

The Vidette-Reporter

A Tri-weekly Newspaper Published by Students of the S. U. I.

VOL. XXIV.

IOWA CITY, IOWA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1891.

NO. 32.

Calendar.

Thursday 3. The Tabard, 7:30 p. m.
Friday 4. Zetagathian, Irving and Law programmes, 8 p. m.
Saturday 5. Seminary in Pedagogy, 10 a. m. Erodolphians, 8 p. m. S. U. I. team plays Kansas University at Kansas City.

The Engineering Society.

At the regular meeting of the Engineering Society last Tuesday evening, Professor Jameson lectured on the Panama Canal.

He told of the hugeness of this undertaking, of the organization of the Panama Canal Company, the granting of the land, gave descriptions of the canal route with illustrations; spoke of the hardships of the men and the poor climate of the country, and went into detail on the subject of the company's mismanagement, citing many instances of the greatest extravagance. One in particular we mention. A druggist of San Francisco organized a stock company of \$300,000 capital and took contracts of \$30,000,000 without the slightest knowledge of the work in hand. At the end of two years, however, this company declared a dividend of \$11,000,000.

At the end of the lecture Professor Jameson exhibited photographs of various scenes along the canal route.

Howard M. North, '92, gave a voluntary report on the erection of several bridges on the route of the Rock Island railroad.

English Seminary.

The English Seminary met Tuesday afternoon and a paper was read by Miss Bertha Wilson, '92, on the later poems of Tennyson.

The poem of Maud was discussed at length, the conclusion being that if one likes Maud, he must like it in pieces, and that it illustrates Tennyson's most striking mannerisms.

Prof. Sampson read aloud the dialect poem, "The Spinster's Sweet arts," as a specimen of Tennyson's humor.

Next week the two Locksley Halls will be considered.

There appears in *The Press* this week a poem of much beauty entitled "When Lowell Died," by Mrs. Carrier.

Prehistoric Iowa.

Professor Calvin delivered on Tuesday evening the first lecture in the State Historical Society course. We abbreviate the main points as follows:

The subject assigned to me by the

committee that arranged this course of lectures assumes that there was an Iowa before man began to make historic records and this assumption is not without ample justification. For long before there were any historians, events of historic importance were enacted within the limits of Iowa.

But, you ask, if there were no historians, how is it possible for us to say or know anything about prehistoric Iowa? There are records, remember, not made by human hands, or, if so, which were recorded independent of any design or purpose so to do. And yet, their testimony is as trustworthy and conveys information as significant as anything that historian ever penned. An arrow-head found imbedded in the deposits of some particular era will bear witness to the degree of civilization or barbarism possessed by the human beings of that era, it will speak of the state of manufactures among such a people, and their method of carrying on warfare or of pursuing game may be determined. But when to this information we may add, as is often possible, a knowledge gained by an inspection of the homes and arts of such a people, their shrines and sepulchres, we are in a position to give somewhat fully, a history of their daily occupations and their daily life.

To proceed, then, to the conclusions arrived at by Zadig's method, we will speak of pre-historic Iowa. Geological records declare that for millions of years Iowa, together with the great Valley of the Mississippi, lay below the level of the sea, and that marine plants and animals were its only occupants. The oldest strata, the limestones and sandstones found in the neighborhoods of Decorah, Eldorah and Dubuque, as well as in the northern part of the state, convey a record of this period,—a period which is altogether incomprehensible.

Centuries pass, during which the limestones and shales represented in Johnson county are completed. In the northwest a portion of Iowa becomes dry land. Man has not yet made his appearance, nor is there anywhere upon the globe any sign of his coming.

Another of those limitless ages passes by. Some progress is making among plants, and among animals we have some air-breathing creatures that deserve to rank with the crocodile and the alligator.

After one or two more of these great revolutions a stage is reached where a few small rat-like creatures in the southern states represent the highest type of vertebrates. About this time

there are forest trees very similar to those in our modern forests. Animals representing the opossum and the panthere are found, while a creature with three hoofs passes himself off as a Tertiary horse. Monkeys are chattering and bright-winged birds singing in the trees.

The world is getting on rapidly. The climate is that of southern Louisiana. The conditions are not inconsistent with the possibility of man's existence, yet he is still absent.

For the sake of clearness let us call this age the Tertiary. The drainage to the state during the Tertiary era must have been much the same as at present. A system of great lakes occupied that region in which the sources of the Missouri are now found, and it is from the deposits found in these lake-beds that the most important discoveries have been made concerning the Tertiary era. But so far it is a somnolent world. The very branches and leaves of the trees seem to be listening for sounds which never come.

Following the Tertiary we have another period known as the Quaternary, and with it is ushered in a very strange chapter in the history of Iowa. All climatic favors seem to be withdrawn. Snow falls during the long, bleak winters in much greater quantities than can be melted during the short summers. The animals migrate to the south. A solid sheet of ice covers Iowa with a mantle perhaps thousands of feet in thickness. One of the known qualities of a quantity of ice causes it to flow as water flows. These glacial masses begin to flow out from the thicker to the thinner portions. Slowly they flow, but in time Iowa becomes once more inhabitable. It is during this period of melting and breaking up of the ice that man first makes his appearance. There is evidence, from remains found in quaternary beds in this country, that man must have existed here about as early as he did in Europe. Skulls, found in North America, as well as in France, Italy, Sweden, Austria, Belgium, show that a low-browed, small skulled, square-shouldered race inhabit the earth. These skulls resemble those of the gorilla in the thick, short arches over the eyes and the prominence of these arches.

