

# The Vidette - Reporter.

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

VOL. 28.

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NO. 49

## Close Hall.

(Concluded from last issue.)

Hence in our reading room are found only 22 daily and weekly papers and 3 monthly magazines. Also our game room is far from ideal, yet in this the equipment is not inferior to that of any period of the history of the organization. This fact is not supposed to be known by the non-members, since it is a privilege transferred from a public to a membership privilege, and the games are still enjoyed by members. (They are now in the Tower Room.)

These facts suggest the needs, viz: an entire refitting and enlargement of the bath-rooms, better equipment in all the rooms, more practical interest on the part of students and Faculty.

About a year and a half ago, a Board of Directors, seven in number, four of whom are chosen from the Faculty, took upon itself the responsibility of the management of the Association with their varied and difficult problems. The members of the Board willingly sacrificed their time, money and credit to this work, yet it was not without some hope that they would receive the hearty co-operation of all interested in the University and its organizations. And to our knowledge, while it is true that if there had been the proper interest the present conditions would not exist, no criticism of the policy of the Board has been made by any of the Association members, but rather all have felt grateful to the Board for their practical interest in them. It is hoped that a knowledge of the needs of Close Hall will kindle anew the flame of enthusiasm for its welfare, and elicit its practical demonstration at the first opportunity.

Certainly after the presence of the Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations in the University has removed much of the odium and ill-report attached to the name of the University, it would be undesirable from any point of view to have the report scattered broadcast over the state that the University is unable or unwilling to support it. We have faith that this will not occur, but that all will rally to the emergency.

HARRY BLUNT,  
General Secretary.

## An Eastern Trip.

Had Lowell propounded to any student here but a week ago his interrogatory, "What is so rare as a day in June?" no doubt the prompt reply would have been—"A leap year sleigh ride." Yet rare as such occurrences are, they are like an eclipse of the sun; bound to occur at certain intervals. The one which we have the pleasure to mention is the most successful and total eclipse yet observed, beginning at 7 p. m. and lasting 10 hrs. 28 min. and 4.5 sec.

The ride in question was in the hands of the young ladies of a well-known organization, and was probably more enjoyable on that account. The party filled two large bobs, and their destination was West Banch (12 miles east). The party arrived there about 10 p. m., when the villagers were aroused from their peaceful slumbers by jingling bells and merry

voices. Having refreshed themselves at the hotel for about an hour and a half (especially the drivers), visions of home began to arise in their minds and they started for—West Liberty (9 miles further east). They arrived there in time to give exhibitions of their dramatic, literary and musical ability while waiting for the 4:50 a. m. train. Arriving in Iowa City the fair ones escorted their bold companions home and au revoir's were exchanged as the first cock's crow resounded on the still, cold air. All declare that they had a delightful time!

Since then a notice on the bulletin board reads: "Lost, somewhere between West Liberty and Iowa City, a small purse containing a large sum of money." The success of the undertaking has inspired the young ladies. They met in closed session yesterday evening, and it has since been rumored that their next expedition will not stop short of the Mississippi.

## Baconian.

The paper on last Friday evening was given by the President of the Club to an audience somewhat smaller than usual, owing to the reception given by Professor Calvin to the Faculty.

Many departments of learning, though not classed as scientific, make use of scientific methods. Formerly doctrines held regarding a given phenomena were the result of mere theorizing; speculations based upon hasty or insufficient observation passed as current knowledge. True, the theorizing element is still present, as every investigator in any field works in the light of a theory; he must make a judicious hypothesis and then strive to establish or overthrow it.

When enough facts have been collected the generalizing tendency of the mind can always be relied upon to formulate a conclusion favorable or otherwise to the given theory. The theory of evolution as proposed by Darwin was no idle speculation, but on the contrary, the necessary result of the work of strong intellects in the field of natural science, and that mind which does not accept its truths stands outside the pale of advancing knowledge.

It is not to be concluded that the study of things will always lead up to a theory, or that it will serve as a corrective, though in general this is true with some notable exceptions. When a genius propounds a theory the means of investigation then at hand may be insufficient to verify the truth that is involved. Such a circumstance occurred two hundred years ago in the theory of light, when Huygens published an explanation of reflection and refraction on the supposition that light is due to wave motion in the ether.

