

The Vidette - Reporter.

A Tri-weekly Newspaper Published by Students of the University of Iowa.

VOL. 26.

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NO. 45.

A Letter From Our Southern Explorer.

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 25, 1893.

December 19th, at about 8:30 p. m., I stepped aboard a train at Iowa City, to go to Mexico City via Ft. Worth and Laredo, Texas. I woke up the next morning as the train was entering Trenton, Missouri. About 1 o'clock in the afternoon the train backed leisurely into Topeka, the capital of the great State of Kansas. Many of the passengers profited by the stop of several minutes to rest themselves by getting out and walking up and down the platform. It was warm and pleasant and one had little need for an overcoat if in the sun. The car windows and doors stood open and presented quite a contrast to their appearance the evening before, for there was snow on the ground and the weather was pretty sharp when leaving Iowa City.

Early in the evening the train pulled into Wichita, Kansas. Early in the day if asked where I was going, I simply said down the road a way; but now I began to say that I was going as far as Texas, and the next morning I began to speak of going into Mexico. "You are a miner?" No. I am going first to Mexico City. "Oh! Then you are probably interested in coffee. No!" Then we would generally drop the matter till I felt like imparting information concerning my trip into the land of the South.

The second morning after leaving Iowa City I found myself in Texas, and I discovered that I had been in Texas since early in the morning. The train arrived at Ft. Worth at 9 a. m., and a little behind time. I had asked the porter and also the conductor of my train, how I could go to Laredo from Ft. Worth, and neither were able to give any information. I now asked a man in the ticket office and he named three or four routes, but no continuous one. I thought I wanted to go by the International Railroad, and wanted to get to that road as soon as possible. "All right," he said, "take the Santa Fe train which is just ready, and go by Milano Junction." I hustled around and got my baggage checked and got on the train. It was just time to go, but the train had to wait for the New Orleans train about an hour. For the first time in my experience I had to take a seat in a car divided by a partition for whites and negroes. The part I was in would be considered not too good for a smoker on many roads in the north. It had nine seats, most of them being taken when the New Orleans train arrived. But there is always room for one more, and here he comes. Into that little compartment crowded, besides several men, three or four families. I afterwards learned they were just from Georgia, and were going to Texas. There were eighteen children by actual count, and not one over fourteen years old. I asked one little boy, who crowded into my seat, where he was from. "Georgia," said he. "Where are you going?" He did not seem to understand till I had repeated the question several times. He then said, "To Texas." At five o'clock I changed onto the International Railroad train, at Milano Junction,

and expected to reach Laredo that night. When the conductor came around I asked when I should arrive in Laredo. "To-morrow afternoon." I had read in the geography that Texas was a very large state, but I now began to realize it. But the conductor added, "We will arrive in San Antonio to-night, and you will stay over night there and go on in the morning." Early in the day, upon stopping at the little place by the suggestive name of Paradise, I thought I had made a discovery. Glancing out of the car window I read, "J. Lynch, dealer in hats, boots, shoes, etc."

The following day I arrived at Laredo on time, 4:05 p. m. As Mr. I. E. Munger had not yet arrived, and we had arranged to make the journey from Laredo to Mexico City together, I waited in Laredo one day. This place was hot and very dusty in the middle of the day, if the wind blew, and very disagreeable, because of the fine sand flying with the dust, and composing the major part. But I began to realize I was not in the cold, inhospitable world, for there were watermelons in the Laredo market.

About 7:30 p. m., December 23, the train slowly crossed the steel bridge spanning the Rio Grande, at Laredo, and after a short, sharp but decisive round with the custom house officials, I was ticketed without stop or change of cars for the great City of Mexico. I was told we ran through some mountains near Monterey, but being in the night I did not see them. All the next day the road lay through a dry, dusty plain, covered with cactus, yuccas, and other desert plants, with low mountains on either hand in the distance.

