The girls succeeded in creating somewhat of a sensation throughout the east.

Minot J. Savage, the Boston divine, declined a call to Chicago, to all appearances on account of the vast field open to missionary work there.

**Mardi Gras at New Orleans.**

For the Mardi Gras, at New Orleans, February 10, 1891, the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern R'y will make a very low rate for the round trip from stations on its line. Tickets on sale February 3 to 8, good to return until February 28, 1891. In order to accommodate parties desiring to take this trip, a through sleeping car will be started from Cedar Rapids, and run to New Orleans, leaving Cedar Rapids February 4. For further information, regarding time of trains, rates of fare, etc., apply to any ticket agent of this company, or, J. E. HANNEGAN, Gen'l Tkt. & Pass. Agt.

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Society Directory

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STUDENTS' CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

Prayer meeting every Tuesday noon in Central building. All are cordially invited.

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Columbus Junction is to have a new college.

Van Oosterhout is suffering from an attack of pneumonia.

W. R. Boyd, '89, of Mechanicsville, visited the Varsity last Saturday.

Instructor Lodeman was unable to meet his classes on Monday.

The Seminary of English History will hold its meetings on Thursday, instead of Saturday as formerly.

The seminary of Political Science has been discussing the late work of Charles Booth, on London.

The Oratorical Association met last night and passed a number of amendments to its constitution.

Penn College will this year be represented in the State Oratorical Association for the first time.

Earnest Evans, a student of Wesleyan University, has been indicted by the Federal court for forgery.

Brown, you want to be careful how you shut doors after you. It is sometimes more dangerous to shut them than to leave them open.

Prof. Cooper has accepted the Superintendency of the Des Moines city schools. When he will leave the University he has not yet definitely determined.

President Beardshear, Trustee Dunbar and Boardman, of the Agricultural College, are now on a tour of inspection of the several Agricultural Colleges in the west and east.

H. C. Dorcas will conduct the Y. M. C. A. Gospel Meeting to-morrow, Sunday, Feb. 8, to be held at 4 P. M. in the Christian Chapel. Subject, "The Eter-

nal Things." Central verses, 1st Peter, 1:23-25 and 1st John 2:15-17. All young men are invited.

Last week we received a communication from a well wisher with regard to placing the college exchanges in the Library. The request is an old one and has often received the attention of the editors and will probably continue to do so; but as yet we are not in a position to report favorably. However, we rise and report progress. The article was too long for publication.

The Vidette-Reporter is the organ of the S. U. I. and it is supposed to represent the entire school. However, this is not true. On department, viz. the Dental, the department that boasts of so many earnest and close observing students, are not among us. This is not our fault. We extend to you the same cordiality as to the other professional departments. Will some one explain why this should be?

We announced last week that Prof. Cooper had been offered the position as Superintendent of the West Des Moines schools, and we are sorry to inform our readers with this issue, that he has accepted the position offered him. He will sever his connection with the University at the end of this term. It is indeed painful for us to give up so valuable an educator as he has proved himself to be. Not only his immediate pupils feel the loss, but the entire school realizes the fact that Des Moines is the gainer and the S. U. I. the loser of an earnest worker and a worthy educator.

Prof. Anderson gave his fourth lecture at the Unitarian church last Monday eve. It has been thought by many to be the best of the course so far. His subject was Rousseau. Mr. Anderson regards Rousseau as having had an immense influence in education. He did away with the rod and the sermon as the main instruments in the education of children. He stands for the simplification of manners, education, religion, character, literature, art—in short, of the whole social fabric. We are sorry that space does not permit of a comprehensive outline of these lectures. But no outline, or synopsis, of course, can do them justice; to be appreciated fully, they must be heard.

The last VIDETTE-REPORTER contained a tirade against the indiscriminate spitter, in which our friend (?) was hustled along without ceremony to the outer gates and left with the rest of the lepers.

