

The Vidette - Reporter.

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NO. 69.

A Letter From C. L. Smith.

JALAPA, Vera Cruz, March 2, '94.
Editor of Vidette-Reporter:

Your correspondent arrived in the city late the evening of December 29, and went immediately to Hotel Mexicano, in company with a couple of gentlemen with whom he had fallen in company on the way from Puebla. The street-car conductor, seeing that he had some inexperienced Americans, charged them double fare. For twenty-five cents they had a ride of about a half a mile up the principal, and, in fact, the only street leading from the depot to the heart of the city. I say up, for it is, literally, up, as you may know, when six mules have all they can do to take up one car. One of the gentlemen, when he saw how the mules had to work, remarked to me that the fare was pretty high, but he guessed the ride was worth it.

The next morning, I called upon an American gentleman, whom I knew by report, who took me right into a small yard back of the house to show me something new, apparently thinking this to be my first experience in the tropics. There were both coffee trees and orange trees, with flowers and ripe fruit on the same tree, and many others only to be seen in the tropics. Besides other things, he said I ought to go to Coatepec, a small town probably six miles from here by tramway, which is in the midst of the coffee industry. He introduced me to a railroad engineer who kindly consented to take me to the first station below here, from which place I walked across the country to Coatepec. The middle of a clear day is always hot here, and this day was no exception to the rule. I was dressed as warmly as in Iowa City for the wintery weather of last fall, for, during my stay in the interior, I had discovered that one should dress pretty warmly to be comfortable, and had not been long enough at this lower altitude to know how to dress. The result was I soon became very warm, the effect of which appeared later. My guide said the distance was two leagues, but I should say about one and a half. I walked around the place for nearly an hour, seeing what little I might, and then sat down on a stone bench by the car-track to wait for a car to Jalapa. I soon became quite drowsy, and had some difficulty in keeping awake till the car came along. I arrived again in Jalapa about four o'clock, feeling somewhat the worse for the trip.

Immediately after supper, I began to chill, and feeling very uncomfortable, soon retired. I remained in bed for thirty-six hours, except for two or three hours the next morning, when I tried to be up and around. When I did get up it seemed as if I had been transported to Siberia, or some other cold climate, for a norther was "on," as they say, and had been blowing for about thirty-six hours. Physical geographers say that northers blow over western Texas, and sweep the east coast of Mexico, which is true as regards the Mexican coast. When a norther is raging on the coast, the weather here at Jalapa is cloudy and cool, and is accompanied

often with some rain. The thermometer stands at about 55° F., often going down to 50° F. with the formation of snow and ice a little higher up the mountain. Near a small station just out of sight behind a low mountain, about thirty-five kilometers from Jalapa, during a norther on February 16th, ice formed to such an extent on the telegraph wires as to break them down and destroy telegraphic communication for nearly a day. To finish the account of northers, I will add that for whole days at a time I have worn an overcoat, and then was hardly comfortable, and it was always a pleasant thing to go to the engine-house and stand by a locomotive.

But there is another side to the picture, another kind of weather if you please. During the winter months, at least, when the northers are not raging, the climate which the residents of Jalapa enjoy is delightful. Although, as I have said, the middle of the day is hot, the nights are always cool, when the thermometer goes down to nearly 60° F. Even when the thermometer may register 120° in the sun, it is cool and pleasant in one of the stone houses, and all houses worthy of the name in any part of Mexico, as far as I have seen, are built of stone. The fore and after parts of the day are always pleasant, hence one times his outside work for the morning or afternoon after two or three o'clock, and rests for an hour or two, or even three, in the middle of the day. It is very pleasant to take a walk out into the woods in the cool, fresh, morning air, and hear the birds sing, for there are a few very sweet songsters. The song of one has reminded me many times of the brown thrush's song, on a beautiful spring morning, in Iowa.

