

The Vidette - Reporter.

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

VOL. 28.

IOWA CITY, IOWA, SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1896.

NO. 76

Freshman Declamatory Contest.

The Freshman girls' preliminary declamatory contest, which was held in the society halls last Wednesday afternoon, was full of interest. S. K. Stevenson acted as judge. Sixteen Freshman girls participated, of whom the best eight were chosen for the final contest in June. Below we give a full list of the winners, with their respective selections:

Georgia Adams... Echo and the Fairy
Libbie Howard Annie Laurie
Mabel Foster... King Robert of Sicily
Agnes Hayes Shamas O'Brien
Lulu Graff..... The Victim
Erza Owen ... Marmion and Douglas
Glenna Mann..... The Skeleton
Ethel Perkins. The Legend of Bregenz

Four of the winners are Erodolphians and four belong to the Hesperian society; so the two literary societies are evenly matched in the coming declamatory contest which will determine their relative strength along this particular line of work. The natural ability of the declaimers, together with the painstaking care of their instructor in elocution, will insure an interesting evening's program.

Hammond Law Senate.

A good sized audience greeted the Senate last evening, and a good program was rendered.

The program was opened with a guitar solo by Mr. Davis, who was heartily encored.

Next was a comic declamation by Mr. Seaman. This was followed by a well written essay on "Soudan," by Mr. Mueller.

The next on the program was a well rendered declamation entitled "Knee Deep in June," by Mr. Turtelot.

The Griggs Bill, "Resolved, that the tariff question should be submitted to a non-partisan commission for solution," was then discussed, Messrs. Griggs and J. B. Ryan speaking in favor of and Wesche and Devitt in opposition to the measure. The defenders of the bill held that such a measure would take from politics this question and restore confidence to the commercial world, in that there would be no doubts as to what would be done in this respect after each election.

The negative held that it would not take the question from politics; that Congress would still have to act on this matter; that it would only make legislation more cumbersome, and no benefits would result therefrom. A vote on the question resulted in 12 aye's and 19 no's. After their usual business session the Senate adjourned.

Irving.

North Hall contained a goodly sized audience last evening when the program was opened with a heartily appreciated violin solo by J. F. Koza.

A declamation, "The Ruggles Dinner Party," was next delivered by Z. R. Townsend, whose effort was frequently punctured with applause.

F. A. Williams followed with an oration on "Justice." The speaker traced rapidly the history of man's injustice, lamenting the fact that the goddess of justice is still so often insulted, even in our modern civilization.

The debate of the evening was on the question, "Resolved, that the ward system in municipal government should be abolished."

C. W. Startzman opened for the affirmative. Municipal charters were framed as though cities were small states, but this was a mistake, for cities do not contain widely separated sections with their attendant sectional interest that are to be found in states. Wards are the home of corruption.

The argument for the negative was taken up by J. S. Nelson. The affirmative not only must prove the inefficiency of the ward system, but must also bring forward a substitute. The ward system is to our municipal government what our congressional districts are to the national government.

J. Don Kiser closed the argument for the affirmative. The speaker contended that our government would be improved if the system of election by a general ticket were substituted for the ward system.

The debate was closed by C. H. Stempel. The ward has vital functions. It is the lowest district of representation. As a territorial division the ward is a requisite with which it is impossible to dispense.

The debate was decided in the affirmative.

Following the debate, H. R. Mosnat declaimed "A Skeleton in Armour." This poem, difficult as it is to be declaimed, was excellently delivered.

"The Close of the Nineteenth Century" was the subject of a speech by G. N. Briggs. At the close of every century one country more than all others represents the sentiment and future of mankind. America, though scarcely a century old, holds this position at the end of the nineteenth century over the claims of European nations that have been centuries in their formation.

The program was closed with a vocal solo by Miss Wood.