At that time the emission theory held full sway, and to its support the great Newton lent his aid. Poggen-dorf has remarked that there is no other instance in the history of modern physics in which the truth was so long kept down by authority. Whether due to authority or lack of experimental evidence, or both, the theory so well initiated by Huygens fell into disrepute, and was not accepted for a

hundred years. Its revival was due to Dr. Young's discovery of the principle of interference. Young found by experiment that the waves could be made to interfere destructively, and later on Fresnel added that the vibrations are transverse to instead of in the direction of propagation, as both Huygens and Young believed. To the labors of these three men the theory of light and of radiant energy in general owes its origin.

The essayist then presented some drawings illustrative of Young's experiment, which were preceded by way of preface by an elementary explanation of the general terms used in wave motion. When Young first published his experiments scientific men were not ready to accept his theory. Fresnel now comes forward with a set of experiments which, in view of the service rendered at this critical moment, are justly ranked foremost in the whole range of physical optics.

The phenomena which occurs when a beam of light falls upon a thin film of transparent medium, as a layer of oil on water, or falls upon the delicate soap-bubble, was spoken of. In passing through the film, the ray suffers retardation because the velocity of the transmission in the film is less than in the air, and also because of the larger path.

The interference of the light in passing through the bubble results not in increasing or diminishing the light, but in producing colors. The varying colors are due to the retardation and to the constant change in the thickness of the bubble film on account of expansion and contraction in gas of the bubble, and of the constant evaporation.

The ways for producing spectra were illustrated by gratings on glass and on metal plate. The former is called transmission and the latter reflection grating. Such metal grating may contain from twenty to forty thousand lines to the inch, so that the grating resembled highly polished steel. A metal grating was mounted on the spectrometer and after the paper was read the spectrum of the gas flame was viewed by the audience.

The paper was supplemented by a few remarks by Professor Veblen on the practical value of wave lengths in determining the length of the standard meter in the French archives.

Dr. Gilbert will give a paper on Friday evening on "Some Effects from the Loss of Sleep."

## Hep-Zet Program.

The program given last Friday evening by the Hesperians and Zetagathians proved a great success. The play, "Esmerelda," was more difficult than those generally presented by the societies, and was especially pleasing because of the smoothness with which it proceeded. The actors' familiarity with their parts brought this about.

The play opens with a scene on a farm belonging to Mr. Rogers. A speculator who has discovered the fact that there is ore on this property, wishes to purchase it. As Mrs. Rogers is ruler of the house it is with her he has to deal. She sells him a part of the farm to be worked on shares, and her next plan is to spend the money thus obtained in traveling and

making a lady of her daughter Esmerelda. She declares to Dave Hardy, her daughter's lover, that he, being a poor man, can never be a husband for a rich lady. So the lovers are separated, the Rogers family going to France. There Mrs. Rogers tries to bring about a marriage between her daughter and a marquis. But by the aid of some artist friends and also of the companion of the speculator in the first act, Dave Hardy, who has followed the family across the sea, is brought to Esmerelda, whose affection for him has always been the same.

It is now discovered that the Rogers farm is not worth what it was at first supposed to be, but that the one lying next to it, and owned by Dave Hardy, contains the ore. Mrs. Rogers consents to the union of Dave and her daughter now that the tables are turned. The marquis has eloped with a young lady of wealth as soon as he found that Esmerelda was poor.

To Mr. Lancaster, as Mr. Rogers, the most praise is perhaps due for excellence in acting. Miss Novak as Esmerelda, and Miss Dorcas as Mrs. Rogers, carried out their parts well. The story of the artists, interwoven in the play, added to the interest of the plot. Miss Margaret Van Meter as Nora Desmond, and Mr. Rowell as Esterbrook, were both very good.

The three musical numbers of the program, a violin solo by Professor Berryhill, a piano solo by Marion Davies, and a guitar and violin duet, were greatly enjoyed.

## Law Literary.

The Law Literary of '96 met in the Law lecture room last Friday evening. The following persons were elected and duly installed as officers: President, J. E. Morris; Vice-President, C. M. Stillwell; Secretary, F. W. Rank; Treasurer, W. H. Butterfield; Sergeant-at-Arms, K. E. Leighton.

W. H. Hughes made a speech upon the theme, "The New Woman," in which he deeply deplored her tendency to mannishness.

Mr. A. W. Burgess read an entertaining selection, "Humorous Phases of the Law."

