

The Vidette - Reporter.

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NO. 63.

The Inter-Society Debate.

The custom of holding debates between different colleges and between societies of the same college, is becoming more popular each year, and will, to a large extent, take the place of the once popular oratorical contests. Such debates are, on the whole, much more interesting, and perhaps serve better to develop the speaking ability of the participants than do the oratorical contests.

The annual debate between the Irving and Zetagathian Societies was held Friday evening at the Opera House. A large audience greeted the speakers, and the programme was universally appreciated.

Mr. S. K. Riniker, President of the Debating Club, presided. The judges were Professor E. E. Hale, Judge G. S. Robinson, and Professor S. Hayes.

Mr. C. R. Kearns drew the attention of the audience with a well-rendered flute solo, after which the debaters were introduced.

Representing the Irvings were Messrs. W. C. Dewel, M. E. Lumbar, and B. N. Hendricks. The Zetagathians were represented by Messrs. H. P. Williams, O. C. Anderson, and J. L. Kinmonth. The question, "Resolved, That International Bimetallism is Correct in Theory and Capable of Being Applied in Practice," was affirmed by the Irvings and denied by the Zetagathians.

Mr Dewel opened the debate. He began by briefly reviewing the history of money and especially the mutual relations of gold and silver, stating that the two metals had been in use on a definite ratio for the 400 years preceding 1816. To prove that monometallism is not desirable he called attention to the rise in gold which must result, disturbing prices in general. Bimetallism has the compensatory action of both metals—which, if either rises or falls the other is able to counteract or at least check it before it goes too far. Thus avoiding sudden and great extremes in prices. Here he quoted the great English economist Stanley Jevons as approving of the course France had taken during the present century. He then referred to various charts showing that silver had increased enormously in the 16th century as compared with gold yet no great change in the market ratio had been caused. This method of emphasizing statements and numbers by figures on charts and quotations from books, sheets and pamphlets was a prominent feature of the Irving debaters. It was rather unfortunate for the Zetagathian speakers that the charts were placed with the back towards and directly in front of them so that they were not only partly concealed from the audience but could not even see the figures or statements demonstrated on the opposite side of the charts. Mr. Dewel spoke rapidly and to the point, although frequent references to his papers greatly interrupted his speech. His voice is hardly of sufficient strength to be heard distinctly in so large a house.

Mr. Williams opened the debate for the negative. He asserted that the present as well as past ratios of the metals were established by natural

laws: the desire of the commercial world. In referring to the gradual development of the substances used as a means of exchange he asserted that silver, although it had done valuable services in the past, was being superseded by gold to-day—not alone by Great Britain but by all the principal countries in both Europe and America. To-day no mint can be found in these countries which coins silver money other than as subsidiary coinage. The ratio of silver to gold has gradually fallen till at one time in '93, it was 34:1. The demand for gold is steady, and this gives it a constant value. The four periods of special productions were: 1560-1660 when silver being the most abundant, fell from a ratio of 1:10 to 1:15; 1780-1820 when the ratio fell to 1:15½; 1850-75 when as much gold was produced as in the three centuries preceding, and 1880-94 which resulted in such a decrease in the value of silver that it is almost impossible to fix a ratio between the two metals. England demonitized silver in 1816, Portugal in 1850. The Latin Union was formed in 1865 and it discontinued the silver coinage in '74. The reason for this is that gold is the more constant, people have more confidence in it and silver has shown very great fluctuations. None of the principal of Europe or America have bimetallism to-day. Gold fixes prices to-day. Wages are higher than under the cheap money system. Mr. Williams spoke forcibly, yet he lacked in fervor, and his attitude on the stage, and manner of speaking were not indicative of sufficient enthusiasm.