It is not my purpose to vindicate the spitter nor extenuate his fault, but to set up another picture, that our readers may contrast him with a far more odious character—the wholesale tobaccoist, we may call him. He is not like other men. He walks in a cloud, as Venus was wont to do. He occupies and thoroughly pervades a much larger area than any other man. A subtle influence goes on before, and announces

his approach with unfailing accuracy. You meet him everywhere, but especially in the Library. There he delights to go on Saturday mornings. Relying on the charm of his manners and the brilliancy of his conversational powers, he makes a triumphal progress through the book room. But observe. The pleasure of a chat with him is bought at a price, for his clothes are redolent with tobacco, and his auditors must endure an atmosphere tainted with his breath. The books he returns bear his mark for weeks afterward. Many readers are by this means partially cut off from the privileges of the Library.

To a large number in the University, tobacco is thoroughly distasteful, and the man who inflicts his saturated presence upon them is no less than the incarnation of selfishness.

Let him study "personal liberty" a while, and, regarding its axioms, win the thanks of those who now involuntarily recoil from him.

Better Entertainments.

The students have a right to demand a better class of entertainments, than the Opera House managers see fit to furnish us. We have patronized well every first-class theatre troupe that has appeared here. Louis James, Dixey, Madam Carrington, and all the other actors and singers of the first-class have never failed to draw full houses, which have been largely composed of students. But the managers seem to prefer renting the Opera House to a sharp troupe to giving a guarantee to a good one, even though they never lose on the first-class entertainments. They have not enough enterprise and nerve. They are afraid of a little risk.

Good performers are an essential to student life. They relieve the mind; they are exhilarating; they are educational. They give him an acquaintance with the stage, which is quite a factor of our modern life. He is entertained; he is taught; he is relieved; he is disallusioned; he is given subjects for thought and topics for conversation. If he does not have access to a good show, he will attend a poor one, whose tendencies are not along the line of his study. He will do this simply because the mind must have a periodical relaxation of some sort.

There is but one Opera House here and the managers have a monopoly. They should not, however, abuse it. Let them get up a little more courage, secure about twice as many first-class troupes, and the students will be on hand with their shekels. The tastes and patronage of nearly eight hundred students ought to weigh a little more in the minds of the managers, especially since the latter have nearly always made money where they kept these in view. H. H. H.

Tuesday morning, it will be remembered, was bitterly cold—one of those thoroughly uncomfortable mornings

when the sun seems to be up only to see how miserable mortals are without him, and when no amount of clothing can shield us from the keen, cold breath of Jack Frost.

At nine o'clock I was obliged to go from the South Building to the Biological Laboratory. A few steps before me was a youth,—a blooming, charming, promising, but withal a freezing youth. I had seen his face before we started. It was wreathed in smiles. His cheek glowed. His eyes sparkled. He had made an original remark about the weather, and was in excellent spirits as he turned his collar up and sallied forth to make his Physiology recitation. A stream of students came pouring out of the Science and Capitol buildings, and hurrying from the Library. We met the tide at its flood, and as we waded through it I noticed with interest the frequency with which this young man lifted his hat in recognition of the smiling faces which flitted past him. Twenty-four times before we reached the central steps did I read the inscription in the crown of his hat. And I said within myself, "O excellent young man!" As we passed the steps, his hat kept time with his steps; and when we had run this gauntlet, he had added ten to his record.

Excitement drove from my mind all thoughts of my own discomfort. Only fifteen more times was that close-shaven pate exposed to the rigors of our northern climate, until he reached his destination and began to thaw himself over the hall radiator. I was about to commend him for his valiant conduct, but was struck dumb by his changed countenance. The genial light had left his eyes; the wreathed smile, his marble lips. Hard lines on his youthful face betrayed physical and mental distress, and the words which fell from his lips were muttered imprecations. I listened in silence to his broken monologue. It was the protest of a noble young Junior against a custom which, if followed, will lead him to an early grave,—and, if ignored, will cost him his popularity.

Will some one help him out of his dilemma?

More Sympathy.

