The Vidette - Reporter.

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

VOL. 29. IOWA CITY, IOWA, TUESDAY, APRIL 6. 1897. NO. 70.

DR. WHITE'S LECTURE.

"PRAYER IN THE LIGHT OF REASON" HIS TOPIC.

Dr. Emerson E. White spoke Sunday evening in the Presbyterian church to a very large audience, to answer in the light of reason the doubts which arise from philosophy as to the efficacy and beneficence of prayer.

In the first place, prayer is not a language or a position, an expression of any kind. It is a lifting of the soul to God. It usually involves a petition, which, in turn, involves an answer. It must be in harmony with the *will of being which is to answer* it.

The efficacy of prayer is of two kinds: subjective and objective—effect on him who prays and on the being to whom the prayer is offered. Every act of a man increases his power to act and creates a tendency to perform that act again; thus the repeated performing of an action becomes a force tending to transform the actor In this manner the soul is changed by its own activity in prayer. The thinker of noble thoughts, the feeler of noble emotions, is thereby made noble. Prayer is attended by noble thoughts and noble feelings and so become a transforming power upon him who prays.

All objections to the efficacy of prayer on the being to whom it is offered are based upon the immutability of God and of nature. It is said that God's order is unchanging; fixed from the beginning, hence how can man's prayer effect Him? But this objection changes to a presumption in favor of the efficacy of prayer if an immutable God by immutable degree makes prayer the condition for the bestowal of his mercy and beneficence.

The second objection—the unchanging order of nature—must involve the assumption that the creative feat exhausted omnipotence. As though God had built a mill, set its machinery going, locked the door and thrown away the key. Doubts arise from a confusion of the laws of nature with the forces of nature. The force is the verity, the law is the mode in which that verity acts. Forces may be variable; laws alone are invariable. One force may annul another, as when a physician annuls the force of one poison by administering another. The force is annulled, law is not. There is in this universe an omnipotent free will which may administer forces according to law.

Prayer, therefore, is reasonable and in harmony with the rules of that philosophy from which doubts as to its efficacy spring. The test of a thing is in its fruit. Truth works good, error works ill. Prayer has uniformly brought beneficence to humanity; it bears good fruit and therefore satisfies the ultimate test of truth.

Those who heard Miss Margaret Van Metre sing Sunday night, in the Congregational church, were very favorably impressed. Miss Van Metre has a clear, high soprano of a sweet resonant quality, and her singing touches a sympathetic chord in her hearers.—Waterloo Courier.

A University Actor.

The manner in which "Faust" was presented and received at the Opera House last night proclaims it to be the most satisfactory performance of the season. The instantaneous appliance of the calcium and electrical effects, throwing the surroundings into a murky darkness and bringing out in the effulgent light the principal scene or actor, adds much in the way of making a lasting impression upon the audience that could not otherwise be obtained. After the invocation of Faust for the evil spirit to appear to him in his cell, Mephisto, amid the crash of thunder and with the suddenness of a lightning stroke, appears, standing in a redenned glare that looks as if some door of his own hellish home had been flung ajar and the light of the furied flames beamed upon him. His fiendish grin and gutteral cry at each victorious step connote strongly the character which he represents. How broadly contrasted with this is the virtuous simplicity of Marguerite. The scenic effect in the fourth act is grand, where Mephisto, waving in his hand a sword that shoots out spurs of lightning, holding Faust in his grasp amid smoke and flame, shows him the fate to which he and Marguerite are doomed. But the most telling part is in the Apotheosis where we see that Marguerite by her virtue has drawn both herself and Faust away and above the demon's grasp Aside from the teachings of the play itself, the artifice and power of impression by Mr. Roberts and Miss Martin, furnish as strong an orthodox sermon as one would care to hear. Mr. Roberts is certainly an artist. He seemed to lift himself away from himself and at times rise to the full power of Satanic majesty.

Mr. Roberts is a scholarly man, a graduate of the University of California, and was given a banquet last night by Mort Coldren. He has himself written a play entitled "Don Caesar," which he will play next year in connection with "Faust." All who heard him last night will be glad of the opportunity to again see his performance next season.