Early in the evening the train entered the mountains, and I think had mountain work all the rest of the way to the city. The next morning, near Salazar, we passed the summit at an elevation of 1020 feet above the sea level. The road was now lined more or less continuously by the maguey fields—fields of century plants if you wish so to call them. At half past two Mr. Munger and myself stepped off the train in Mexico City, and went forward to claim our baggage. As we were strangers, of course our baggage would have to go to the custom house in the city. To prevent this we had had our baggage "vise sealed" at Laredo, so that after the usual delay with hackmen, etc., we were deposited at the Y. M. C. A. rooms none the worse for our trip.

C. L. SMITH.

Oratorical Contest.

The Oratorical Association in its meeting last night, set Friday, March 9, as the date of its annual contest. This is close to the limit of time prescribed by the constitution and was chosen with a view to the convenience of all desiring to contest. Contestants must hand to the president of the Association five printed copies of their oration before Friday, February 9. The oration must be set in long primer type, if possible, the body of each page being four inches wide and six inches long, with a margin one and a half inches in

width, and shall contain not to exceed two thousand words including any synopsis or notes attached thereto. The paper must be a good quality of book paper. The oration shall not bear the name nor any other indications of its author.

All under-graduate students of the University are invited to enter this contest; those contestants who are not members of the Zetagathian, Erodolphian, Hesperian, or Irving literary societies shall pay a membership fee of one dollar.

Zetagathian.

The program was opened with a vocal solo with guitar accompaniment, by Neff, '96.

Fracker, '94, the outgoing President, in a few remarks, welcomed his successor, Mr. Plum. The President-elect acknowledged his acceptance of the honor. His inaugural was filled with earnest suggestions and hearty thanks to the members.

Seaton, '95, opened the regular program with a selection from Hawthorne, "The Great Stone Face." The effort was an agreeable combination of impersonation and declamation.

The debate on the question: "Resolved that all Federal election laws should be repealed," was one of the best features of the program. Keefe, '95, opened the question for the affirmative. He cited the Constitution and several decisions of the Supreme Court in proof that the Federal Government has no right to exercise control over election. Mr. Carpenter answered Mr. Keefe, also referring to decisions of the Supreme Court in opposition to the position of the affirmative. He referred to the corrupt practices of balloting in the south and in our large cities, affirming that such evils could be crushed by Federal power alone. Cunningham, '95, the second speaker for the affirmative, carefully stated the question at issue, and affirmed that if civil honesty did not exist in a community, no attempt on the part of the general government to import such virtue could be successful. Burge, '97, closed the debate. He answered Keefe on the constitutionality of the question, contending that the Constitution reserved ample powers to the Federal Government. He believed that the repeal of the Federal election laws would be too great a concession to the exploded doctrine of states rights. The debate was decided in favor of the affirmative.

The audience was next favored with an instrumental solo, which was followed with a declamation by Moon, '97, "Pitt's Reply." It was delivered with force and elegance.

Treimer, '95, closed the program with an oration on "The Future of Conflict." The oration was replete with thought, the diction was elegant, and the piece was delivered with great force.

Irving.

Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather a fair-sized audience greeted Irving last evening and listened to a good program.

The program was opened with a piano solo by Miss McGee, which was well rendered, and encored.

Blakely opened with a character declamation "Tradin' Joe." This production was a departure from the usual line of declamations and was well impersonated and delivered.

G. S. Noble's speech "Character Sketches" was a description of several individuals of his acquaintance and of their peculiarities, and was very interesting although he was somewhat uneasy on the floor.

The debate, "Resolved That judges should be elected by the people," was affirmed by Gibbs, '97, and Mutchler, '94, and denied by Hendricks, '94, and Crum, '94.

Gibbs, on his first appearance, seemed at ease on the floor and spoke distinctly. He argued that the appointment of judges should be made by the people as the office is often given as a reward for political service at present.

Hendricks, for the negative, made a very able speech, the best in the debate. He claimed that for the Supreme Court a judge with a record should be chosen in preference to one with great political influence, and said that the power of judges and their influence is restricted when they are made subject to election by the people.

