

The Vidette - Reporter.

SUPPLEMENT.

VOL. 26.

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NO. 86.

MICHIGAN WINS.

Frank P. Sadler, the Successful Orator.

MADISON, Wis., May 5.—(Special Telegram.)—The fourth annual contest of the Northern Oratorical League was held last night. Library Hall was crowded with people anxious to hear the chosen representatives of Oberlin College, Michigan University, Iowa University, Northwestern of Evanston, Chicago University, and the University of Wisconsin. The judges were: Ex-Governor Ira S. Chase, Indiana; Franklin MacVeagh, Chicago; Rev. Judson Titsworth, of Milwaukee; President Bradley, of Illinois College, and Professor T. C. Roney, of the Armour Institute.

Alonzo R. Smith the first speaker spoke on "The Predatory Rich." He assumed a very natural and deliberate position on the platform. His strength was in his earnestness, his weakness in his voice, being poor in enunciation though his articulation was distinct. He lacked the true magnetism of an orator but his enthusiasm carried him through. The judges awarding him second place in delivery and third in thought and style.

George C. Fracker, our own representative, was the next speaker. His oration "The Tribe of Ishmael" ranked fifth in thought and style, and his delivery was marked sixth. Mr. Fracker has made much improvement since the home contest, but was not himself. Began before he caught the eye of the audience, and the force of his first sentences was lost. He did not fully recover what was thus lost but did better in the latter part than in the first. He was rather deliberate and not enthusiastic enough, was rather stiff and did not get the sympathy of his audience, faults which were noticed in the home contest and which he did not seem able to overcome.

E. M. Lake, of Chicago University, then spoke on "The Americanism of Lincoln" receiving first on delivery but sixth in thought and style. Mr. Lake's strength is in his subject. He addressed the chair and the audience and had thorough control of himself on the platform, moving freely. His voice was soft, yet strong, carrying the audience with him throughout, but it was the power of the subject and not his personality which enabled him to do it. On the whole, he indulged slightly too much in the spread eagle style of oratory.

Frank P. Sadler, the winner of the contest, next appeared as the representative of the University of Michigan. His subject was "Mirabeau." He received first in thought and style and third in delivery. Mr. Sadler has not a commanding bearing but a personality which shows itself in his delivery. His great strength is in his magnetism. His enthusiasm was at times too intense so that when he relapsed his audience failed to follow him. His voice was neither clear nor distinct.

The fifth oration was delivered by J. Mark Ericson, of Northwestern University, on "The Mission of the Ameri-

can Scholar." His appearance was pleasant but his gestures were monotonous and stiff. He did not possess strength of physique nor voice to impress himself upon the audience. The judges awarded him third place in thought and style and fourth in delivery.

Bernard G. Mattson, of Oberlin, the last speaker, received second on thought and style and fifth on delivery. His subject was "Anglo Saxon Supremacy." Mr. Mattson perhaps more than any other speaker possessed the power of magnetism, but his position and movements seemed stiff and too much studied. His voice was not clear or deep but monotonous. The audience by this time was restless and the speaker failed to gain control of them.

The final rank was Michigan, first; Wisconsin, second; Northwestern, third; Oberlin, fourth; Chicago fifth, and Iowa sixth.

The league representatives met yesterday afternoon in business session, at which the protest against allowing Chicago University's first orator, E. M. Lake, to appear in the contest on the ground that he was not an undergraduate, was tabled. Each member of the league was entitled to three delegates at the convention, the colleges sending the following representatives: Oberlin—B. G. Mattson, S. D. Chandler. Michigan—F. P. Sadler, B. L. Oliver. Iowa—G. C. Fracker, P. L. Kaye, and Zulemia Kostomlatsky. Northwestern—J. Mark Ericson, E. I. Goshen, and Gordon A. Ramsey. Chicago University—E. M. Lake, E. V. Pierce, and J. F. Hosel. Wisconsin—A. R. Smith, R. Rienow, and E. J. Henning.