"There is a great difference between the fraternal spirit with which students and professors meet each other in the German Universities and the formal manner which characterizes their contact in the schools of this country," said one of our Professors recently in a private conversation. There is ground for a little complaint of this kind in the S. U. I. We have some instructors who make it very clear to students who go to them for private assistance that such work is outside of their duty. They answer all questions but make no effort to learn the individual aims of the student, and take no special pains to so acquaint themselves with his peculiar line of work or thought as to

be able to be of assistance side the class room. pleasant to have a I you with a short gruff expected explanation You feel as if the Pro a contract and was out any more intel than the contract lit The students would al acquainted with the their friendship and would come of it. however warm, would fere with the dignit room. Personality factor of success. Na extensive education a the presence of a st There is very little in lum to develop a com quality. This lack wo ure supplied by a r quaintance with our not to be supposed should become "one only that he should s in each of his studen glad to help them at number of the Facul have the respect and of the students. T rarely abused.

Thoughts on Th

"I know of no wa future but by the pas persistent fascinati from the activity of template the evidenc queathed to us, monumental relics, tinct activity and in characteristics that we their application. perial Rome with its and forsaken aque like a plundered h great emporium, s conquests of three c too, we gather up knowledge that of h remained to us. But there is none that so our imagination as The marble grandeu may be the record of izement but this "v dead" stands for ideas of men which, may disagree with i ment, was to its earl most worthy of thei the early Emperors tian sect grew rapid ber of their living their dead. Fresh Jerusalem, filled wi resurrection, the fu Rome was to them ment of external de poor and land abou costly for their use. of Rome were beg ulchers, the divi Christianity and p the contrast; on

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be able to be of assistance to him out- side the class room. It is not very pleasant to have a Professor dismiss you with a short gruff remark when you expected explanation and sympathy. You feel as if the Professor had signed a contract and was unwilling to deal out any more intellectual problems than the contract literally stipulated. The students would also like to become acquainted with the Professors for their friendship and the culture that would come of it. Such friendship, however warm, would surely not inter- fere with the dignity of the lecture room. Personality is a wonderful factor of success. Natural talents and extensive education are weak without the presence of a strong personality. There is very little in a college curricu- lum to develop a commanding individ- uality. This lack would be in a meas- ure supplied by a more intimate ac- quaintance with our instructors. It is not to be supposed that a Professor should become "one of the boys," but only that he should so interest himself in each of his students that he would be glad to help them at all times. A large number of the Faculty do this and they have the respect and personal affection of the students. Their kindness is rarely abused.  
 H. H. H.

**Thoughts on The Catacombs.**

"I know of no way of judging the future but by the past." So it is with a persistent fascination that we turn from the activity of the present to con- template the evidences the past has be- queathed to us, particularly those monumental relics, suggestive of ex- tinct activity and indicative of char- acteristics that were unique only in their application. The ruins of Im- perial Rome with its dismantled arches and forsaken aqueducts, remind us, like a plundered honey comb, of the great emporium, swarming with the conquests of three continents, and there too, we gather up the few drops of knowledge that of her fullness has re- mained to us. But of all her legacies there is none that so much appeals to our imagination as do the catacombs. The marble grandeur of external Rome may be the record of political aggrand- izement but this "vaulted city of the dead" stands for a revolution in the ideas of men which, however, much we may disagree with its modern develop- ment, was to its early partisans a cause most worthy of their martyrdom. Under the early Emperors of Rome the Chris- tian sect grew rapidly, and as the num- ber of their living grew, so, also, did their dead. Fresh from the contact of Jerusalem, filled with the wonder of the resurrection, the funeral pyre of pagan Rome was to them perhaps, the embodi- ment of external death. But they were poor and land about the city was too costly for their use. So beneath the hills of Rome were begun those rocky sep- ulchers, the dividing line between Christianity and paganism. Remark the contrast; on every hand the

monuments of Rome's great men vie- ing with each other in the splendor of their architecture, while beneath them stretched, simple and austere, the gloomy labyrinth. This was the origin in the first century of the Christian era—a Christian sepulchre for Christian dead. And it is not strange that after two thousand years we should explore the labyrinthine maze, conjuring strange images of its six million skele- tons, and seek to gather, if we may, from scanty epitaphs the story of their lives; to trace the progress of our civi- lization in the footsteps it has left, and perhaps project with what of accuracy we may its future conquests.