The question, "Is a lawyer justified in defending a bad cause," was discussed upon the affirmative by Mr. Grant and Mr. H. Kepler, and on the negative by F. W. Rank and C. M. Stillwell. The decision of the judges was in favor of the affirmative.

C. J. Rudolph in a short speech expressed the opinion that the United States should take some action in regard to the Armenian troubles.

B. C. Kransen made a very patriotic speech upon "The Monroe Doctrine."

K. E. Leighton summed up the chances of the various candidates for the presidential nomination. He gave some good reasons why Allison maintains a stronger position than either Reed or McKinley.

M. E. Wilmuth, in a brief speech, contended that the United States should not, at the present time, recognize the Cubans as belligerents, although popular opinion favored it.

The society then adjourned.

The Lehigh base ball team will play Wesleyan this year.

**The Vidette-Reporter.**

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during the Collegiate Year at the  
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second class matter.

The time draws near for the preliminary to the Northern Oratorical League Contest and we hope the number of contestants for the honor of representing S. U. I. will be many. We cannot hope to select our best man unless we have a goodly number to select from, and we shall need our best man if we are to win the place we desire. The fact that the contest was held here last year we hoped would arouse enough interest to warrant us in expecting a great number of contestants this year. It is impossible to judge as yet how many productions will be submitted to the judges, as no one will know till the judges are chosen. Yet it seems probable that there will not be more than usual. Whether it is through lack of appreciation or not we cannot say, but there seems to be a decided lack of enthusiasm regarding the matter. Of course it is late now, too late to begin, but those who may have begun to write for the contest should by all means continue. It seems to us that a greater number of contestants would be secured if the method of choosing judges were changed so that the men who are writing need take no part till their names were posted as contestants. However the experience of the league has developed the present as the best method, and we trust there may be no need of inducement further than the honor held out to the winner. The final contest will be held this year at Chicago.

**Intercollegiate Athletics.**

President Schurman, of Cornell, had the following to say of intercollegiate athletics in his annual address:

"It may be reasonably doubted whether intercollegiate athletics in the United States have of late years been in general, moderate, or healthy, or innocent. It has already been stated that schemes of money-making intermingle with intercollegiate foot

ball, which has been attended with other evils also. But the canker of all intercollegiate athletics to-day is the fierce desire to win, which is eating the heart out of the genuine sportsman's love of sport for the sport's sake irrespective altogether of the prize of victory. The concomitant of this blight is not far to seek. The sport and recreation of amateurs tend to become the business of professionalists, and the work is henceforth controlled not by the honor of the sportsmen, but by another code, borrowed from the school of professionalism. As intercollegiate athletics are to be tolerated only when they do not interfere with the work of students or do not distract institutions of learning from the purpose of their existence, so, furthermore, they must not be encouraged, they should be forbidden, unless players and managers recognize that, far above records and victories, higher than sports, higher even than physical culture, are self-respect and courtesy to others, good manners and morals and that generous manliness which is the spirit of the amateur and the conscience of the sportsman. Nothing would so certainly contribute to this result, nothing therefore could be so advantageous to athletics in the colleges as the thorough learning of the lesson, and taking the lesson to heart, that the true end of sport is not victory, but the thrill of honorably contending for it—Ex.

**Erodelphian.**

Many side attractions did not prevent a fair sized audience from gathering to greet the Erodelphians Saturday night. The program was opened by a prettily rendered piano solo by Miss Freeman.

The next was a declamation on "True Nobility," by Miss Otto, delivered in such a way as to make one realize the deeper meaning of life.

The question, "Resolved, that a girl obtains a better education in the higher grade of woman's colleges than in a co-educational institution," was discussed in an interesting manner by Miss Curtis and Miss Greely, after which Miss Graff played a very pleasing selection.

"How Atlanta Remembered the Poor," by Miss Owen, was very beautifully delivered, warming the coldest hearts with sympathy.

Miss Riggs then delivered "The Gypsy Flower Girl," with much feeling.

Miss Boals made the hard task of giving an extemporaneous speech seem light by the easy and ready manner with which she handled her subject, "Women as Professional Students."

The program was closed by an excellently rendered duet by Miss Perkins and Miss Owen, the appreciation of which the audience manifested by a hearty and prolonged encore.

