

The Vidette - Reporter.

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

VOL. 28.

IOWA CITY, IOWA, TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1896.

NO. 74

Freshman Hesperian Program.

Miss Ella Jones, the spring term president of the Hesperian Society, took the gavel Saturday night and made a few appropriate inaugural remarks. She spoke of the steady advance of the society since its organization 31 years ago, of its present prosperity, of its possibilities and outlook for future work and success.

Miss Selma Stempel entertained the audience with a piano solo.

The program of the evening was the annual Freshman program, and Hesperian Freshman of this year proved themselves perfectly capable of sustaining the reputation acquired by those of former years.

Part I consisted of a mythological play, in three acts, entitled "Ceres."

The curtain opened on a stage beautifully decorated with stumps and evergreens to represent a wooded scene.

Saturn, the god of time, in the person of Jessie Popham, came on the stage, and soon was greeted by the three goddesses, Ceres, Pomona, and Flora, represented by Libbie Lodwick, Lillian Harriman and Florence Ady, each speaking of her gifts to the sons of men, and being praised by Saturn for her beneficence. Then came Kathryn Way as Hour, a winged messenger of Saturn, and humbly confessed to Ceres that through her negligence, Proserpine, the daughter of Ceres, had been stolen by Pluto, in the vale of Emma, and carried to the regions of Hades. Ceres' grief at this news was well simulated. Pomona and Flora kindly offered their assistance in the search and go out to look for her, thus ending the first act.

Jessie Bullock sang a pleasing solo during the interval before the next act.

Next we were introduced to a haunt of wood nymphs, where six nymphs, Misses Kelley, Leonard, Browning, Jones, Shaffer and Mann were dancing, and sporting and singing. In comes Ceres with her sad lament about Proserpine, and the nymphs fall to planning means for her rescue and return. They send for one of their number, Arathusa, represented by Anna Roberts, and commission her to search for the lost one.

Between the second and third acts, Georgia Adams told the story of the theft of Proserpine by Pluto, her journey to Hades, and her sad fate, requiring her to return, although allowed to visit her mother once each year. This declamation was quite up to Miss Adams' usual superior appearance.

In the third act, Ceres once more tells her mournful tale to Triptolamus, King of Sicily, (Agnes Safley) who comforts her as best he can. Soon, however, her grieving is turned to joy, for Hour comes in bringing with her the lost Proserpine, who tells of her experience in the lower regions and how she is fated to return because of having eaten a pomegranate seed there. She says, however, that she is to be allowed to spend half the year with her mother on earth. Then came Pomona and Flora, saying that during the time Proserpine spends on earth, they would visit the earth with the good gifts of flowers and

fruit, withholding them during her residence below. This closed the first part of the program.

Part II was a pantomime entitled "Israel's Womanhood." Libbie Howard read a beautiful tribute to the womanhood of Israel, while Miss Stempel again presided at the piano.

The parts represented were as follows:

Eva..... Millie McDonnell
Rebecca..... Ruby Baughman
Rachel..... Agnes Hayes
Miriam..... Bird Johnson
Ruth..... Frances Codner
Naomi..... Cora Moreland
Hannah..... Gertrude Preston
Samuel..... Arlo Wilson
Jeptha's Daughter..... Lucinda Nash
Mary..... Marcia Jacobs

A tableau concluded this most excellently devised and successfully carried out pantomime.

The costuming for both parts of the program were extremely tasteful and appropriate, as well as affording a pleasing effect for the eye. Nothing but the highest praise and commendation are due to those whose untiring perseverance made the successful entertainment possible.

The close attention of the large and interested audience was indeed gratifying.

Irving.

Irving began her work for the spring term by rendering a good program last Friday evening.

After music by the Mandolin Club, the gavel was presented to W. T. Evans, president for the coming term. In a neat speech Mr. Evans thanked the society for the honor it had conferred upon him and expressed the desire that under his administration Irving would continue in her upward march.

