

# The Vidette - Reporter.

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

VOL. 31.

IOWA CITY IOWA, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1899.

NO. 55.

## WEAVER'S MINSTRELS.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ATHLETIC UNION.

The Opera House, Monday evening, was filled to hear the S. U. I. Minstrels, under the direction of Mr. A. C. Weaver. The beauty and chivalry of Iowa City turned out to view the burnt cork performers and to listen to their funny gags, and better songs.

Mes. rs. Geo. Suepple, Horack and Tullis acted as "bones," Weaver, Mitchell and Hull as end-men, and Frank Suepple as interlocutor. Some of the jokes were clever local hits, as witness the following:

"Say, Mr. Suepple, do you know that Dr. Knipe fell into a well? Yes, and I think its a good thing, too." "Why is that, Mr. Horack?" "Cause it'll teach him to leave the well alone and take care of the sick."

"Why do Iowa City girls kiss each other while the Iowa City boys don't?" "Cause the girl's haven't anything better to kiss, and the boys have."

"Do you know why Chancellor McClain's head is like heaven?"—"Cause it's a bright and shining spot, and there's no parting there."

"Do you know, Mr. Suepple, what is the eighth wonder of the world?"—"No, sir, I have only heard of seven."

"Well, the eighth wonder of the world is 'where was Jimmy when the safe was cracked!'"

Mr. Weaver's appearances, as usual, captured the house, and he was each time compelled to respond to an encore, while the audience cheered long and lustily for more at each further appearance.

Almost all of the soloists responded to encores. Mr. Hull delighted the audience with his solo, "When I Marry Miss Dinah Lee," and the encore, "My Chocolate Colored Lady."

The finest solo of the evening was given when, with the accompaniment of calcium light effects, Mr. Wheelock sang, "Paint me a Picture of the Old Fireside." Mr. Wheelock is well known as the possessor of the finest baritone voice in the city, and his solos were given in his best style.

The athletic exhibition was very fair, presenting some very commendable features, notably the excellent work of Hoskins and Foster.

"Trilby in Coontown" was a number of rare comedy and excitement. Rumor has finally fixed upon one of the Soprano voices in a College street church choir as the Trilby in the shades of Negroville.

The program ended with a grand cake walk and Virginia reel, participated in by four couples. After much excitement, and a close vote, the audience gave the cake to Mr. Elmer Hull and Miss Ambolem Snow (Mr. Horack).

The clog dancing of Mr. Hull was applauded greatly by the audience.

The entire minstrel aggregation showed great aptitude in their characterizations, and its members are undoubtedly superior, both individually and collectively, to anything in the minstrel line that has appeared at the Opera House this year.

The performance netted the Athletic Union a handsome sum to apply

upon the old debt. The audience departed at half-past ten, well satisfied with the evening's amusement. The entire program is deserving of the highest praise, and the burnt-cork comedians deserve the highest thanks of the Union for the time and effort which they have unsparingly given to make the affair a success

## Baconian.

The subject of the evening was "Explosives," given by Instructor Walker. First the term explosive was defined. An explosive is a substance which occupies a small space, and which is capable of occupying a very large space. The term explosion means the rapid change of state from the solid to the expanded gaseous state. Explosive mixtures are substances which explode on ignition. Explosive compounds explode by decomposition.

The use of gunpowder was first introduced into Europe by the Moors. Gunpowder, as commonly known, is a mixture of charcoal, sulphur and nitre. The proportions are potassium nitrate, 75 per cent, sulphur, 10 per cent, and charcoal 15 per cent. The quality of the powder depends greatly on the purity of the ingredients. The mechanical operations in preparing powder are still more important than the purity of the ingredients. Gunpowder is a mixture and not a chemical compound.