I will now attempt a short description of Jalapa's location, notwithstanding the fact it might have come more properly at the head of this article. But the weather was so intimately connected with my advent into Jalapa, and I have so often felt its influence since, that I could not resist the temptation to describe it first. Jalapa is in latitude about 19° 30' N., longitude unknown to me, and has an elevation of a little over 4,000 ft. It is at the upper limit of the coffee and tobacco growing region; both come up to Jalapa, but have not seen any growing above here. It is 132 kilometers by railroad from Vera Cruz, and it is probably 50 or 60 miles from the coast. It is approximately 35 kilometers due east of the old volcanic peak Cofre de Perote. In the southwest, any clear day, and for that matter any clear night, the glistening snow cap of Mt. Orizaba may be seen, 60 or 80 miles away.

One Sunday afternoon, towards evening, I walked out to a small, burnt out crater, one hour's walk to the north of Jalapa. The atmosphere was very hazy, so that I was not able to see nearly all that might be seen on a clear day. One should see onto the gulf, and also see Vera Cruz, if no small hill intervenes, for Vera Cruz may be seen from one of the towers on the state house in Jalapa. The day in question, I could see across the valley to Cofre de

Perote in the west; over a wide lava plain, at least, I should say, 25 kilometers, broken by barrancas, and a burnt out cone to the north; beyond Coatepec to the large mountains 25 or 30 kilometers distant this side of Mt. Orizaba, and to the west and southwest to an indefinite distance. I was not able to see very far in the south-southwest because of a couple of small hills. The greater part of this view is not over a level surface, but over mounds, hills, peaks and small mountains, which are for the most part more or less densely wooded or covered with bushes. Near Jalapa the hills are generally but little covered with trees, and everywhere small fields of corn, some with growing corn and some with the old stalks of last year's crop still standing, and large pastures everywhere fenced with stone walls may be seen. Here and there a village, a small town or a hacienda appears in a valley, on the side of a mountain, or on a wide lava plain.

As one sits on the edge of one crater and almost looks into another, and surveys in the picture around him as many other cones or craters as he has thumb and fingers on one hand, and knows that nearly all the country surveyed is underlaid or overlaid with volcanic rock, ashes and lava, he can but wonder what the picture was like in past times when many or all of these craters were active. But time would not permit to meditate upon this picture longer, for, although it was but half past four, the sun had disappeared behind Perote's Coffer, and in an hour the twilight would have disappeared from the whole valley, so I hastened back to Jalapa.

C. L. SMITH.

Dental Commencement.

The Twelfth Annual Commencement of the Dental Department was held at the Opera House, Thursday evening. The pleasant weather brought out a very large audience to listen to the exercises. Music was furnished by the K. and K. Orchestra, of Waterloo.

The annual address was given by H. E. Downer, A. B., of Davenport. The address contained much valuable advice. The speaker said that we had reasons to be thankful that we were permitted to meet here in the best state of the best country on the best day of the best year. He urged strongly the great need for a more popular diffusion of education. Education is the problem of this generation. It is the one possible topic for discussion. A man has no more right to hold an idea to himself than he has an umbrella. He spoke briefly of the labor necessary to attain a good education. Our universities are too far from the common people; they are looked upon by them as something which they may never hope to reach. He urged the bringing of the universities in touch with the common people by means of University Extension. He also complimented very highly the work done by the Professors of our universities along this line. The address was concluded by some valuable words of advice to the graduating class. To become well informed on all topics is a requirement

to success. Study the lives of those who have preceded you and see what there was in them which led them to success. Books and magazines are one great medium of attaining a broad education, but the average metropolitan newspaper is too often a source of evil. Following the address the President conferred the degree of D. D. S. upon G. S. Archer, Maude Baldwin, R. W. Baldwin, O. H. Bemis, W. G. Bernard, Mallie R. Bowman, H. H. Belding, Chas. W. Buner, M. Clark, H. Daily, S. J. Evans, E. H. Hollister, A. A. Harris, Gard Hicks, L. H. Hinkley, Adel Homer, S. L. Ingham, W. B. Jayne, H. J. Joy, W. D. McCabe, B. H. McKeeby, F. E. Miller, E. V. Marsh, W. W. Orebaugh, W. A. Pegg, J. B. Pherrin, M. C. Reno, J. E. Rose, J. I. Thompson, G. A. Vawter, W. W. Wold.