Mr. Lumbar continued in behalf of the affirmative. He asserted that we have no gold standard by natural selection, but by arbitrary rule of governments. It took a hard fight in Congress to adopt the system for our country. The same was true of Great Britain. He also called attention to how monometallism is subject to change of prices at each small increase of production, while bimetallism avoids such variations, or at least diminishes their effect. He here quoted several professors from England and France who favored bimetallism for their own countries. He referred to a book from the pen of Archbishop Watts, of Ireland, which has had 4 editions of 100,000 copies each, in which it is stated that if Ireland is to be rescued from her helpless condition England must return to a system of bimetallism. Professors Ely, Walker, and Rockwell, are also supporters of the theory of bimetallism as agreed to between nations. The scarcity of gold is one of the main reasons why bimetallism should be restored. This idea was also expressed by President Andrews, of B. U., at the Brussels Conference. Many prominent geologists are quoted as stating that the future increase of gold will be very limited. Again referring to his charts he showed that the coinage has exceeded the product of gold in the last eight years. In 1892 Austria adopted the gold standard. Russia is still making great demands for it; thus the metal must appreciate. Mr. Lumbar was very enthusiastic; he spoke with ease and main-

tained a very pleasant stage appearance.

Mr. Anderson, in continuing the negative, demanded that a ratio be proposed by the affirmative. This is the first step in adopting a system of bimetallism. To show bimetallism "capable of being applied in practice" necessitates that a ratio be determined. This was ignored by the other side, and no ratio was named. He claimed that money is a commodity—the value of the silver dollar is based on its intrinsic value. Since the quantities of gold and silver constantly vary, and the value of the metal determines the worth of a piece of coin, the ratio must vary continually, and then how can a mint ratio be adopted and maintained. He asserted that there never was or could be a compensatory action under bimetallism. The values constantly vary; just as soon as either falls in value the other must go out of use and stay out till it in turn falls and returns to drive out the first, or if it does not fall it can only return by a change in the ratio by legislation. If all countries had the same ratio the dearer metal would go out anyhow—it would go into the arts if nowhere else. Debts must and will always be paid in the cheaper money. Here he referred to the fact that much talking is being done in our legislative halls by men who really do not want it themselves, for these very men have their private contracts at home made payable in gold. He also showed how unjust it would be for the governments now under gold standard to adopt silver again, thus scaling down debts. Mr. Anderson's speech was the most enthusiastic of all. He made his statements with force and to the point.

Mr. Hendricks was the next on the affirmative. He showed how the production of silver had been increased by railroad facilities during the last two decades. He asserted that a credit basis, so much desired by monometallists, is nothing else than a flat money system. The ratio could be established, he said, by a conference of the nations so agreeing. He quoted persons supporting the compensatory action theory. France never called for gold contracts. Since debts must be scaled either up or down it is certainly more just to scale them down. Nature has supplied the metal—we should make use of it. Bimetallism would facilitate commerce between nations. The experience of past years has shown that gold countries tend to do all their trading with gold countries, and silver countries with those having silver as their standard. The commerce of U. S. decreased immediately after '93.

Mr. Hendricks has appropriate gestures but he was not as free in delivery as he might have been, due partly to the repeated reference to notes and written statements in authenticating his statements.

Mr. Kinmonth was last on the negative. He regretted that no ratio had been as yet proposed, which, according to his opinion was the first requisite in establishing a system of bimetallism. Since this has been the

tender spot which has always shown first the inadvisability and the impossibility of bimetallism it ought to be settled before hopes of such a system can be entertained. He questioned whether bimetallism would be a justice to the debtor. The fall of prices on many articles is due to improved inventions. The wages during the last fifty years have never been as high, even under cheap money, as they are to-day. He claimed that gold had depreciated during all this time. Countries have preferred gold for its stability. Gold, compared with silver, has fallen in value since the world was created. A credit system is of no use when we have dollars afloat which are worth 46 cents. International bimetallism would compel states to abide by a law which they themselves might consider detrimental to their welfare. It would destroy state sovereignty and the personal rights of individuals, no contract could be made in gold or silver exclusively. Many countries would be compelled to buy the metal needed for coinage. Gold would not be mined if silver were rated too high. The three classes now clamoring for bimetallism are, those owning mines, inflationists, and those who favor it from principle, and even those have thus far failed to successfully put it in practice.

Mr. Kinmonth showed thorough preparation, he was at ease on the stage, and made his statements clear and definite.