Prof. John Reynolds, the world re- nowned mesmerist, at Opera House one week, commencing Feb. 6 Prof. Rey- nolds does not carry his own subjects, but selects them from the audience. 25 and 35 cents.

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**The Kennan Lecture.**

Every one of the 850 students of the S. U. I. should make it a point to hear the man who is undoubtedly the best lecturer on the American stage to-day, at the Opera House on next Wednesday evening. Our Lecture Bureau have secured the very best obtainable, and we should indorse this course by our unanimous attendance. The sale of seats will undoubtedly be large, and we advise all who desire good seats to be present at the opening of the sale, at Wieneke's, on Tuesday, at 8 A. M.

You will be sorry for it if you miss the opportunity to hear Kennan.

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## Law Department.

J. H. CROSBY AND J. E. CARPENTER, Editors.

T. S. Kitchen, class '90, has opened an office at Williamsburg, Iowa.

Did any one see Thomason at the reception on Wednesday evening?

O. L. Campbell writes from Ottumwa that he is "digging at Real property."

C. M. Wright, attorney of Wapello, Iowa, was a visitor at the University Thursday.

J. M. Grimm, class of '90, now practicing in Cedar Rapids, was a caller on Wednesday.

C. E. Pickett, class '90, has formed a partnership with County Attorney Burns, of Blackhawk county.

B. L. Wick's oration on "Ethics in Politics" at the Oratorical contest was well written, and will bear close examination.

B. L. Brown, Wyoming, Iowa, John Blinn, Waterloo and John McIntosh, Atalissa, are the new names enrolled in the Junior class since last week.

At this writing the enrollment in the Law department is one hundred and thirty-nine. This exceeds the number enrolled in any other one year in the history of the institution.

Mr. I. K. Wilson, who attended the law department one term during last year, has decided to abandon the study of law. He is now running a weekly newspaper at Earlham, Iowa, of which place he is postmaster.

Mr. J. S. Shields, who was a member of the Junior class last year, concluding he would enter the Collegiate department last September and resume the study of law in '93, has again changed his mind, and appeared in the Senior hall on Thursday morning and informed us that he will graduate with the class of '91.

It was a pleasant joke that Judge Kinne treated the Seniors to, the other morning, when he appeared a few minutes earlier than usual, and a number of voices began calling for a speech. Judge Kinne, in response, said he did not "intend to commence his lecture until the hour had arrived, but since some of them were anxious for a speech, he would commence now." The few minutes extra occupied by the Judge in lecturing on the law of corporations were well spent and were highly appreciated by every member of the class.

One of the really enjoyable features of college life that lifts the load of care from the students mind, is a social gathering such as occurred at the residence of Chancellor McClain on last Wednesday evening. Through the kindness of Chancellor McClain and his estimable wife, their spacious parlors were open to all and every one present seemed to enjoy himself. President Schaeffer, Judge Kinnie, Professors Wambaugh and Hayes and

a majority of the law students were present and many pleasant acquaintances were made. The occasion will remain as a bright spot in our memories in the years that are to come. We feel constrained to say that Chancellor and Mrs. McClain have the hearty thanks of the students for their kindness.

## Medical Department.

M. J. KENEFICK, O. R. WRIGHT  
V. L. TREYNOR,  
Editors.

"God and the doctor we alike adore,  
But only when in danger, not before;  
The danger o'er, both are alike requited,  
God is forgotten, and the doctor slighted."  
—Ben Jonson.

Berger is among us again.

Schoffs is still on the sick list.

Heald returned home Wednesday.

Class meetings have been the rage this week.

Clark is reported to be recovering from his long illness.

Perpendicular Strabismus is the disease which is afflicting some of the students of the first row on the south side.

Sams was called to his home at Clarion, Iowa, Tuesday morning, by a telegram announcing the death of his sister.