E. J. Henning, of Wisconsin University, was chosen president, the first vice presidency going to M. W. Madison, of Northwestern, the second to J. B. Brooks, of Michigan, and the third to J. A. Hawley, of Oberlin. W. O. Wilson, of Chicago University, was chosen secretary, and Miss Fanny Davis, of the University of Iowa, Treasurer.

Our delegates will return Monday. Why not give them a hearty reception. We must get up some enthusiasm for the contest next year which will be held here sometime in May.

Mirabeau.

[The oration which won first place in the contest last evening.]

- I. Formation of Character.
- II. Opportunity.
- III. Claims to Greatness.
 - (a) Political Foresight.
 - (b) Orator.

Great characters are epoch makers. As we study the history of progress, we see men rise up and shape the destiny of nations,—men who enter the arena of life equipped by nature with those weapons which the conditions of the coming fray demand,—men who fitly typify the age in which they live, and embody the principles for which that age is famous. America gave birth to a Washington, who personified her great love of liberty, who expressed her undying loyalty to the principles of self-government, and linked his name forever with the

birth of our republic. She gave us a Lincoln, who, because he breathed forth her love for humanity, equality and unity, will stand as a central figure of the nineteenth century. So, when heralding the approach of her great revolution in which reason dethroned kingly power, and set on high the emancipated mind of man, France gave to the world her towering genius, her powerful orator, Mirabeau,—the typical Frenchman of that age of revolution.

I. Comte de Mirabeau was born at Bignon, on the 9th of March, 1749. He was so ugly in face and disfigured in form as to merit the nickname, "The Nephew of Satan." But sprung from a family distinguished for generations by a strong originality of character, Mirabeau inherited a physical and intellectual vigor far above the average.

He was born in a home where domestic tranquility was unknown, where parents, blind to their highest interests, displayed the greatest hatred for each other in the son's presence. Especially was this injurious to a youth of his disposition, who, from injustice of every description, sought for reckless freedom through the avenues of pleasure. A tyrant father using harsh severity toward a strong-willed son, early caused a wound that never healed. The passion was augmented by harsh authority; the strong will, assailed by superior force, ripened into an ungovernable disposition. The time for reconciliation passed by, the ties of love were broken, and the open hostility of a father stifled every impulse for a righteous life. Restless and disorderly, the rash youth was sent to the army with the hope that military discipline might curb his violent temper. Evil companionships were formed. Ere long he was behind prison bars. Again and again he was thrust into the dungeon cell, and every time he came forth more lawless than before. Respect for self was gone, and throwing aside all restraint,—step by step, he trod the downward road of licentious pleasure, to find himself at last a fugitive from justice in a foreign land,—a man without a country and without friends.

II. The first climax in that dramatic life has been reached. We turn our eyes to his native land and behold a scene, the most memorable in her history. It is the approaching conflict upon the same old battlefield where freedom's heroes have fought and died. The emancipated intellect and the sovereignty of the people are marshalling their hosts against the tyranny of despotism that has held them in its grasp for ages. The spirit of freedom which nerved the farmers at Lexington, and led the charge at Yorktown, was dawning on the minds of French. "The human mind long soothed with opiates and nursed on cordials suddenly awoke from its stupor" and began to think for itself with such freedom and audacity that all Europe was amazed.

The low mutterings of the coming storm are borne to the ears of the outcast, Mirabeau. Ambition whispers of the tottering throne; Freedom murmurs of the evils done; Genius

makes his vision clear. France is to be his field, revolution his life-work. A seat in that National Assembly upon which the eyes of the world were cast, was to be the stepping-stone from reproach, disgrace, dishonor, to that high pinnacle of power where kings must bow to the edicts of his will.