Tennis Meeting.

At the meeting of the Tennis Association last night the following officers were elected: President, P. E. Faust; Secretary, F. C. Weed; Treasurer, H. H. Shepard.

The treasurer reported that there was a debt of $50 upon the Association. This is what is still owed upon the improvements which were made last year, i. e., the building of five courts.

Faust, Bates, and Heck constitute a committee to see that the courts are put in shape for playing this week. Mr. Shepard has the buttons for the continuous tournament, and anyone who is a member may obtain one from him upon opplication.

It was agreed upon to make an effort to get the date of the State Intercollegiate Tournament changed from May 21 and 22, to May 14 and 15, because the Dual Meet is to be held here on one of the former dates. Grinnell, it is thought, will concur with us in this effort.

HESPERIAN SOCIAL.

THEY ENTERTAIN THE ZETAGATHIANS IN ROYAL STYLE.

Years of college life come and go, each bringing its own peculiar treats and pleasures, but it is doubtful if any of those present at the Hesperian social on Saturday evening can recall a more agreeable or pleasant social gathering. Every care was taken by the entertainers to make their guests feel at home, and no labor had been spared in previously preparing an interesting program. From nine o'clock, when all joined in the grand march, until time for departure, the entire company was in a state of expectation which was broken each time by a pleasant surprise.

Probably the leading feature of the program, if any could be so designated, was the "smiling contest," in which M. K. Bussard was declared possessed of the most enticing visage. After the program, supper was announced as ready in South Hall. Preparations had been made for one hundred and twenty persons, and there were less than half a dozen vacant places. After partaking heartily of the dainty repast, the following toasts, representing the literary part of the entertainment, were given:

"The Zet,"..... .... Edna Page
"Our Presidents, Past and Future,"..... .. G. M. Fletcher
"Something or Other," .....
.....Margaret Van Metre
"99 Hawkeye Board"....C. F. Kellogg
"The Junior" ..... Gertrude Preston
"Early Recollections of Hesperian..... Miss Davis,'95
"What the Zets think of the Heps..... Supt. S. K. Stevenson

At a late hour the guests departed, pledging anew their support to the kindred organization that had so grandly entertained them.

Notice to Class '87.

The members of class of '87 are hereby requested to communicate with the undersigned, with a view to arranging for a reunion of the class at commencement time next June. I am informed that the class of '86 had a successful re-union upon the tenth anniversary of its graduation, and as we always led that class while in the University, we ought to take no second place in this matter. Let me hear from all the members of the class as soon as possible, giving your ideas in this connection, and stating whether you will make an effort to meet together at the time indicated.

Respectfully, E. FRANK BROWN,
Permanent Class Secretary.
Kearney, Neb., March 5, 1897.

Commencement Orators.

Commencement speakers and subjects have been announced as follows:

Arthur Bailey, "A True Scientist."

H. W. Hanson, "The Right of Revolution."

W. C. Keeler, "A Theory of the Growth of Man."

S. J. Sayers, "Evolution in Government.

Florence Zerwekh (title not yet selected).

Dharmapala, the East India scholar, who appealed to our people through Rev. Elinor Gordon recently, to aid his countrymen, has gained the consent of the C., R. I. & P. R. R. Co. to ship corn free over their line, and an appeal will soon be made to the farmers for contributions Hoyt Sherman of Des Moines, is chairman of the Iowa India Relief Committee.

The funeral of Mrs. Lyde Copeland, mother of Miss Nellie Copeland, a graduate of the University, occurred at the M. E. Church at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon. The attendance was very large, a number of friends being in attendance from various parts of the country. Mrs. Copeland was for years a teacher in the public schools of this city.