Up to 1860, nearly all powders were alike, both in size of grain and shape. Guns of different calibre require different sized grains. In large grains, the combustion is slower, which is necessary for large guns with heavy projectiles. Dense powder is also an important item in the explosives for large guns. The hexagonal prism has been found to be the best shape for the grains. The larger grains are perforated longitudinally. In recent years the composition of powder has been changed.

The brown colored powders contain, as a rule, the following ingredients: moisture, 1.08; potassium nitrate, 80.44; charcoal, 15.90; and sulphur, 2.24. There are minute quantities of some other substances also present. This powder burns slowly, and has a high explosive power. This is due to the high amount of potassium nitrate, and the small amount of sulphur. The Dupont brown powder, used by the government, contains potassium 3, nitrate 78, sulphur 3, carbo-hydrate 4, and baked wood 12. This powder forms very little injurious gas, and leaves no harmful effects on the gun.

Blasting powders are similar to the above, except the cheaper sodium nitrate is used instead of potassium nitrate. The chemical action of the explosion of gunpowder, although formerly thought simple, is in reality very complicated. Another class of explosive mixtures use potassium nitrate. This powder is unsatisfactory on account of the danger in handling it.

The simplest compound explosives are binary compounds, such as nitrogen chloride, but these, are not practical, as they are very unstable.

The earliest practical explosive compound was mercury fulminate.

(Continued on fourth Page.)

## "ABRAHAM LINCOLN."

THE SUBJECT OF JUDGE WADE'S LECTURE SUNDAY EVENING.

The lecture by Judge M. J. Wade, at the Unitarian church, Sunday evening, on "Abraham Lincoln," was listened to by a crowded house, even the gallery being occupied.

The occasion was the observance of Lincoln's 90th birthday. The speaker said that of Lincoln, as of all other men in the past it might be said he was BORN, LIVED, and DIED; but although there was a great similarity between the lives of all men, occasionally by the power of the Supreme Ruler, a giant is raised up to steer the ship of state. Lincoln was one of these giants.

There are two passions which rule the human being—the love of freedom and the desire for power. There has always been a conflict to obtain these conditions. Every where the hand of the oppressed has been raised against the oppressor. Every where the slave has rebelled against the master. It was this love of freedom and desire to escape oppression that the Puritans came to the new world, and under the leadership of the giant Washington, finally made a home and a habitation for liberty.

After paying a glowing tribute to the framers of the constitution, which immortal document the country has not outgrown in over a century of marvelous growth, the speaker passed down to the time when slavery was eating at the very vitals of the nation.

After giving a very hasty account of Lincoln's early life, and a very vivid picture of his early surroundings, showing how his environment helped to develop him to fill the place he was ordained to fill, the speaker gave a brief history of his career as he passed through the steps of state legislator, national legislator, and finally entered upon the duties of President of the United States at the most critical time in her history. The questions: "Will there be war?" and "Will the Union stand?" was heard on every hand. The answer comes in the giant Lincoln, as he strides into Washington as the nation's chief, and in his inaugural address.

In his reply to Douglass as to the interpretation of the words "all men," in the Declaration of Independence, he said: "Our progress in degeneracy is rapid. At first we read them 'all men were free,' now we read them 'all men except slaves are free,' and when our descendents have control of the government, they will read them 'all men except slaves, farmers, illiterates, and Catholics, are free.'" He reasoned that if one exception was made to the declaration, there would be no end to exception, and therefore he opposed slavery, with all his power, as an enemy to free institutions. He was accused of inconsistency because he did not immediately free the slaves; but his object was to save the Union. Statesmen went against him, his cabinet forsook him; but still he had that one thought: "The nation must live," and he was greeted in reply by the shouts of his youthful soldiers shouting "The Union Forever."

Right triumphs at last, but in the midst of rejoicing Lincoln is stricken down like the giant oak riven by the lightning. "But Lincoln is not in the tomb, they only set him free when they slur him; he is still alive in the hearts of his countrymen, and the memory of his life and his life work makes better men, women, citizens, and patriotic."