C. W. Startzman then delivered a declamation entitled "A Compass of Fortune." The speaker was fortunate in his choice of a selection, for the story contained enough of mystery to keep his audience intensely interested throughout. Mr. Startzman's delivery was characterized by ease and naturalness.

Following this F. R. Hubbard delivered an oration on "Cuban Revolt from a Cuban Standpoint." Mr. Hubbard made an eloquent appeal for Cuban independence.

The debate for the evening was on the question "Resolved, that it should be the policy of the United States to greatly increase her naval and military forces."

M. L. Curtis, opening for the affirmative, maintained that the United States needs a strong navy, not only in time of war but also for the protection of her commerce and the upholding of her national dignity in time of peace. Mr. Curtis made a strong argument.

M. D. Moulton next spoke for the negative. The United States maintains a neutral position whenever such a policy is a possibility; although Europe is threatened with war, the United States is not, and consequently needs no great increase in her navy, for it has proved large enough for past needs. This was Mr. Moulton's first appearance on Irving's floor, and he left a good impression.

J. B. Shorett continued for the affirmative. A powerful navy at present is an absolute necessity in case of war, while the construction of a modern navy requires a much greater length of time than was required for the creation of a naval force a hundred years ago.

The debate was closed by I. Petersberger. The United States goes on the theory that "Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war." We are not a warring people; our present navy answers the demands of a peace administration. Why then do we need a great increase?

Following the debate I. Iverson delivered an oration on "International Law." The production contained sound thought and was well worded. Mr. Iverson's effort was greatly appreciated.

The last number of the program was a speech, "Bill Nye," by E. H. Bond. The death of this great American humorist is sadly regretted by all lovers of clean, hearty, wholesome, wit.

A piano solo by Miss Davies closed the evening's entertainment. This number was heartily encored.

Engineering Society.

The engineers met in their general recitation room last Tuesday night and listened to a very instructive paper by Bowman, '99, on the question "To what extent will electricity substitute steam." This is a live question among engineers and economists, and Mr. Bowman handled the question in a manner that showed much thought and research.

Mr. R. T. Hartman reported on "The advantage of raising the center of gravity of locomotives," and E. S. Smith on "The utilizing of powered coal."

An announcement has recently come from the Harvard Observatory of the discovery of fourteen new variable stars. These discoveries were made on examination of the Henry Draper memorial photographs of stellar spectra taken by Mrs. Fleming. During last November an announcement of six variables was made, and in last July of seven.

The system used in discovering variable stars is very successful. There is in the observatory a library, so to speak, of the sky for the past eight years. During this time nearly 60,000 photographs of the skies at different times have been taken. As soon as a star is noticed with hydrogen lines on its spectrum, reference is immediately made to the photographs made in that region where the star is found. From these different photographs it can be learned whether the star is always of the same brightness. This method leads to the discovery of more variable stars here than in any other place, as the Harvard Observatory is the only one which uses this system. The ordinary way of finding variable stars is by watching each night to see if they change in brightness. As yet no star, whose spectrum had hydrogen rings, has proved to be other than a variable.

It was with great pleasure that a report from Arequipa was received at the Observatory, stating that the

Bruce photographic telescope, the most powerful of its kind in the world, had arrived in safety. This telescope was sent to Peru some time ago and considerable anxiety has been felt as to its safe arrival, as it was rather a dangerous voyage from here to Arequipa.

At present they are preparing at the observatory to send a collection of photographs to New York for exhibition. The collection is similar to the one exhibited at Chicago during the World's Fair.—*Harvard Crimson.*

College Notes.

Colonel Chas. Broadway Rouss has given \$25,000 to the University of Virginia for the erection of the Engineering Building or for the Physical Laboratory.

President Elliot, of Harvard, is making an effort to reduce the college course at that institution to three years' work.

The Ames base ball team will take an extended trip and is trying to arrange a game with Wisconsin.

The closing Farmers' Institute of the season was held during the past week at Watertown, Wis. The proceedings of the Institute will be published in book form in fifty or sixty thousand copies.