Mutchler closed the affirmative with a good speech and answered many of the arguments of his opponents. He said that a system like our Senate system is to be desired for our judges.

Crum closed saying that we do not want politicians or partisans for judges and drew a very good example comparing the situations in New York and in New England. In New York the judges are controlled by the party leaders, and the people cannot obtain justice, while in New England, where judges are appointed, a fair trial is guaranteed. The debate was decided for the negative.

The next was an oration "The American Lawyer," by S. Coldren, '97. He illustrated the importance of the lawyer and his influence in the community, and drew upon Roscoe Conklyn as an example. This was Mr. Coldren's first appearance, and he showed careful preparation, good delivery, and interested his audience.

F. C. Neff closed the program with a song with guitar accompaniment, and was heartily encored.

The General Library has recently received a series of 48 syllabi of lectures by several of the professors of Chicago University, on a variety of subjects, each syllabus being arranged for six lectures. Following are a few of the subjects: "English Parties and American Independence;" "Money;" "The Story of Faust;" "The Labor Question;" "American History, the Land and People Discovered;" "Shakespeare's 'Tempest' with Companion Studies;" "The Literary Study of the Bible;" "Columbus and the Discovery of America;" "Some Great English Rulers and Statesmen;" "Some First Steps of Human Progress;" "Some Methods of Social Reform;" "The Develop of European Nations;" "The American Revolution;" "A Problem in Sociology;" "Roman, Barbarian, and Christian;" "Astronomy;" "Monks and Monasteries."

The Vidette Reporter.

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THE VIDETTE-REPORTER,
Iowa City, Iowa.

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The Visiting Committee of the Legislature which has just finished its inspection we believe cannot help but make a report favorable to the University. What we need now is the hearty support of every member of the Legislature to that report.

There are in attendance students from nearly every county and district in the State, and we suggest that it is highly important for them to write to the representatives and senators from their districts and call attention to the needs of the University. The greatest difficulty under which we have labored is that we are not known. It is astonishing how many false conceptions of the University are prevalent throughout the State. We are in hopes that this Visiting Committee will dissipate some of these; but this is not enough, a wholesome agitation on the part of the students is imperative to our prosperity. At this time, especially, when so many prominent men in the State are turning their attention to our institutions of higher education, and advocating for them a permanent support, is it opportune for the student to aid in this matter.

The State University.

The Iowa State University at Iowa City, the most advanced and thorough educational institution in the West and the only college west of the Mississippi and east of the mountains that can be compared in excellence to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, is again "in politics" in other words this great university in biennial humbleness is supplicating the legislature for an appropriation to enable it to continue its work and usefulness and improve its buildings and facilities to keep step with the demands of its growth and increasing efficiency. Carefully prepared statistics show that this great school of higher learning, the best in the West, has subsisted upon allowances from the State very little more than half

of what has been devoted to the universities of Nebraska, and Missouri by their respective States. Iowa is strong enough now to support its University in a fitting and decent manner and we believe that the real sentiment of the people is in favor of the levy of a direct tax, say one-fourth of one mill collected with the other State taxes, for its maintenance. This would give the University a stated income, as has the University of Michigan, and would save to the Legislature and the college the necessity of a biennial fight for the sake of its mere existence.—*Creston Gazette, Jan. 11, 1894*

R. J. Burdette.

Robert J. Burdette, the last lecturer in the S. U. I. Course, lectures at the Opera House next Wednesday evening, on "A Twice-told Tale," or the Rise and Fall of the Mustache." As a platform humorist he is the most most successful of any now before the public. He is instructive as well as entertaining. The Utica (N. Y.) Press says: The title of the lecture, "The Rise and Fall of the Mustache," gives no idea of its contents, nevertheless the lecture is something more than a collection of odd or bright sayings. It is a lecture with a purpose, full of interest, and furnishes much food for thought. Nye's lectures are entertaining because of their quaint and extravagant expressions, but they only serve to amuse. Burdette's lectures are not only full of humor, but they present a series of pictures of events ludicrous, pathetic, and tender in the life of a boy and man, which are faithfully drawn and full of interest. Tickets will be placed on sale and seats reserved at Lee Bros. Book Store, Tuesday morning at 7:45.