Irving

Irving was opened to a large audience last evening, but the programme was not quite up to the usual standard number of new men participating.

After an instrumental solo by Max Long, an oration, "The American Husband," was delivered by C. A. Coldren. He treated of the different types of husbands in a pleasing manner, but spoke to fast.

Owing to numerous examinations, W. L. Mason was unable to give his declamation, "The Past Irreparable," and was excused.

The debate on the question "Will the world's food supply ever be too small for the population?" was affirmed by Gibbs and J. W. Seaman and denied by E. W. Seaman and W. H. Blakely. Gibbs opened the debate for the affirmative and did not at any time warm up to his subject. He said that the population is increasing in a geometrical ratio while the food supply is increasing in an arithmetical ratio, but did not prove his assertions. E. W. Seaman was evidently not well acquainted with the question. A lack of animation was noticeable on his part also. He used too large words and was often at a loss for something to say. J. W. Seaman closed for the affirmative with a good speech. He talked to his audience and brought forward new arguments. With proper training he will become one of Irving's best members. W. H. Blakely closed the debate for the negative and brought forward the best arguments of the evening. He showed what science and chemical synthesis could do to increase the food-supply and brought forward ample proof. The debate was decided for the negative.

The audience next listened to a soprano solo by Mrs. Ingalls, which was well received and encored.

The speech by Woolston, on "Power" was well arranged and pleasingly delivered. He spoke of the utilization of the power of Niagara Falls and the coming advantages of compressed air and was well informed on his subject.

Riniker closed the program with a declamation, "William Tell," which was remarkably well delivered. Mr. Riniker is one of Irving's strongest members and his production last evening was no discredit to himself or the society.

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THE VIDETTE-REPORTER,

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An unfortunate occurrence happened Thursday morning in the Junior Law Class. The professor noticing an unusual disturbance, called one of the students, J. L. Jones, whom he thought caused it, to take another seat and on refusal excused him from the recitation. Jones still protested his innocence and remained. At the afternoon meeting of the Faculty he was indefinitely suspended on the ground of insolence to an instructor. It seems to have been then generally admitted that the gentleman was not guilty of the disturbance, and so the punishment imposed seems somewhat severe. While no doubt the student made a mistake and no doubt realized this himself on having time for consideration, yet he did no more than many others would have been tempted to do under the circumstances, and it is regretted that the authorities thought it necessary to adopt such extreme measures.

The Universities of Minnesota and Wisconsin will hold a joint debate at Madison sometime in the week beginning April 14. The question agreed upon is "That the complete exclusion of foreign immigration for ten years is preferable to the present freedom." It seems that the method Minnesota is employing for the selection of her representatives in this debate is quite different from that followed in her selection of representatives for the debate with our University. The choice of debaters for the Iowa contest was made by direct election and a long time for preparation is depended on to give the representatives such an excellence as will insure victory. For the contest with Wisconsin, however, the men are sifted out in a series of competitive debates under a direct management of the rhetoric department, although the time for final preparation is even now very limited, the three representatives are not yet chosen. We re-

member that in our home debating league a proposition was on foot last fall to employ the competitive method in choosing the debaters for Iowa; but a combination of competition and election was finally employed. It may be possible from a close observation of Minnesota's debates this spring, to see which manner of selection is best.

Zets.

A good audience greeted the Zets at their last program of the term.

The first feature of the programme, a vocal solo by Mrs. Ingals was highly appreciated and was encored.

E. P. Cunningham next declaimed "The return of Regulus to Carthage." The declaimers modulation was excellent. The selection had been well committed. Some of its most thrilling passages however, failed to receive full expression through the lack of complete sympathy on the part of the speaker with his selection.

E. B. Brockway's oration, "The Anglo Saxon," had been well prepared. His delivery, at first somewhat lifeless, became appropriately animated as he advanced. In the elements of strength infused into Anglo Saxon character in the past the speaker found the hope of future stability and achievement.