The question of how much outside work should be undertaken is a perplexing one to students. This is especially true of this country, for the proverbial American tendency to organize is no where more manifest than in our schools and colleges. To such an extent is the idea carried that every school of any considerable size possesses a score or more of societies and associations—literary, athletic, fraternal, and political. These are good of themselves. Each drills its officers and committees in executive work. Each offers to its membership certain opportunities of development or culture. And this training is practical. In the literary society, for instance, the student views the world in miniature. Then he competes on equal terms with the same class of minds he will be forced to meet in after life. He is thrown upon his own resources. He learns self-reliance. Above all he finds things real. Too much of the class room work is artificial in matter and judged by artificial standards; taken by itself it might produce theorists or poets, but seldom men of affairs. The literary society and the class of like organization for which it may be taken to

stand do something to give school life a practical coloring. Indeed it is not too much to say that, for the future citizen of a free government like our own, these incidental agencies will do as much as the regular curriculum. That they are more abundant in this country than elsewhere only proves our greater need of them. They are an index of our national life. They are both the cause and the result of a political system which requires a high capability of self-government. Max O'Reil was astonished to find such societies in the English universities and declared that they could not be carried on by French students. Nor would they be possible among us if our fore-fathers had not acquired and handed down to us the art of self-government. But such agencies are only incidental. They cannot form the framework of any adequate preparation for life. In fact, they do not, and cannot, yield their choicest fruit to that student who habitually weakens the preparation of his regular work for their sake. Neither can they accomplish a great deal for him who is seriously deficient in range of general reading. In short, their use is beneficial, their abuse harmful. To decide what and how much to undertake in this line, must be an individual problem. The important point is that each student should map out his course thoughtfully and not be too much influenced by the circumstances of the moment.—Normal Eyte.

Harvard has quite a wealth of base ball pitchers this spring, three of them being Freshmen who bring with them good scholastic reputations. Haughton, '99, comes from Groton school and is bound to make his mark in Harvard athletics. He is strongly built, apt to learn, and is bound to make his mark in Harvard athletics. He came near making the 'varsity foot ball team last autumn as tackle. He is said to be the speediest of all the new Harvard pitchers, has good curves, but as yet finds it difficult to control the ball. Mains, '99, is next to Haughton in promise, and has a brother who pitched professionally last year in the New England league. As Mains was a student at Brown last year, he may not, under the Harvard eligibility rule, be allowed to play this spring. Clarkson, '99, is a member of the family of the well known professionals, and if there is anything in a name ought to pan out well. Thompson, '98, is another new man who, if not debarred by the eligibility rules, will make a strong bid for the team. He was the regular pitcher on the Yale Freshman nine last spring, but has transferred his affections to Harvard. The class of '98 at Yale thus becomes somewhat unique in the history of Yale athletics, having had two good athletes leave the class and go to rival colleges after having practiced or played for Yale.—Ex.

The Pennsylvania Courier offers a \$125 prize to the one who gets the most paid up subscriptions for the Courier. It also pays a commission on all collections. Here is one college paper that has come to stay.—Ex.

Gymnasium Exhibition.

The following program will be given by the members of the ladies' gymnasium classes at Close Hall, Saturday, April 18, from 3:30 to 5:30. The success of a similar exhibition given last year proves their ability to give an interesting entertainment. All ladies are cordially invited to be present. Admission 25 cents.

1. Free calisthenic work.
2. Dumb bell drill.
3. Mat work.
4. Individual work.
5. Indian club drill.
6. Heavy gymnastics.
7. Wand drill.
8. Basket ball game.

Phi Beta Kappa.

Chancellor McClain and Professors Patrick, Weld and McConnell have been initiated as additional Faculty members of Phi Beta Kappa, this choice being confined, in accordance with the approved custom of other chapters of this honorary literary society, to graduates of the institution represented by the chapter. Membership is based entirely upon high scholarship and character. Other alumni whose qualifications in classical and literary scholarship meet the high standard set by the society have been elected to membership and will be initiated at a later date. The society is not a "fraternity." The officers of the local chapter are Professor A. N. Currier, President; Professor James A. Rohbach, Vice-President; and Professor Charles Bundy Wilson, Secretary and Treasurer.