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Fact and Rumor.

The Phi Delt's gave a party, Friday evening.

I. J. Hamiel has entered the Junior Law Class.

Harry Walters, ex-'95, is in the city visiting friends.

A. M. Rogers, '95, will not be in school this year.

Irving Baker ex-'96, is studying law in Milton Remley's law office.

Theresa Peet, '95, was absent from recitations, Friday, on account of illness.

R. J. Burdette lectures at the Opera House, next Wednesday evening.

Miss Bauserman, '96, went to her home at Marengo, Friday evening, to spend Sunday.

Earl Hopkins, L. '94, is compiling a series of quiz questions in law with a view of publication.

Representative Harriman, a brother of Dr. Harriman, of the Medical Department, is visiting in the city.

J. C. Virtue, '95, left for his home yesterday. He expects to return in a month if he finds his health sufficiently improved.

Robert Bonson, L. '90, and William W. Bonson who took collegiate work here and afterwards graduated from the Columbia Law School have formed a partnership to practice law in Dubuque, Iowa, under the firm name of Bonson & Bonson.

The Visiting Committee of the State Legislature, composed of Senator Frank, and Representatives Blanchard and Robinson, arrived Wednesday evening, and spent Thursday and Friday looking over the University.

LATEST STYLE HATS AND FURNISHING GOODS AT BLOOM & MAYER'S.

Notice.

Those who have decided to enter the oratorical contest to be held March 12, 1894, will meet on Tuesday next at 3 p. m., in Professor Loos' room, to choose the three judges on thought and composition.

PRESIDENT.

Medical Department.

W. D. Craig, M. '94, has made a flying trip home.

Professor Hutchinson, in Anatomy, has just commenced to lecture on the organs of special sense.

We are sorry to note that A. M. Rogers, M. '95, has not been able to return to his work since the holidays.

Mrs. J. R. Guthrie visited the Medical Department, Tuesday forenoon. She attended the lecture on Physiology.

After this Professor Shrader will quiz the Junior Medics on Obstetrics, directly after his clinic on Friday afternoons.

Dr. G. H. Hill, of Independence, began his annual course of lectures on Insanity, to the Senior Medics, on Tuesday.

Chancellor McClain delivered the first of course of lectures on Medical Jurisprudence to the Medical students on last Monday afternoon.

Professor Guthrie's review quiz on Physiology, was postponed this week until next Tuesday, 7 to 8 p. m. These review quizzes are a valuable aid in the preparation for final examination, and should be attended by all Juniors.

An invoice of the Materia Medica cases was made last Saturday, by C. E. Conn, previous to ordering a large assortment of new drugs for the use of students. This list of drugs for the Materia Medica lectures is a valuable addition. It gives the students an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the appearance of a drug as it is being lectured upon.

Mardi Gras Rates.

The Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railway will sell excursion tickets to New Orleans on account of the Mardi Gras at very low rates for the round trip. Tickets on sale Jan. 29 to Feb. 4 inclusive, good to return until Feb. 28, 1895. For tickets, time of trains and other information, call on or address any agent. J. MORTON. Gen. Tkt. and Pass. Agt.

Chicago newspapers have lately gone into merchandising in connection with their efforts to increase their circulation, to such an extent as to involve them in some difficulty with their large advertisers who object to the low prices and good values offered. The most notable instance of this is The Inter Ocean, which has been compelled to dispense with its very popular Book Department for no other reason. It continues its World's Fair Portfolio Department, however, which is delivering about 11,000 per day at present and has just added a comprehensive series of "Views of the World," and a book of music called "Harmonized Melodies" on the same plan. They are sold at a certain price provided the purchaser presents a certain number of coupons cut from the paper.

Dyspepsia

Dr. T. H. Andrews, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, says of **Hosford's Acid Phosphate.**

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