It is by the same qualities of manhood, patriotism, wisdom and supreme confidence in man and in God; which Lincoln possessed, that the question of the future must be solved. The speaker closed with a poem which was read over the grave of Wendell Phillips.

## Athletic Union Meeting Tomorrow Night

### Resolutions.

The following resolution were unanimously adopted by the Paul Morphy Chess Club at its last regular meeting:

Resolved, that, the P. M. C. C. express its most sincere thanks to the following gentlemen for kind assistance rendered during its recent match with Davenport. To Acting President Currier for the obliging loan of his office; to the Iowa Telephone Co. for the liberal use of its lines; to the management of the home office for its painstaking care in putting the instruments in the most perfect condition; to Mr. Gardner for so successfully fulfilling the arduous duties of telephone operator; to Dr. Reeves for the prompt and conscientious discharge of his duties as referee; and to Professor Smith for the care and forethought displayed in making all the necessary arrangements for the match, and thus materially contributing to the success of the Club.

By order of the club,

J. GOETTSCHE,  
J. M. PARKER,  
S. R. WATKINS,  
Committee.

### Notice.

The Athletic Union will elect officers Wednesday evening, February 15, at 7 o'clock, at Close Hall. All members of the Union are requested to be present.

GEO. W. EGAN.

One of the most touching poems we have seen in many a day is found in one of our January exchanges, the Johnson County Teacher. The name of the writer is withheld, doubtless through modesty at identifying a maiden effort. The editor is to be congratulated upon ferreting out such poetical talent. The poem, "Break, break, break, on thy cold, gray stones, O sea!" should make the reputation of some local writer. We hope that the editor will soon be able to announce the name of the author.

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### Verified.

To one interested in the progress of the State University of Iowa, one of the most pleasant modes of spending a spare-hour would be glancing over the files of the VIDETTE-REPORTER. Founded in the first decade of the University's history, its pages give an almost complete record of the educational, social and political happening in the history of the University. First as a monthly, then as a weekly, and finally in its present tri-weekly edition, the VIDETTE-REPORTER has ever been a faithful exponent of the thoughts and feelings of the fifteen generations or more of students that have gained knowledge and education within the walls of our institution.

Several back volumes of the VIDETTE-REPORTER have lately been placed in the Library, the gift of Professor Magowan and Mrs. J. W. Rich. The first volume of the paper, which was then THE UNIVERSITY REPORTER, was published in October, 1868. The high purpose of its founders was expressed by the salutatory, of which we give extracts:

"We, the students of the Iowa State University, present you to-day this, the first issue of our paper, the representative organ of our institution, the UNIVERSITY REPORTER. \* \* \* We desire to make our paper a medium of communication between ourselves and our friends throughout the country, noting the progress of the University, and its claims upon the people of our state. Both Faculty and students are earnestly pledged to render the enterprise, which, from the present prospect, we deem assured beyond all doubt. We leave time to verify our conclusions."

### Reforms.

Few are the things in this world, so wise men say, which the reformer has not attacked. Relying on the fact that nothing is perfect, almost every

generation of students has nursed with diligence its peculiar "kick" on the natural condition of things.

Take for example the iron fence that at present girdles the University campus. When it was first established by the powers that be, great and rumbling were the objections to it. "Disgraced the University," "Offense to every artistic sense," so the murmurs ran.

Yet, to-day, that fence is a landmark of the institution. It is one of the features so opine to the students of to-day, that set off the University campus. Many and fierce have been the conflicts waged near its iron palings, many the lovers that have leaned in bliss upon its old brown pickets.

For several years the VIDETTE-REPORTER has favored the opening of the library for a longer time each day, and it is with great pleasure we note that it will be open for two hours each evening. This reform—if such it may be called—has long been desired by the book worms. The students who have a number of lecture courses, and those working up debates or theses, will especially appreciate the change.