It is certain, in time, that this country was occupied by a race of men who lived in communities, practiced agriculture on an extensive scale, and built mounds of earth to which they often gave very perfect geometrical outline. With these mound-builders, prehistoric explorations come to an end.

The Vidette-Reporter

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VIDETTE-REPORTER,
Iowa City, Iowa

Entered at the Post Office at Iowa City as second class matter, Sept. 17, 1891.

Kansas University team has a clean record Not only as to victories, but the reports taken from other college papers stamp them as true gentlemen, as well as sturdy foot-ball players. Professor Hopkins manages and trains the team and his advice to the men, given in the columns of the *Courier*, the K. S. U. paper, just before starting for a game may, be summed up in the words: "Above all things be men on the field." The S. U. I. team now meets a worthy opponent indeed, and it will be worth the men's best efforts to win. So far we have not done anything remarkable in the line of winning games. We have won two and lost two. But we have made a good start, and if the game with Kansas is added to the list of games won we shall feel that the hard work of the team during the Fall has been compensated.

Miss Mary Barber retires from the post of assistant librarian followed by universal regret. Her efficient labors and unflinching courtesy have given dignity and grace to the position she has filled. While having the entire charge of the loan department she has also made all the entries of new books upon the Accession's book and shelf list, and catalogued the collection known as the "German Library" on cards, making analytical references to the contents of the volumes. None who have had occasion to ask her services have found her wanting. The earnest good wishes of all go with her.

For the place thus left vacant Mrs. Bertha Ridgway has been selected. Mrs. Ridgway has had some experience in library work, having been on the staff of the Detroit public library.

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The following men have been selected by the foot ball committee to constitute the team to go to Kansas City next Saturday. Bailey, Elliott, Woolston, Stiles, Fickes, Sanford, Kallenburg, Pierce, German, Ferren, Larrabee, Dutcher and Harlan.

Each of the above men must deposit a dollar with the manager before Friday evening. The captain, with the consent of the manager, will be empowered to fine any man who disobeys orders, to the full amount of the deposit. This will be the policy in all future games, in order to guarantee to the captain the obedience of the men.

Mrs. Helen M. Close visited the library on Monday and was much interested in noting the improvements made since her last visit, about ten years ago.

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Local and Personal.

S. Watson Townsend, of Sioux City, has entered as Freshman in the Engineering Department.

C. C. Harvey, '93, has been compelled to leave college for the remainder of the term on account of sickness.

At a recent meeting of the class of '94, J. Hornby was re-elected historian, and a committee appointed on the *Annual*.

A. C. Jennings, M. '94, has returned from his home in Utah where he was recently called by the sickness of his wife.

President Schaeffer attended the meeting of the High School Teachers' Round Table at Carroll, November 27 and 28.

The banjo and guitar club met at the armory Tuesday evening. Those wishing to join are requested to be present at the meeting next Tuesday evening at 7:30 p. m.

The first entertainment of the boat club benefit will be given at Close Hall next Tuesday evening. Professor Sampson and Mr. Stephenson are on the programme for original readings.

As a mark of their appreciation of favors received, the Engineering students recently presented Professor Jameson with a beautiful ivory paper knife with silver handle.

S. B. Hall, who was slightly injured in the foot ball game on Thanksgiving will not be able to go to Kansas City. C. R. Fickes will take his place.

The following are the scores of games played on Thanksgiving day. Chicago 12, Cornell 4; Yale 19, Princeton 0; Illinois 36, Quiney 4; Missouri 34, Washburn College (Kans.) 6; Cleveland Athletic Club 8, Michigan 4; S. U. I. 22, Nebraska 0.

Mr. S. M. Sayford closed his series of Christian talks at Close Hall last evening. His addresses to the students of the University have been well attended and highly appreciated. He is a forcible speaker, sincere and honest in his convictions and carries the truth home to the hearts of his hearers. He is doing a noble work in American colleges, and we hope he will be able to visit S. U. I. again at some future time.

Among former S. U. I. students who attended the game at Omaha were:

C. L. St. Clair, L., '92; M. L. Sears, '91; W. A. DeBoard, '88; G. S. Wright, '89; C. F. Knebulle, '81, L., '82; E. Cornish, '81, L., '82; S. Mayne, '82; J. J. Shea, '82; Dill Ross, A. J. Cornish, '80; A. C. Troup, J. Blythin, '80; F. Terry, '86; Robert Pritchard, '82; Cand F. Haller, Dr. Presnell, Miss Cornise Ingham, '93; Dr. Woodbury, E. P. Pratt, T. E. Casady, I. L. McCloud, H. J. Chambers, T. J. Mahoney, Judge Ferguson, C. W. Russell, '84, and J. L. Kennedy, '84.

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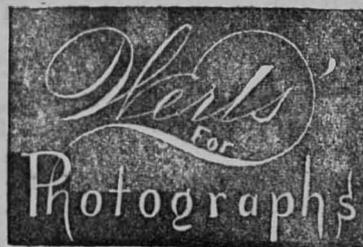
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