"Resolved: That the Geary law for the exclusion of the Chinese is justifiable," the question of debate, was ably discussed. A. J. Burge found justification in the principal of self preservation. A. Bailey following, showed a special aptness in construing terms and propositions in his favor. R. B. Crone gave a good logical argument, urging that to admit the Chinaman was to thrust another race problem upon future generations. C. D. Walrod applied the arguments of the humanitarian in support of the negative. He further touched the ludicrous features of the question greatly to the appreciation of the audience.

H. E. C. Ditzen declaimed, Riezi's Address to the Romans. Mr. Ditzen's voice is rich in volume and deserves special commendation. His selection, thrilling in its sentiments was well delivered.

The oration "Perseverance the Precursor of Success," by W. M. Davis was excellent in its composition, full of thought jems and embraced one of the finest features of the evening's exercise. Thus closed one of the Zets' best programme of the term.

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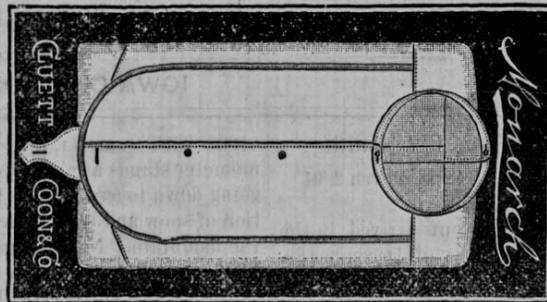
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Fact and Rumor.

Mrs. Pratt, of Mt. Vernon, is visiting her son, H. O. Pratt, '95.

F. A. Remley, '80, of Leipsic, visited relations in the city the first of the week.

The class in English History had an examination this morning from 9 till 12.

Robinson, '95, went to Freeport, Ill., where he has accepted a position in a carriage factory.

Professor Patrick gave a lecture in Davenport, Wednesday evening, on "Mental Economy."

The law classes finished this term's examinations yesterday and departed for the spring vacation.

The Zets last night elected Williams, '95, as their representative in the Iowa-Minnesota debate, and Kaye, '95, as June orator.

Helen Stewart, '95, was called to her home, Hennepin, Ill., on account of the illness of her sister. She will not return to school until September.

The following officers were elected by Irving for the spring term: S. D. Riniker, President; John V. Crum, Vice President; J. F. Hutchinson, Secretary; S. D. Whiting, Treasurer; S. Coldren, Corresponding Secretary, and S. D. Whiting, June Orator.

The Freshmen have shown a commendable spirit in athletics. They recently elected the following officers: Captain of Track Team, S. B. Coldren; Captain of Base Ball Team, H. H. Hutchinson; Manager, Ike Petersburger; also a General Athletic Executive Committee consisting of C. Swemhart, H. H. Hutchinson and R. J. Smith.

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Miss Pauline Lueder, M. '94, has been elected by the Board of Mercy Hospital, at Davenport, to fill a position as attending physician. The fact that Dr. Lueder is the first lady called to fill this position speaks well for her record here and the Medical course at S. U. I.

At the Y. M. C. A. business meeting, held Saturday morning at Close Hall, the following officers were elected for the coming year: President, C. S. Aldrich; Vice-President, A. G. Bush; Treasurer, W. H. Clark; Corresponding Secretary, A. Bailey; Recording Secretary, F. W. Beckman

The *Republican* office at which the VIDETTE is printed was sold yesterday to Mr. S. D. Cook. Possession will be given May 1st. Mr. Cook was a student in the University in the days of McConnell, Hudson, Fairall, Craven and Jackson, but left before completing the course to accept the position of Superintendent of the Iowa City schools. Since then he has enjoyed success as a journalist and later as the State agent of one of our best insurance companies. He now returns to Iowa City after his years of absence to assume control of Iowa City's oldest and most popular newspaper. While Mr. Fairall has always been a faithful co-operator in every student movement we anticipate the same loyalty from the new management. The VIDETTE acknowledges the many kindnesses of Mr. Fairall and hope that the business relations of the VIDETTE and Mr. Cook will be equally pleasant and mutually profitable.

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