A new story, entitled "Over the Cadaver, or Romance of the Dissecting Room," is being written by one of our talented members.

Behring received the following note from one of the young ladies during the lecture on Physiology Tuesday afternoon: "You ought to dye your mustache, or shave it off."

A Dental student says that the muscles of the arm are used in respiration. He must have been thinking of the gentle respirations of love, where a strong arm is sometimes used to assist a girl in heaving a sigh.

A few middle year Medics have organized a quiz club in Chemistry. Prof. Rockwood has been engaged to conduct the recitation. This is a good idea. We need more frequent recitations in all branches.

Mr. Snyder, one of the commissioners of Pharmacy, came down from Grinnell, last Saturday, and examined several of the pill makers for admission to the bar. They will soon be commissioned to compound prescriptions.

The many friends of Frank Dalbey will be glad to learn that he is nearly convalescent. Frank was "very near it," and it was only the constant attendance of Dr. Littig and the good, careful nursing of his mother that pulled him through. Ask Frank, when you see him, if he knocked out the little nigger.

When the banquet was mentioned to the first year Medics, they were shocked. Their mammas told them they must

never indulge in banqueting, as they might die a premature death from high living. But when informed that wicked dancing would be on the program, their bewilderment reminds one of a line from Virgil: "*Steteruntque comae et vox faucibus haesit. Comes steteruntque et non faucibus haesit.*"

Physicians as a rule get more kicks and curses than praise and blessings. They take their own lives and the lives of their families in their hands whenever they are called to treat contagious diseases, and none know it better than they. If there is any class of men on earth entitled to the gratitude and love of humanity in general it is the class of conscientious, pains taking, humane physicians, such as make up the membership of the profession in this city. *The Democrat* refuses to bow to dictator or potentate, and has mighty little regard for a good many men in positions of profit and trust but it doffs its hat to the medical fraternity everywhere.—*Cass Co. Democrat.*

### Don't.

When on a cold and frosty night,  
The side-walk cracks to tread of lout;  
Your teeth keep up a constant fight,  
To see which knocks the other out,  
When mercury is out of sight,  
And ink and lit'rature is froze,  
The wind is higher than a kite,  
And singing through your whiskers blows,  
Don't mention it, for 'tis a sin,  
To come that rusty bluff,  
Of asking with a purple grin,  
If it is cold enough.

### Salaries.

The salaries of Harvard's professors have recently been increased to \$4,500 a year, while the assistants and instructors are to receive in their second term, \$3,000 instead of \$2,500, as formerly.

This reminds us of the much to be regretted fact that a number of the professors in the State University of Iowa receive salaries which are shamefully out of proportion to the amount and quality of the work they perform. And this fact is all the more surprising when we remember that it is Iowa, a state ever proud of its educational superiority, that is thus shamefully rewarding the professors in its highest educational institution, men who have spent and are spending the best of their lives in building up the University and giving to it the place it now holds among the leading educational institutions of the country. The idea that a professor of the first rank, and of such only are we speaking, should receive a yearly salary of only \$1,800 or perhaps \$2,200 for his services, borders on the ridiculous. It is truly surprising that we have the superior class of professors that we now have when the state pays such petty salaries. Of course we do not expect the state to grant salaries ranging from \$4,000 to \$5,000, but we do think that it should be more liberal in rewarding its public educators.

### The Dearest Picture.

Pictures of faces of loved ones dear;  
We look at them often, and oft through a tear,  
But alas! these alone can not bring back the scenes  
For which my heart yearns while space intervenes.  
At the bidding of Love, Memory sits at my side  
And the picture is perfect when they are allied  
Yes, but if pictured by art is the old home  
In the yard 'mongst the trees where whispers of love roam—  
The gate in the fence and the walk that starts there  
Through the dearest of posy-beds now brown and bare,—  
Then all the sweet charms of home I can see  
With faces at the windows smiling at me.