Princeton has learned, to her sorrow, what is means to trusts to star athletes and neglect the lesser lights. After having scored but one point in two years at the Mott Haven games as a result of that policy (pursued of course in previous years), she has waked up sadder but wiser. Whether or not Lafayette's present success will continue after Walbridge, Barclay, Clarke, Rinehart, Sigman, et al, have folded their tents and departed from Eaton's classic shades, depends upon the attention bestowed meanwhile not only upon the best of other men in sight, but also upon the host of latent material, which must be sought out and worked up. And this little sermon applies with equal force and is intended quite as much for other colleges similarly situated.—*Ex.*

Prof. F. W. Woll, of the University of Wisconsin, has just completed a bulletin entitled "The Maintenance of Soil Fertility: Commercial Fertilizers," which will be published at the end of the month, as Bulletin No 49 of the Agricultural Experiment Station. The state fertilizer law which went into effect on December 1, 1895, requires manufacturers and dealers in commercial fertilizers to take out a license for the sale of their goods in the state and to guarantee their composition. The law directs that chemical analysis be made of the licensed fertilizers and that the results be published in a bulletin during the spring of each year. Prof. Woll's bulletin, in addition to the statement of analysis of licensed fertilizers for 1896, gives a comprehensive discussion of the subject of soil fertility, how it is maintained, methods of fertilization, kinds of fertilizers available, etc.

Notice.

There will be a meeting of the '98 Hawkeye Board in the Tower Room, Close Hall, at 3:30 p. m., Thursday, April 9. L. A. SWISHER.

The Vidette-Reporter.

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THE VIDETTE REPORTER,
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second class matter.

Judging from sundry uncharitable remarks, interspersed with scornful interrogatories and mingled with bitter reproaches, which we observe in the columns of some of our exchanges, we conclude that all is not harmonious and peaceful in the camp of the State Oratorical League. We have found occasion ere now to lament the fact that a contest involves a defeat just as certainly as a victory, and until some way can be invented by which victory alone can result, such quarrels as is now on, we fear, are likely to ensue. We have, in our time, witnessed both victory and defeat, and in our judgment a silent acceptance of the decree of fortune, accompanied perhaps with a complacency of the undemonstrative sort, is no less becoming to the defeated than modesty to the victor. Perhaps our disinterested position in the matter somewhat influences our view, but nevertheless we opine that the present wrangle is not only damaging to the association but productive of little save bad language and bad feelings.

We hope the activity which we have observed in literary work thus far this year is not now to be allowed to decline. The honors won by those who participate in efforts to advance literary work are usually well worth the struggle and self denial they require, and should be as attractive, as they are hard to attain. Besides the mere gratification which the winning of a prize should legitimately produce, however, it should be remembered that any such effort is the best possible means of developing strength for use on future occasions. This we believe is the fundamental idea of education and should be kept constantly in view when considering the importance of any matter of this kind.

We have more than once evinced our earnest desire that the contests in charge of the literary societies should be encouraged and improved, yet this feature of the work is no more important than the one to which we now call attention. From the nature of the case, the number who can receive direct benefit from the contests is limited. It is very fortunate, however, that with regard to the essay for which the Sawyer Prize is offered no such limitation is necessary. No great inducement should be requisite for securing a goodly number of contestants for this prize. Surely nothing need be said regarding the honor to be won and the benefit to be acquired. The truth is, however, that, evident as is the value of the prize, from the standpoint mentioned, there will probably be a tendency among those who should begin writing now to delay until it is too late to give anything like sufficient time to the matter. We have in our library facilities ample enough for the work and urge it upon those who can, to enter, and see no reason why there should not be many to begin now.

The good results of offering such prizes as we now speak of have been amply demonstrated in other institutions and in our own. It certainly should be the desire of those interested to promote the establishment of such inducements. This cannot better be accomplished than by the competition of a large number of writers for the prize now offered.