The negative arguments were summed up and closed by Mr. Williams. Mr. Lumbar concluded the arguments of the affirmative in a very animated manner.

The speakers on both sides showed thorough preparation on this subject. The contest was carried out in a most gentlemanly manner. No disrespectful remarks were made by any speaker. The subject was very fitting and of much interest to the general public as well as students. The strength of the negative lay in their mastery of the subject, their personal argument, and their smoothness of delivery. The affirmative was strong in earnestness of speaking, in quoting freely the opinions of leading men on these subjects, and in illustrating their statements by figures on charts. If such debates are to be judged by the virtue of the debate and not by the virtue of the question, these latter methods undoubtedly won for them the palm.

Two of the judges decided in favor of the affirmative. This entitles the Irving Institute to two speakers on the Inter-University debate to be held with Minnesota next May.

The program was closed with a highly appreciated vocal solo by Mr. Charles Xanten, which was encored.

Notice.

In the schedule for the Spring term "Homeric Studies" is quite distinct from number VI in the Greek course, as the former is for any Juniors or Seniors who are not familiar with Greek but wish to make a study of the Homeric poems and related questions. Translations will be used in this work.

The Vidette-Reporter.

Issued from the Republican Office on Washington street on every

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THE VIDETTE-REPORTER,

Iowa City, Iowa.

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The spirit shown by the members of the two societies last evening, by coming out in a body to cheer their representatives in the debate, is certainly to be commended. This is the kind of enthusiasm we like to see; for a contest, literary or athletic, will certainly be a very quiet affair, unless those interested are present to encourage their representative men. The boys last evening showed themselves to be loyal members of their different Societies, and this fact certainly must have been a great stimulus to the speakers.

The winter term will soon close, and as yet nothing has been done in regard to a Freshman declamatory contest. These contests have always been looked upon as the chief literary event of the Freshman year, and we would urge that steps be taken as soon as possible toward holding this annual contest. It is well known by those who have ever done any work in this line that a perfect delivery cannot be acquired in a few days practice; it requires weeks of patient toil. It is true that there are many things which make it difficult to continue this contest, chief among them is the expense. We believe, however, that this can be reduced to a minimum, by holding it in one of the Society halls. There is plenty of good material in the Freshman class this year for an excellent contest, and we hope they will get to work at an early date, as the time is limited.

Sophomore-Freshman Banquet.

Probably the finest banquet yet given by any Sophomore class to the Freshmen at S. U. I. was given last Thursday night, by the class of '96 to '97. Nearly fifty couples, after various adventures, assembled at the Society halls, where the first part of the evening was spent in conversation and in becoming acquainted with the other members of the two classes. At ten o'clock the company adjourned to the St. James Hotel, where an elegant banquet was served, the menu being as follows:

MENU.

Lettuce. Olives. Soup.
Consomme Royal.
Fish.

Broiled Salmon. Maitre de Hotel.
Pommes Duchess.
Spaghetti Napolitaine.

Chicken Sainte Financier. Green Peas.
Roast Beef au Jus. Shrimp Salad.
Layer Cake. Coconut Cake.

Ice Cream Oranges.
Coffee.

President Beckman, of the Sophomore class, acted as toastmaster, and the first toast "The Freshman Class," was responded to by S. D. Whiting in a very able speech.

President Larrabee, of the Freshman class, responded to the toast "The Sophomore Class," the sentiment being "In every deed of mischief he had a heart to resolve, a head to contrive, and a hand to execute."

"Social Life of S. U. I." was responded to by Miss Elena MacFarland, in a very pleasing and witty manner.

After the banquet had progressed further, W. H. Clark responded to the toast "Interclass Athletics" and urged the need of the new students to devote some attention to athletics.

Ethel Charlton responded to the toast "The Freshman Banquet" and said that although the Freshmen had been misused by the Sophomores at their banquet the time had now come for the reconciliation of the two classes.

A speech by Hetzel was now listened to. He said that although the Sophomores had played cruel practical jokes upon him, he had no ill feeling against them at present.