### Absolutely 'Armfull.

"You have heard," said a youth to his sweet heart who stood,  
While he swung in the hammock, at the daylight's decline,  
"You have heard of the Danish boy's whistle of wood.  
I wish that the Danish boy's whistle were mine."  
"And what would you do with it? Tell me," she said,  
While an arch smile played over her beautiful face.  
"I would blow it, he answered, and then my fair maid  
Would fly to my side like an angel of grace."  
"Is that all you wish for? Why, that may be yours  
Without any magic," the fair maiden cried.  
"A favor so slight one's good nature secures,"  
And she playfully seated herself by his side,  
"I would blow it again," said the youth, "and the charm  
Would work so that not even modesty's check  
Would be able to keep from my neck your white arm."  
And she smiled and placed her white arm 'round his neck.  
"Yet once more would I blow, and the music divine  
Would bring me a third time an exquisite bliss,"  
"You would lay your fair cheek on this brown one of mine,  
And your lips stealing past it would give me a kiss."  
The maiden laughed out in her innocent glee,  
"What a fool of yourself with your whistle you'd make;  
For, only consider how silly 'twould be  
To sit there and whistle for what you might take." W.

### Fortunate People.

The *London Times* says—and all lawyers know it to be true—that the more than half a billion dollars of unclaimed fortunes in England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales belong to people in America whose forefathers emigrated from the old country. There are also large fortunes of the same class in Germany and other European countries. We have gained a number of such claims and have several in hand now which we expect to gain. If your ancestors came from across the sea, write us all about it, and inclose 25 cents for a reply. We charge nothing for investigating, and if you have a good claim we will attend to it on very reasonable terms.

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Opera House Block.  
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Correct styles fo  
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measurement se  
of shoulder, siz  
length of seeve.  
These gowns a  
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MILITARY E  
Swords, Sashes  
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everything that  
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"Oak Hall,"

the Dearest Picture.  
 es of faces of loved ones dear;  
 them often, and oft through a tear,  
 these alone can not bring back the  
 my heart yearns while space inter  
 ling of Love. Memory sits at my side  
 ture is perfect when they are allied  
 pictured by art is the old home  
 'mongst the trees where whispers of  
 oam—  
 the fence and the walk that starts  
 e dearest of posy-beds now brown  
 are,—  
 e sweet charms of home I can see  
 at the windows smiling at me.  
 solutely 'Armfull.  
 heard," said a youth to his sweet  
 who stood,  
 swung in the hammock, at the dap-  
 's decline,  
 heard of the Danish boy's whistle of  
 at the Danish boy's whistle were  
 "would you do with it? Tell me," she  
 arch smile played over her beautiful  
 ow it, he answered, and then my  
 ld  
 o my side like an angel of grace."  
 you wish for? Why, that may be  
 y magic," the fair maiden cried.  
 light one's good nature secures,"  
 ayfully seated herself by his side,  
 w it again," said the youth, "and  
 m  
 k so that not even modesty's check  
 e to keep from my neck your white  
 miled and placed her white arm  
 his neck.  
 re would I blow, and the music  
 g me a third time an exquisite  
 y your fair cheek on this brown  
 ine,  
 os stealing past it would give me a  
 ughed out in her innocent glee.  
 ol of yourself with your whistle  
 ake;  
 nder how silly 'twould be  
 and whistle for what you might  
 W.

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 on Times says—and all law-  
 to be true—that the more  
 billion dollars of unclaimed  
 England, Ireland, Scotland,  
 belong to people in America  
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 e same class in Germany  
 European countries. We  
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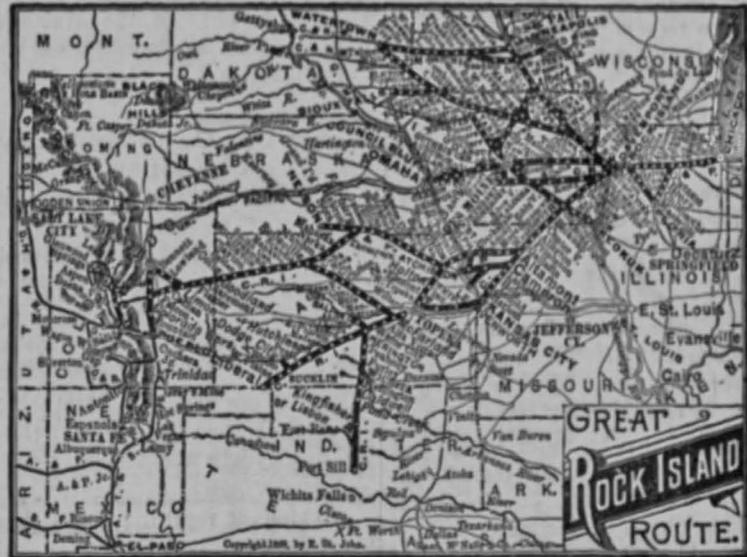
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### Read It and Name It.