The Johnson County School of Methods opened Monday morning with every prospect of great success during the week. About 200 teachers are in attendance, including a goodly number from outside of Johnson county. The program for the week includes instruction from some of the ablest educators of the country, as well as eloquent addresses and lectures from the same noted men. On Monday morning Professor Isaac A. Loos lectured in a scholarly manner on "Economics," and Dr. Emerson E. White, of Columbus, O., gave a superb discourse on "Principles and Methods of Teaching. That prince of platform speakers, Wm. Hawley Smith, who quaintly registers "United States," impressively told his auditors "What to Read," continuing his instruction along that line in the afternoon. Dr. White spoke again in the afternoon, also, treating "School Discipline and Moral Training" with rare power.—Republican.

A new eight-inch photographic telescope is in process of construction for the Harvard astronomical observatory. It is called a double or rectilinear instrument, from the fact that it is to contain two object glasses, by which the linear distortions caused by ordinary lenses are nearly eradicated. The new telescope differs from the present Draper instrument in that it will take successive steller photographs automatically, changing and exposing the plates according to the particular programme decided upon.

The Iowa Health Bulletin says, Yale and Amherst College have been testing students as to the effect of tobacco using and education. The tests were made by competent physicians. In a class of 147 at Yale it was found that in four years 77 who did not use tobacco surpassed the 70 who did use it; 10.4 per cent increase of weight; 24 per cent increase of height, 26.7 per cent increase of chest girth; 75.5 per cent gain in lung capacity. In Amherst the gain in favor of the abstainer in four years was as follows: Weight, 24 per cent; height, 27 per cent; chest girth, 42 per cent; lung capacity, 75 percent. Boston Univ. has formally declared that all students who are unwilling to forego the use of tobacco while connected with the university will have their fees refunded and their enrollment cancelled.

The Vidette-Reporter

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THE VIDETTE-REPORTER,
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Entered at the Iowa City Post Office as second class matter.

And has any one heard whether or not the Glee Club has yet returned from its concert tour?

We beg leave to most heartily concur with the expressions of our worthy contemporary in regard to the proposed action of Hammond Law Senate in the Oratorical Association. No official or public announcement has as yet been made as to just what that action is; but from the statements of members of the Senate itself it is practically understood that body intends to withdraw from the Oratorical Association. What reason or excuse, if any, it has for so doing, has not been stated. We have heard remarks, even from members of the Hammond Law Senate, to the effect that the Law Department was discriminated against in our University literary contests, but if this society, representative of the Law Department, has not interest enough in those contests to contribute its just share to their support, the objection of discrimination, or the complaint of monopoly, seems a hardly plausible or tenable argument. Much was expected from the Hammond Law Senate in bringing about a revival of literary work and enthusiasm in its department; but in persisting in its proposed course, the hope of any such development, so far as it represents the Law Department, is indeed dismal.

One of the thoughts that comes oftenest to the more thoughtful student is "What is Worth While?" There are so many activities, so many attractive interests, that a dissipation of power and a corresponding weakening of power is likely to result. Choices are hard things to make, and yet wise choices are essential to any great degree of efficiency. If students were large receptacles into which the essentials of a true and complete education could be poured in so many pints and quarts, "what is worth while" would not bother us so much. But since culture and the acquirement of mental power is a forming rather than an informing process, we must go on choosing and adapting our work to ourselves. The independent student—the one who becomes able to carry on individual investigation and research—will be the efficient scholar, the trustworthy man of the world. So the thing that is worth most, that which will be of greatest and most lasting benefit, is the habit of being a student; to acquire that attitude toward problems of all kinds which will ultimately give complete mastery of them. This is what gives efficiency—that which wins for us the unqualified confidence of those with whom we have to deal.

As much as education has improved in recent years, the modern collegiate course is far from a perfected system. The sentiment voiced by the series of articles beginning in this month's Cosmopolitan, is one that at some time is brought home with greater or less force to every student in the college or the university. "Does the college education of the present day do all that it might to fit men and women for every day life and the achievement of the greatest good?" This is the question for which not only this magazine, but all educaters and educated are seeking an answer.