Lloyd Elliot, '93, who had rescued President Larrabee from serious difficulty in the earlier part of the evening, was then called on for a speech, after which Miss Adelaide Laschek gave the response to the last toast "Vorbei," when the party returned to the society halls. There an interesting program and other amusements were enjoyed till a late hour when the members of the two classes adjourned, having enjoyed a pleasant evening, notwithstanding the fact that several futile efforts had been made by some of the upper classmen, Laws, Medics, and Dents to prevent it.

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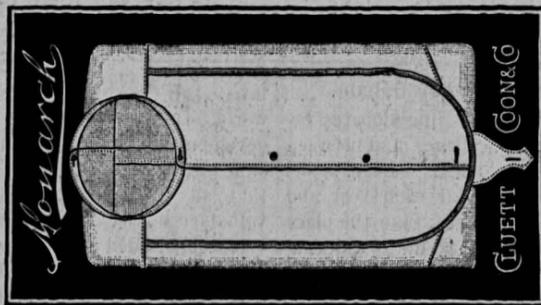
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The Comedian, Singer and Dancer Corse Payton and his merry company including the beautiful and talented actress, Miss Etta Reed, commence a week's engagement at the Opera House, Monday March 5th, opening in the grand society comedy darma in five acts, entitled "The Parisian Princess." The prices are only 10, 20, and 30 cents. Ladies will be admitted free Monday night when accompanied by a paid 30 cent ticket purchased before 6 p. m. of that day. Sale of seats begins Saturday morning, at Fink's Bazaar.

Mrs. J. W. Rich will read her admirable paper on "The Art of Living," next Monday evening, at the Presbyteria Church. This will be the second lecture in the course provided by the ladies of the church. Admission, 15 cents.

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The Sophomore class in Latin has commenced sight-reading of the Germania.

Lumbar, '94, has been absent from recitations for several days on account of sickness.

The Freshman class in Roman History had an examination yesterday morning.

The silver cup of the Athletic Association has been placed over the clock in the Library.

F. E. Malloy, L. '95, went to his home at Ossian, Iowa, called there by the severe illness of his father.

Professor Currier did not meet his classes on Thursday and Friday, having gone to the banquet at Des Moines.

Professor McConnell attended the banquet at Des Moines given by the Alumni Association, to the Legislature, at the Savory, March 1st. He was in Cedar Falls last evening, to hear the oratorical contest.

The American History Seminary met Thursday afternoon to hear the 3d paper on the Federal Constitution. Miss Jones gave a very interesting paper on the Chief Justice of the U. S. and Mr. Reynolds presented the regular paper. The effect of this reading was marred and the interest broken by the fact that most of it was taken from the journals instead of the author's idea or even language being given.

Notice!

All young men of the University are earnestly requested to attend the Y. M. C. A. Gospel Meeting at Close Hall, Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

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

S. U. I. Glee Club.

The bills are out for the Glee Club Concert, next Wednesday, at Close Hall. The gentlemen of the association will be assisted in their entertainment by Misses Grace A. Minkler and Nettie Claire Lewis. We note with pleasure that the University is at last to be represented by a student glee club, and we hope that this undertaking, carried on to the present time with such a commendable spirit, will not be suffered to lapse for want of support. The Club is contemplating a trip in a few weeks through a part of Iowa, visiting Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, Cedar Falls, and perhaps Independence and Marshalltown, and its very presence in these cities will no doubt result in good to the interests of the University.

The organization of the Club is as follows: President, W. L. Hearst; Vice-President, R. E. Morriss; Secretary and Treasurer, H. Blunt; Business Manager, G. T. Wilson; Musical Director, J. W. Ruggles.

First Tenors—Frank Sargent, R. E. Morriss, Geo. T. Wilson, H. S. Lester.
Second Tenors—A. G. Bush, R. A. Curtis, C. F. Close, H. H. Shepard, S. C. Hickman.

First Bass—L. M. Freeman, Rolla E. Brown, J. N. McCartney, Carl Treimer, C. O. Lamson.

Second Bass—A. E. Conrad, H. Blunt, H. F. Dorcas, F. H. Noble, C. R. Martin.

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