Schooled in the injustice of oppression, thirsting for distinction, violent and impetuous, possessing great talents together with a logical acuteness in foreshadowing political movements, and endowed with a splendid gift of eloquence, he stepped into the arena fully equipped for the mortal fray. Startling were his words as he exhorted men to action. Burning were his appeals as he moved them to revolution. There was an awakening. "The flame kindled by the feudalism of the middle ages, fanned by the ruling sway of tyrants and made to glow as Bourbon rule sank lower and lower, burst out into that mighty conflagration" which made crowned heads tremble on their thrones.

The maddened senses of men with the ghastly specter of wrongs too long endured, rising up before them, were bearing them on to deeds of atrocious violence. Mirabeau sees in imagination the wild scenes that are to follow. Will he venture to face that mob and imperil all that life holds dear for the sake of bleeding France? Can human power stay that plunging current? Write his name high upon the scroll of honor, who dares risk his all and if need be die, that his country may live! The task was beyond human strength, but manfully, unflinchingly, Mirabeau stepped forward and used all the powers of his nature to check the violent passions which his words had done so much to arouse.

In vain his warning words to France that she had turned the helm from the safe port of liberty away toward the stormy sea, with the Scylla of popular anarchy upon one hand and the Charybdis of military despotism on the other. To no purpose did he implore to action that National Assembly, hesitating, and debating the rights of man and the theories of government, while the mob of Paris was howling for bread. His warning was prophetic, as the statesman rose above the politician, the patriot, above selfish ambition, that the despotism of six hundred, styling themselves the National Assembly, was as much to be feared as the despotism of a king.

But he was not destined to behold the fulfillment of his prophecy. While battling with all the fire of his genius, while swaying assemblies and passing measures by his matchless eloquence, while at the zenith of his popularity, Death laid hold upon him. Earthly desire and sensual pleasure had blasted his years. Patriotic devotion, earnest endeavor, and noble action, could not atone for the sins of former days. The towering oak, long swayed by the storms of passion, long rocked by the tempests of revolution, shivered and fell. Mirabeau was no more. His life closed dark and sad,—sad at leaving his great designs unaccomplished, sad as he beheld the gathering gloom that

was hovering over his native land. Mysterious life! Calamitous death! King and peasant follow in that great procession in honor of the dead, and amid the sobs and groans of a disheartened people the "Sovereign Man" is laid to rest in the Pantheon of his Fatherland.

III. (a) What shall we write above that tomb.—success, or failure? Let history say. His peculiar position between throne and people gave to the political juggler and the jealous colleague opportunity to brand him as an intriguer with the King. But be it ever to the honor of Mirabeau, that the so-called selfish actions of an ambitious man, reflected by the light of history, are the patriotic motives of a statesman.

He understood as did no other Frenchman of his time, the true significance of a revolution; that revolution and reformation must go hand in hand; that the process of tearing down in government is successful only in so far as there follows the work of rebuilding; that revolution without reformation breeds anarchy,—anarchy, bloodshed and desolation.

The theory of government ever calls for the profoundest intellects of mankind. The relations of the rulers to the governed is a problem that has many answers. It is one that calls for the consideration of many questions, but none more vital than the inherent nature of the governed. Mirabeau recognized this and used his eloquence to persuade his fellow-countrymen to reconstruct the government on lines suited to the French nature. He knew full well that republics are not born in a day, and that the theories proposed by The National Assembly were not the natural outgrowth of a people ruled by kingly power. His knowledge of human nature revealed to him that the Frenchman must have a strong centralized government, and that if the principles of self-government were adopted, France would become the prey of ambitious leaders,—a Napoleon Bonaparte would lead France to her Waterloo.

His words, "I want a free, but a monarchial government," were hard to comprehend. But Bourbon rule followed by the Republic, Republic giving way to Directory, Directory followed hard upon by the Consulate. Consulate swept away by Empire whose storm-tossed bark was to be rocked by revolution upon revolution and finally to seek but not find a reposeful haven in a Republic,—this History has made those words prophetic. "When I shall be no more they will know what I was worth. All the calamities which I have arrested will break out upon France, and from all sides the criminal faction which trembles before me will have no rein." Do not these words re-echo through that mad revel of anarchy which murdered a defenseless King,—in the clash of deadly strife that culminated in The Reign of Terror in which Girondist, Hebertist, Dantonist, and Jacobinist, walked the way of death in close procession, and which only ended when the head of Robespierre fell before the guillotine?