Mrs. Ridgeway stated that the system would be tried for the remainder of the term, and if satisfactory, it will be continued. We feel confident that the student body will welcome the reform.

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**FACT AND RUMOR.**

Miss Clara Boss, C. '00, has a posi-  
tion to teach in the Creston High  
School.

Geo. Remley, C. '01, and Wm. Coast,  
C. '02, were initiated into the Betas  
Friday night.

The Kansas sea serpent is on exhibi-  
tion in a case on the first floor of the  
Science building.

Remember the meeting of the Ath-  
letic Union at Close Hall, to-morrow  
evening, at 7 o'clock.

Professor C. C. Nutting has been  
elected a member of the Board of Di-  
rectors of the Y. M. C. A.

The Phi Psi will give a theatre  
party, Thursday evening, in honor of  
their visiting brother, Clay Clement.

The Students' Co-operative Society  
of the University of California, for  
the last fiscal year, has done business  
to the amount of about \$22,000. S. U.  
I. will have a Co-op. early in the next  
century.

Friday night, at Iowa City, occurred  
the annual Freshman banquet. It  
proved to be interesting in more ways  
than one. The Sophomores captured  
six of the members of 1902, only two  
of whom managed to escape from  
their captors in time to attend the  
festivities.—Scarlet and Black.

The most interesting basket ball  
game of the season was played Satur-  
day between the High School and  
Laws. The advantage gained by the  
Laws in the first half was overcome in  
the second by the High School, the  
final score being 18 to 10. Next Sat-  
urday the High School will play the  
Sophomores and the Medics the Laws.  
Admission free.

**LATEST STYLE HATS AND FURNISHING GOODS AT BLOOM & MAYERS.**

**Baconian.**

(Continued from first Page.)

Mercury is dissolved in nitric acid. Then it is cooled, and dissolved in alcohol; then it is washed with water. A grayish powder is left as a residue. It is a heavy crystalline substance, poisonous, and sensitive to a shock. It explodes with too great ease for blasting, but it is used in the primers for rifle and gun cartridges. All fulminates are extremely sensitive to shocks.

Another class of explosives are derived from prussic acid. These explosives are not very sensitive. Abels' powder is composed of ammonium picrate 42.18, potassium nitrate 53.97, and charcoal 3.85.

Nitro-glycerine is formed by acting on glycerine with nitric acid. This explosive was so powerful in its effects that it was for a time avoided. Nitro-glycerine can be exploded by means of a cap of fulminate of mercury.

Ordinary nitro-glycerine is made by mixing very concentrated nitric and sulphuric acids with glycerine. The product is taken out, washed with water, and otherwise purified. It is a clear substance, has a sweet taste, and is an acrid poison. When in a state of decomposition it is most easily exploded.

In 1866 Noble conceived the idea of mixing the liquid nitro-glycerine with some porous substance. This compound is called dynamite. The porous substance is some kind of silicious earth, sawdust or charcoal.

Cotton is treated with nitric acid to form tri-ordi-nitro cellulose, or commonly called gun-cotton. Cotton is put for a few minutes in a strong bath of a solution of nitric and sulphuric acids. It is then removed, and placed in a similar liquid for twelve hours. Gun cotton can be burned in the air with no explosive effects. When properly detonated, gun cotton is a very powerful explosive compound.

The lower cellulose mixtures are soluble in alcohol, and in this form can be mixed with nitro-glycerine, to form an explosive gelatine, far superior to either of these two compounds.

The Sprengel explosives are those in which the explosive and the oxygen supply are kept separate until ready for use.

Smokeless powders are made from gun cotton mixed with substances to regulate the explosive. The explosive force of smokeless powder is from two to four times that of ordinary powder. The smokeless powder for the U. S. Navy is composed of gun cotton 80, barium nitrate 15, potassium nitrate 4, and calcium carbonate 1.

**\$100 Reward. \$100.**

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers, that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials. Address, F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

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