C. E. Wood, C. '95, is to be commended for his fortitude, having become an editor and a husband so soon after leaving the University. The happy event took place last Tuesday, the lady of his choice being Miss Margaret Wasser, a Cornell graduate. Mr. Wood is the publisher of the Denison Review, a clean cut, up to date, newsy sheet, that reflects credit on its author.

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Fact and Rumor.

- Ethel Seeds is enjoying a visit from her sister.
- Howell, '98, is teaching school at North Liberty.
- Joe Kindall, '99, is confined to his room by illness.
- Baptista Kirby is enjoying a visit from her sister, of Sioux City.
- The Freshman Erodolphian program will occur in three weeks.
- Miss Eva Switzer is one of the new members of the Junior Law class.
- The Senior girls appeared to-day in the caps, significant of Senior dignity.
- Nina Shaffer, '99, will not be in school this term, owing to ill health.
- The mother and sister of Jennie Leonard spent Monday in Iowa City.
- Miss Blanche Davis, of Washington, Iowa, has taken up University work.
- Roy Collins is obliged to miss recitations on account of trouble with his eyes.
- Miss Daisy Combs, of Britt, Iowa, is visiting with her friend Kathryn Way.
- The gymnasium girls will give an exhibition some time in the near future.
- Mr. Charles O. Giese was elected to a position on the VIDETTE-REPORTER staff Monday.
- Mrs. W. H. Bates, of Stuart, Ia., visited with her son, W. E. Bates, L. '96, yesterday.
- Miss Bird Johnson, who has been absent for several days on account of illness, is able to resume her work again.

Ex-Attorney-General Smith, of Red Oak, Ia., has been secured as speaker for the Law commencement exercises.

Frank Carroll, M. '94, and Miss Agne Vassar, '94, of Tipton, Ia., were united in marriage at the bride's home, Monday, April 6.

Howard North, Eng. '94, has been honored by the Engineering News, which requests copies of his graduating thesis for publication.

Ed McCall, L. '96, left last night for Cleveland, Ohio, to represent the Iowa Alpha Chapter at the National Convention of Phi Kappa Psi.

The Senior class expect to have a class sociable on Monday, April 13. A play will be given by several members of the class as entertainment.

Invitations are out for the marriage of Dr. Biering to a young lady in Davenport, in the near future. They expect to start for Germany immediately after the ceremony.

The Junior Law class had a full team out for practice in base ball yesterday afternoon. In an exciting contest Kingsbury proved himself the sprinting champion of the class.

The Freshman girls' preliminary declamatory contest will be held Wednesday afternoon. Sixteen will participate, from whom eight will be chosen for the final contest in June.

North American Review.

Is the expansion of the British Empire fraught with danger to the United States, and hostile to the interests of civilization at large? Is the policy of Great Britain, as "a land-grabber," and as a ruler of alien peoples in all parts of the world, one which must be execrated and opposed by Americans? These questions are considered by Mr. David A. Wells, in the North American Review for April, in an article entitled "Great Britain and the United States: Their True Relations."

Mayo W. Hazeltine discusses the "Possible Complications of the Cuban Question," indulging in some very interesting speculations regarding the international alliances which might be formed should Spain declare war against the United States.

"Pygmy Races of Men" forms the subject of an interesting essay by Professor Frederick Starr, of the University of Chicago, in this number, Professor Starr confidently asserting that hints of the past existence of such people in America are not wanting.

The anniversary of the death of President Lincoln is signalized by an article entitled "Recollections of Lincoln's Assassination," by Seaton Munroe. The stirring events of the memorable night of April 14th, of which Mr. Munroe was a witness, are most vividly and graphically described.

The fourth installment of "The Future Life and the Condition of Man Therein," by the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, appears, and deals with speculations on the future of the righteous and unrighteous.

Readers will be interested in Karl Blind's able paper on "Problems of the Transvaal," which treats thoroughly of the many perplexing complications and difficulties surrounding that much talked of Southern African Republic.

Notice.

All those interested in tennis should attend the meeting to-night, at Clcse Hall, at 7 o'clock.



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