Mr. L. S. Cheney, a member of the botanical staff of the University of Wisconsin, has been for several years in charge of the field and herbarium work of a botanical survey of the state, which the department has initiated in a quiet way and upon a limited scale, since only a meager sum is available for expenses. Mr. Cheney has organized parties in the summer vacation and has already examined the plants of the Wisconsin river valley from the headwaters to the Dells. A large amount of material has been secured, much of which has already been determined by specialists and distributed to other herbaria in exchange.

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**Still They Come.**  
The crowd that thronged the great auction sale at 116 Washington street all last week showed that people know a good thing when they see it.  
The sales through the week were very large, but hardly made an impression on the immense stock of goods that must be sold.  
Prices have ruled remarkably low, as an instance of this a set of spoons that cost \$2.90 to manufacture were sold for 75 cents; many other things were sold proportionately low.

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The thirty-second annual dinner of the Dartmouth College Association of New York, will be held at the Hotel Waldorf, Jan 31.

The New England Debating League recently formed, contains the following members: Brown, Wesleyan, Tafts, Bates, Boston University and Boston College.

Latest styles in fall suitings.—Coast & Easley.

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Hoyt's "A Trip to Chinatown" will be here Feb. 7.

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**Fact and Rumor.**

Harriette Holt went to Downey Saturday.

Ivy Lane enjoyed a sleigh ride last evening.

The Page Club had a bod-ride Saturday night.

Bloom and Will Ryan spent Saturday in Downey.

The Zets will have a social Thursday of this week.

Miss Bird Johnston gave a candy-pull Friday night.

Mittie Pile has resumed her work after a week's illness.

Tabard had a bob-sled ride Saturday night. It was a leap year affair.

Professor Loos lectured at Green Mountain, Iowa, Friday evening.

John Hanks, '97, after a week's outing with the "grippe," is on duty.

Bert Perkins, of Cedar Rapids, spent Sunday with S. C. Irving, L.'96.

"Bob" Ingersoll, ex-L. '95, was recently married to a young lady at Fayette, Iowa.

Hon. Chas. Aldrich, of Des Moines, was the guest of Dr. Shambaugh one day last week.

Misses Mabel Cook and Edith Bale spent Friday and Saturday at the home of the latter.

Mrs. Partridge gave an interesting lecture to her Sophomore class on "Phrasing," Monday.

At the Senior Law class meeting yesterday, D. J. O'Connell was elected to represent the class in the memorial services to be held in honor of Judge Wright at some future time.

CALL ON BLOOM & MAVER FOR CLOTHING AND HATS.

Mrs. Loos will give a reception to the young ladies of the University Wednesday afternoon.

Frank Russell has an article in the February *Scribner* on "Hunting the Musk Ox with the Dog Ribs."

The meeting of the French Club yesterday was postponed on account of the books not having arrived.

H. E. Eagerty, ex-'96, is visiting University friends. He is now engaged in mercantile business at Mechanicsville, Ia.

Dr. Egge will deliver a lecture on "The Ancient Mythologies of Scandinavia," Wednesday evening, at the English Lutheran Church.

Hickman and Flynn, of the Law class of '95, who were located at Chariton, Iowa, have dissolved partnership. Mr. Flynn is now located at Eagle Grove, Iowa.

The basket ball team will leave Thursday night to play a return game with the University of Chicago and Central Y. M. C. A. teams. The team will be composed of Hutchinson, Bailey, Cerny, Freeman, Howell, Miller and Donahoe.

**Medical Department.**

The Seniors will have their class pictures taken at Luscombe's art gallery.

A. L. Hoyt has been elected Senior class orator.

Professor Bierring was called away Friday on professional business, hence did not meet his classes on Friday and Saturday.

Professor Littig did not meet his classes Saturday, being out of the city.

In the Open Court, for Dec. 19, we notice that the special feature of the issue is an article by Dr. Woods Hutchinson on the subject, "Omnipotence of Good," in which he, in his original, interesting style, traces the development of the idea of good, and the lessing of the fears and superstitions of the bad.

Senator Waterman and Representatives Mayne and Grow, members of the Visiting Committee of the Legislature, visited the surgical clinic Thursday afternoon. The students were there, about two hundred strong, to give them a hearty welcome. The committee expressed themselves as being fully in sympathy with the movement so earnestly carried on for a new hospital, and will do their best to assist in getting the appropriation.

Mr. McAlvin, M. '97, is one of the speakers for the Zetagathian society against the Irving, in the preliminary debate for the Iowa-Minnesota debate.

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