College Notes.

A bicycle company is to be formed at Cornell which will be drilled in cavalry movements.

A new departure is likely to be made in Harvard foot ball next fall. The eleven will line up for actual play but three times a week, alternate days being given to some light form of exercise as different from actual foot ball as can be devised.

Robert Edgren, of the University of California, on Monday, March 9, threw the sixteen pound hammer a distance of one hundred and forty-seven feet and seven inches, breaking all collegiate and world's records. The record was held by Mitchell, N. Y. A. C., one hundred and forty-five feet.

Four universities have recently selected Washington as their home. The Roman Catholic University of Washington, the Methodist National University, the Baptist Columbian University, and the American University. Add to these the National University and several more that are to be and Washington will be an American Oxford.—Ex.

After some discussion, the Yale Freshman Union and the Harvard Freshman Debating Club have decided to insert the word "sea-going" in the question chosen by the Harvard Freshmen for the joint debate on May 15. The question now reads: "Resolved, that there should be a large and immediate increase in the sea-going navy of the United States." The Yale Union has chosen the negative of this question.

The Vidette-Reporter.

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THE VIDETTE-REPORTER,
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During the last few years nothing has been more gratifying to the friends of the University than the marked progress made in the various enterprises of S. U. I. To maintain this progress it is imperative that the attainment of each year be an improvement over that of the year before. In recognition of this fact, the Board of Editors of next year's Hawkeye have already begun active operations, and no pains will be spared to produce a book that shall fully keep pace with the progress of the school. The Annual is a University affair; one in which each student should feel a personal interest; but the Hawkeye is also an expensive article, and unless the enterprise receive the hearty support of students and alumni, it must fail. A canvass for subscriptions for next year's volume is now being carried on, and it is hoped that the movement will receive unqualified support from every friend of this institution.

Extreme partisanship is often as interesting in its manifestation as it is contracted in its origin and general character. Every day life furnishes evidence of the above truth, and the casual observation of college journals tends to its corroboration. Various papers emanating from educational institutions throughout the country may be found constantly reiterating statements regarding rival institutions, which have their origin in prejudice alone. Nothing is more prolific of such productions than a contest between rival institutions, and as we have before observed the recent State oratorical contest forcibly illustrates the fact. Aside from such matters, however, which are direct and legitimate results of disappointment, there are more edifying proofs of the point in question.

Some time ago, it will perhaps be remembered, several institutions in the State conceived an idea that they were confident and prosperous rivals of the State University. The number, of course, naturally decreased in proportion to the dissemination of truth, but though the facts are now changed the substantial effects remain about the same, and sundry journals, which really are very good papers in their way, are constantly assuming a tone toward us in keeping with their former pretensions. An illustration of the above may be found in a recent publication of one of these papers, which we are again constrained to say is a good paper, where, in recounting the exploits of a glee club, which the same good paper says, and undoubtedly says truthfully, was wondrous successful, the writer takes occasion to observe the fact that "Some S. U. I. students present made ludicrous spectacles of themselves." It appears that the "ludicrous spectacle" related to manifestations of loyalty to S. U. I. embodied in our most respectable and eminently proper yell. Of course we can readily perceive that such a demonstration might receive the disapproval of any dispeptic personage who happened to be present, but we are not inclined to think that the matter was of sufficient importance to materially injure any one not thus unfortunate, particularly, as the attempt alleged ended in "failure most horrible." It is not a characteristic of S. U. I. students to fail in any attempt at giving the yell, and we might legitimately state the fact as a cause for a doubt as to the statement being true. However that may be, it is eminently true that owing to the sort of forlorn rivalry which we have spoken of, it requires very little to bring forth from certain of our exchanges these words of "rebuke and criticism," illustrative of nothing so much as the truth of our opening observation and the intensity of a foolish envy whose worst characteristic is that it is hopeless, yet dies slowly.

The expense of sending the Yale crew to the Henley regatta will be about \$10,000. It is to be subscribed by alumni and other graduates.