Our present epoch has been one bringing into play new forces, develing unknown demands, necessitating previously unheard of requirements. These same phenomena will be even more characteristic of the coming century

In such an age of change and revolution in institutions, educational doctrines and systems have not been the last to be affected. The insufficiency of old ideas, the incompleteness of former plans in the light of the present, the demand and tendency for specialization, have all radically shattered the outline of the college course, as well. We are left in a transitory educational era, with a past incommensurate with our needs and a future whose requirements are not yet fully realized or known. Is our present education the best we can offer to the youth of the coming century? This is the problem that our able educators intend to grapple with in a series of articles in the columns of the Cosmopolitan.

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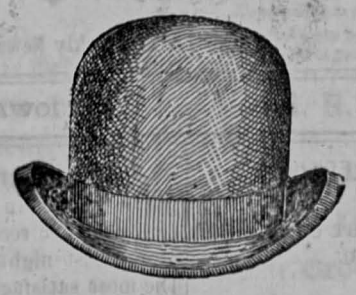

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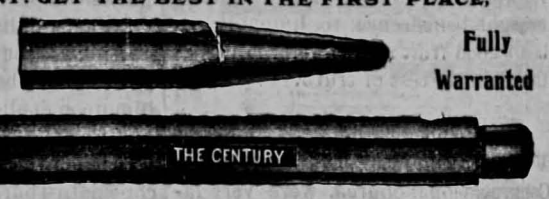

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Fact and Rumor.

EDITORS—Bertha Blum, F. P. Hofmann.

William Hawley Smith at the Presbyterian Church to-night.

Miss Davis is visiting Miss Kelley, '98.

Van Epps, M. '97, is in town for a few days.

R. G. Popham was out of town Saturday on business.

Howard M. North spent the Sabbath in the city with friends.

Dawn Dauserman, ex-'97, is attending the School of Methods this week.

J. L. Kinmonth, '95, has purchased his uncle's interest in the Asbury Press, Asbury Park, N. J., and is now sole owner and proprietor.

Geo. Bronner, L. '98, has again returned to the University. He was obliged to miss the entire winter term on account of sickness.

The construction of the new library building at Princeton is progressing rapidly, and will probably be completed by the opening of the next college year.

The men who are to compose the base ball team are practicing at the athletic park between showers, in order to get in shape for the first game of the season, which is to be played with Knox College next Monday.

The high school athletes are hard at work developing their muscles. A team will be sent to Marengo to the state meet which will be held there next month, and our high school boys are hoping to win the trophy.

CALL ON BLOOM & MAYER FOR CLOTHING AND HATS.

The library at Strassburg University, which contains 800,000 volumes, has no public catalogue or index. If a studen' calls for a book not in the library, it is procured.

At the University of Vermont all Seniors in good standing are left entirely upon their honor in attending not only at chapel exercises but lectures and recitations as well.

Karl Jessen, Instructor in German in the University, has been honored by the University of Chicago with an appointment to a fellowship in German. He will fill the position next year.

"What to Read and How to Read It", to-night, at the Presbyterian Church, by William Hawley Smith, the great educator.

Rev. Dr. F. E. Brush, of Ottumwa, delivered two scholarly sermons in the M. E. Church of this city on last Sunday. Dr Brush is an alumnus of S U I., class of '74, and one of the most eloquent pulpit orators of Iowa.

Dr. F. W. Keehl has located in Arthur, Iowa. Dr. Keehl is one of the ablest graduates of the Medical class of '97, and his many friends expect that he will make a success in his chosen profession.

Why should there not be formed a press association from the representatives on the different college journals of the State? We have an oratorical association and an athletic association, Why should college journalism have no representation? — Western College Era.

Notice.

The chorus and end men of minstrel troupe will meet at North Hall in the South Building at 7 o'clock tonight.

President Thwing of the Western Reserve university at Cleveland, writes in the April Review of Reviews on "How to Choose a College." His article deals with the practical questions likely to present themselves to students about to select a college home for four years, or to the parents of such students, and is characterized by the fullness of information and general breadth of view which have made President Thwing an expert on this and allied subjects for many years past.

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