(b) I have been speaking of his political foresight, but those who like his principles least cannot but acknowledge the power of his eloquence. It was not the stature of an Appolo or the brow of a Jove that held the "ravished hearer." He was ungainly in form and almost hideous in feature. Yet when he was moved by the thought of his nation's peril, these

were forgotten, and as the repulsive countenance lighted up with the inspiration of some lofty conception, and his great form swayed by the passion of his will, responded to the vigor of his language, homeliness gave way to radiance.—

"Confusion heard his voice
And wild uproar stood ruled."

Nature revealed herself in her "Son of Earth." The intellect flashed, the throat thundered, and the shocked Assembly, mute and speechless, sat gazing at the play of nature's powers. He was not the studied eloquence of a Burke but the sparks struck off by the heat of the moment. He did not strive at purity of diction but aimed straight at the hearts of men. Freedom was his inspiration; patriotism, his guide; sincerity, his motive; reason, his ruling power. Kings feared him, assemblies voted at his will. Genius was his birthright, justice his living maxim, The French Revolution, his monument.

Living in an age of hypocrisy, he stood forth as the champion of principles that will never die. With a vision too broad for party lines, he was grounded on the solid rock of equality and justice, where he bade defiance to the dazzling splendor of a court and the showy glitter of a nation's gold. Hold him not as the ideal man, for within was the low sensuous nature of the demon struggling for mastery over an intellect, divine in conception, resistless in reason, electrifying in power.

Morality will ever weep for the deeds of him who was a slave to passion but a master of kings. Eloquence will sing of him in her loftiest strain. Liberty will revere his memory as one who bore aloft her sacred banner and proudly planted it on the ramparts of of tyranny. Genius will crown him as a seer whose vision alone could penetrate the dark night of revolution,—will crown him as her chosen son, whose anticipations have become realizations,—whose counsels, laws,—whose words, maxims,—whose theories, constitutions.

Miss Rose Henderson was initiated into Kappa Kappa Gamma, Friday evening.

Remember the foot-ball benefit, Passion's Slave, May 9-10 at the Opera House.

All patriotic S. U. I. students should attend the athletic benefit, at the Opera House, May 9-10. Admission 35 cts., reserved seats 50 cts., on sale at Wieneke's Tuesday, May 8.

Come out and see Passion's Slave, presented by S. U. I. Talent under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Choate for the benefit of the Foot-ball team, Wednesday and Thursday, May 9-10.

Athletic Benefit.

The Athletic Management has secured the services of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Choate, of the Choate Dramatic Company, to present with the assistance of local talent, the comedy, Passion's Slave, next Wednesday and Thursday evenings. The proceeds are to be used in paying up old debts of the Association.

Those who will assist Mr. and Mrs. Choate, are: Miss Elizabeth Jones, Miss Adelaide Lascheck, C. S. Aldrich, Harry Keefe, W. E. Hooper, Frank Woolston, C. H. Stempel, and Steven A. Coldren. The entire cast of characters is well known to the public, and no word of praise need be said of their ability.

Every one should turn out and help the Association and at the same time enjoy themselves.

Mr. Choate has all the scenery necessary for the proper presentation of the play, and it is safe to say that it will be one of the best shows of the year.

Edward M. Neally, L. '90, of Burlington, Iowa, will lecture on "The Relation of the Ethics of Jesus to the Legal Profession" at the summer school of Applied Christianity to be held at Grinnell, Iowa, June 25th to July 4th.

The foot-ball men of Yale, Princeton, and University of Michigan, have begun training.