It is with a sense of relief that an opportunity is given me to let the VIDETTE know why its subscribers are few among the Freshmen. Although I can speak for one only, yet I have no doubt that a few others are willing to heartily endorse the following remarks.

At a distance I have secretly worshipped the VIDETTE, that is the two copies that I have seen. With more fear and reverence yet have I knelt before the V.-R. staff; for what knees can refuse to bend before good men and women? So far all is well. Moreover, all the Freshmen are interested in college life, and there is no doubt that many would be willing to suggest innovations, if it were not for their "extreme modesty."

As for boycotting the VIDETTE with any malicious intent—far, far be it from any Freshman. Would it not be profitless for a Freshman to read the VIDETTE columns? or even worse, might he not by so doing run the risk of imbibing erroneous ideas of life, perhaps to his permanent injury? Because a due sense of our place has made us hesitate, in fact recoil from the presumption of trying to fathom the depth of Sophomore learning, we must, therefore be stigmatized as a negligent and undutiful class. Ye gods, how easy it is to be misunderstood! how often those elements of our natures which we think ought to command universal approbation are the cause of our condemnation and ruin.

If we are overly modest, who has made us such? Let me relate an incident which occurred in my presence at the beginning of last term, when neither men, women or children hesitated to designate us as the "raw recruits."

A Freshman who unfortunately had left his modesty at home, remarked in a crowd of Seniors and Juniors, that it would be nice if the instructor in English would let his class read a play of Shakespeare.

"Ah, then and there was glancing to and fro,  
And gathering smiles midst anger and distress."

One evidently gifted with more presence of mind than the others, spoke in subdued but mournful tones: "Precocious Freshman, what will he come to!" Alas, thought I, hitherto have I measured my capacities with the mile, henceforth will I use the millimeter. But how to impress the merit of this new resolve upon my fellow classmates was a problem to tax the diplomacy of a Senior; but influence, like microbes, passes in and out with the air we breathe, and nothing needs be voiced.

Being changed at heart, all remarks to the now deeply humiliated, were suffered by me to pass unresented. But the thought would not leave my mind that if we remain in our present condition, wisdom will die with the Juniors and Sophs. And the voice of duty whispered within me: "Leave the VIDETTE alone, call forth your energies, active and reserved, explore new fields

of physics and metaphysics, reach a higher stage of development when you may appreciate things now above you, when you need no longer retire abashed before the searching gaze of those that live and breathe on loftier planes, before whom the wisdom of the Freshman is even as chaff.

Still a scrupulous adherence to principle for men desiring patronage is very impolitic. If the higher classes would only make believe to the simple-hearted Freshman that the columns edited by the former would be appreciated by the latter, they in turn, like boys in new boots when they are called little men, would believe it, and all would run helter-skelter into the VIDETTE office to subscribe.

What does it matter if "Freshies" do come from the frontier, what if their hands are always out of position, or their feet a superfluity, what if they do not know how to use a napkin, or eat the pie first. A closer acquaintance will reveal new merits; then do not point out their defects with so much assiduity, but rather encourage them that social evolution need not be slow as the glacier, but may come upon us with the rapidity of the avalanche. With meekness and do-with-me-as-you-will resignation, I am, etc.,

R. H. S.—FRESHIE.

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VOL. XXII

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