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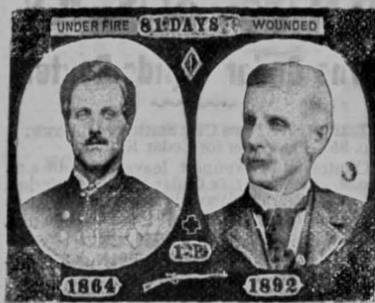
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Fact and Rumor.

Ned Hobby missed classes Wednesday.

Hattie Holt missed recitations Thursday.

The Seniors will give a play Monday evening.

Hugh H. Shepard is confined to his room by illness.

The Betas will have a party Wednesday of next week.

Milfred Myers was initiated into Tabard Thursday night.

Clyde Cobb missed recitations Friday on account of illness.

E. P. Ruggles will lead the Y. M. C. A. devotional service Sunday.

Polygon had its first meeting of the spring term Thursday evening.

Polygon is planning a picnic to the Palisades for the near future.

The Phi Psis will give a party in their hall next Thursday evening.

Miss Glenna Mann was called to Shueyville, Wednesday, by the death of his nephew.

Ella Lukenbell has been called to her home in Sioux City by the serious illness of her father.

The versification class has changed its time of meeting from Friday at 3:30 to Wednesday at 1:30 p. m.

It is said that the absentees from Friday's drill could form quite a formidable opposition to the body of the faithful.

All young women are cordially invited to attend Y. W. C. A. services Sunday afternoon. Subject, "Where hast thou gleaned to-day?"

CALL ON BLOOM & MAVER FOR CLOTHING AND HATS.

The Freshman Erodophians had a spread Friday evening, after which they attended Irving in a body.

Kendal, '99, after a week's illness, is somewhat better. His mother has been with him for the last few days.

W. H. Brunn, L. '96, of the law firm of Birdsall & Brunn, of Reinbeck, Iowa, is visiting the University and collecting material for his thesis.

Mr. C. W. Neal, of Stuart, Ia., while on his way from Chicago, spent yesterday with his son, a member of '99, who accompanied his father home last night to visit over Sunday.

Truman S. Kitchen, a graduate of the Law Department, was found dead near Williamsburg, Thursday. He had been hunting and was overcome by the storm of Wednesday.

Secretary Hobbs, of the State Athletic Association, is in receipt of a communication from I. A. C. stating that C. C. Mills has been elected president of the association, in place of German, resigned, and that as far as known, the next Field Meet will be held in Marshalltown.

Knox College, of Illinois, has adopted a novel and very profitable method of debating. The plan is to have the debate purely extemporaneous. That is, instead of the debaters having carefully written speeches, they shall speak extemporaneously on a subject which has been announced but a short time before the debate takes place. This gives them time for general reading and preparation on the subject, but they are not allowed to commit anything to writing. This system has one great advantage, i. e., it is similar to the way in which a man is called upon in active life, and consequently a much better drill for public speaking than the plan of having a stereotyped address.—Ex.

Notice.

There will be a meeting of the class of '98 at Close Hall Tuesday, April 14, at 4:30 p. m. F. W. BROWNE, President.

Oxford University has an annual income of \$6,000,000.

Wisconsin has been admitted to the Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

The Yale-Henley crew will sail on the American liner, Berlin, on June 6th.

Beginning with next fall, each class entering the Yale Medical school will be required to complete a four-years' course before graduation.

Since 1879 twenty-one College Christian Association buildings have been erected in the United States and Canada at an aggregate cost of \$438,000.

Rogers, who holds Princeton's record for the broad jump, and who was winner of Princeton's only point in last year's intercollegiate championships; Goldthwaite, who holds the Freshman 440-yards record of 52 seconds, and has made that distance in 50; Lyme, the winner of many hurdle races, and the fastest man in college at this style of racing, and Goodman, who won the two-mile bicycle race at the intercollegiate meet of 1894, have been notified by the Princeton faculty that, because of deficiency in studies, they cannot represent Princeton in athletics this year. This is a severe blow to Princeton.



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