Professor Laughlin, of the University of Chicago, who went to San Domingo, not long since to devise a system of currency for this government has recently returned. The system introduced by Professor Laughlin resembles closely that used by the United States, gold and silver being employed in their coinage. The Government of San Domingo expresses great satisfaction in the system and is much pleased with Professor Laughlin's work.

Harvard Athletic Games.

The Harvard inter-class track athletic games took place April 24 on Holmes field, Cambridge.

The winners in the several events were: 120 yard hurdle—V. Munroe, '96, first; Williams, '97, second; Cotton, '96, third. Time, 15 1-5 seconds. 100 yard dash—S. M. Merritt, '94, first; J. P. Whitten, '95, second; P. S. Prado, '95, third. Time, 10 2-5. Two mile bicycle race—F. S. Elliot, '95, first; A. B. Holmes, '96, second; W. B. Brickerhoff, '97, third. Time, 5.31.

One mile—J. D. Phillips, '97, first; C. D. Drew, '97, second; J. Staab, '95, third. Time, 7.27 3-5. One mile run—J. L. Coolidge, '95, first; G. L. Pane, '96, second; J. Boardman, '94, third. 220 yard hurdle finals—J. L. Brewer, '96, first; H. W. Jameson, '95, second; S. K. Fenollosa, '95, third. Time, 26 seconds. Half mile run—E. Hollister, '97, first; E. B. Hall, '94, second; H. C. Larkin, '94, third. Time, 2.01. 220 yard run—S. M. Morrill, '94, first; J. P. Whitten, '95, second; P. da S. Prado, '96, third. Time, 22 3-5. 440 yards—W. H. Vincent, '97, first; N. W. Bingham, '95, second; L. T. Hildreth, '96, third. Time, 5.22 2-5. Pole vault—H. M. Wheelwright, '95, first; W. E. Putnam, Jr., '96, second; E. A. Mott Smith, '95, third. Distance, 10 feet 5 1-2 inches. Throwing the hammer—M. J. Connor, '97, first; E. Cockrell, '95, second; J. P. Whitten, '95, third. Distance, 88 feet 44 inches. High jump—C. J. Paine, Jr., '97, first; A. Stickney, Jr., '97, third. Distance, 5 feet 9 1/2 inches. Putting the shot—J. H. Whitten, '97, first; A. S. Stickney, second.

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The Tabard had their picture taken Friday noon.

The Zoological class are having a picnic to-day.

Miss Van Meter, '97, is spending a few days at her home in Waterloo.

Bertha Morgan, '97, and Lyde Ady, '97, will spend Sunday in West Liberty.

Lieutenant Vogdes kindly postponed Friday's drill to Tuesday, on account of the ball game.

Botany expeditions are the order of the day. Professor Shimek has taken out several parties this week.

Miss Gertrude Fairchild, '96, returned to Clinton with her friend, Miss Hobart, on Friday, to spend a few days at home.

Monnet, '92, L. '93, is visiting old acquaintances in the University. Mr. Monnet is now practicing law at Bathgate, North Dakota.

On Wednesday and Thursday evenings a drama is to be presented at the Opera House by local talent for the benefit of the foot-ball team.

The Junior Annual editors are already busy at work in planning and making arrangements for the publication of next year's Annual.

Regent J. W. Jarnigan has bought out the interest of his partner, W. C. McKee, in the Montezuma Republican, and is now the sole proprietor.

Frank Smith, of the State University School of Law, is spending a few days at home. He is assisting in the prosecution of the Ramsey case.— Cedar Rapids Republican.

Notice.

Dawn Bauserman leads the Y. W. C. A. meeting Sunday afternoon. Subject, "Lessons from Parables." All women invited.



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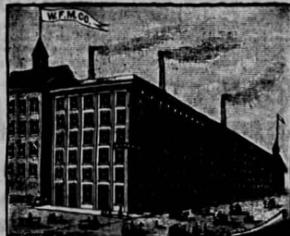
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