WEAVER'S MINSTRELS.

For the benefit of the Athletic Union.

The Opera House, Monday evening, was filled to hear the 6th U. L. Minstrels, under the direction of Mr. A. C. Weaver. The beauty and elasticity of Iowa City turned out to view the burn't-coal pantomimes and to listen to their funny gags, and better songs. Mrs. Geo. Stepple, Horace and Tullis acted as "hosts," Weaver, Mitchell and Hull as end men, and Frank Stepple as interlocutor. Some of the jokes were clever local bits, as witness the following: 

"Say, Mr. Stepple, do you know that Dr. Knipe fill a hole? Yes, and I think it's a good thing, too;" "why is that, Mr. Knipe?" "Why, it's the only way to leave the well alone and take care of the stick." 

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

"Do you know why Chancellor McClure's head is like brains?" "Cause it's made of an egg, it's a funny spot, and there's no parting there." 

"Do you know, Mr. Stepple, what is the most tender part of the world?" "No, sir, I have only heard of seven." "Ah, yes, and that's the tender part of the world where is James when the safe was cracked?"

Mr. W. H. Lawrence, as usual, captured the house, and he was each time compelled to respond to an end, while the audience roared long and lustily for more at each further appearance. Almost all of the solicits responded to encores. Mr. Hull delighted the audience with a droll story of "Miss Mary Miss Dinah Lee," and the encore, "My Chocolate Colored Lady." This encore was given when, with the accompaniment of calumet light effects, Mr. Wheelock sang: 

"Paint me a Picture of the Fire Side." 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 Bosmack and Porter.

"Triology in Coons" was a number of rare comedy and excitement. Honor has finally stood: upon one of the Soprano voices in a College street church choir as the Trilogy in the shades of Negroville. The program ended with a grand cakewalk and Virginia reel, particip­ated in by our corps. After much excitement, and a close vote, the audi­ence gave the rakes to Mr. Elmer Hull and Mr. Stepple (Mr. Horack). The elog dancing of Mr. Hull was appreciated greatly by the audience.

The entire minstrel aggregation showed great aptitude in their charac­terizations, and their members are un­doubtedly superior, both individually and collectively, in so many of the miscellany lines as were heard at the Opera House this year.

The performance set 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 entertainment. The entire program is deserving of the highest praise, and the burn't-coal monologues deserve the highest grade in the selection of the Union for the time and effort which they have unsurprisingly given to make the affair a success.

Debuttes. 

The subject of the evening was "Ex­ploits," given by Instructor Walker. First the term express was defined. An explosive is a substance which oc­cupies a small space, and which is capable of occupying a very large space. The term explosive means the rapid change of state from the solid to the expanded gas 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 nowaday are still more important than the purity of the ingredients. Gun­powder is a mixture and not a chemi­cal compound.

Up to 1600, nearly all powders were alike, both in size of grain and shape. Grains of different calibers require different sized grains. In large grains, the combustion is slower, which is neces­sary for large guns with heavy projec­tiles. Dense powder is also in propor­tion to the size of the guns in which it is required. In the composition of powder there are minute quantities of sodium, potassium and sodium nitrate, 15.50; and sulphur, 234. 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 brown powder, used by the government, contains potassium nitrate 35, sulphur 3, carbo-hydrate 4, and blacked wood 12. This powder forms very little injurious gas, and leaves no harmful effects on the gun­nery powders which 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 not thoroughly understood in this simple, is in reality very complicated. Another class of explosive mixtures use potassium nitrate. The government is very satisfied on account of the danger in handling it.

The simplest compound explosives are bricky compounds, such as nitro­gen chlorides, but these, are not prac­tical "shells" shooed at the Opera House this year.

The earliest practical explosive compound was mercury fulminate.

(Continued on Fourth Page)

"ABRAHAM LINCOLN." 

The subject of Judge Ward's lec­ture Monday evening.

The lecture by Judge J. M. Ward, at the Uni­versity 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 may be said that 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 Father, 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 love of freedom has been raised against the oppressor. Everywhere where the slave was 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 frame of the constitution, the immortal documents the country has not outgrown in over a century of marvellous growth, the speaker passed down to the time when slavery was eating at the vitals of the nation.

After giving a very hearty account of Lincoln's early life, and a very vivid picture of his early surroundings, he now showed that the larger grains are perfec­tioned longitudinally. In recent years the composition of powder has been changed.

The powders colored powders contain a rule, the following ingredients: potassium nitrate, charcoal, 15.50; and sulphur, 234. 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 nitrate 35, sulphur 3, carbo-hydrate 4, and blacked wood 12. This powder forms very little injurious gas, and leaves no harmful effects on the gun­nery powders which 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 not thoroughly understood in this simple, is in reality very complicated. Another class of explosive mixtures use potassium nitrate. The government is very satisfied on account of the danger in handling it.

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The Vidette-Reporter

On the campus 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 happenings 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 been a faithful exponent of the thoughts and feelings of the fifteen generations of students that have gained knowledge and education within the walls of our institution.

Several voluminous books of the Vidette-Reporter have lately been placed in the library, the gift of Provost Magowan and Mrs. L. W. Rich. The first volume of the paper, which was then the University Reporter, was published in October, 1858. The high purpose of its founders was expressed by the salutary, of which we give extracts:

"We, the students of the Iowa State University, present you today 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 have time to verify our conclusions."

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(Continued from Front Page.)

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

Another class of explosives are derived from pers acid. These explosives are not very sensitive. A mixture of ammonium nitrate 42%, potassium nitrate 53.5%, charcoal 3.5%.

Nitroglycerine is formed by acting on glycine with nitric acid. This explosive was so powerful in its effects that it was used for a time as a substitute. Nitroglycerine is not exploded by means of a cap of fulminating mercury.

Ordinary nitroglycerine is made by mixing hydrated nitric and sulphuric acids with glycine. The product is then washed, washed with water, and then purified. It is a white substance, with a sweet taste, and an acid odor. When in a state of decomposition it is most easily exploded.

In 1865, Nobel conceived the idea of mixing the liquid nitroglycerine with some solid substance. This compound is called dynamite. The porous substance is some kind of silicious earth, such as charcoal. Cotton is treated with nitric acid to form trodite-urea cellulose, or man-made gun cotton. Cotton is put in a mud bath 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 is burned in the air with no explosive effects. When properly detonated, gun cotton is a very powerful explosive substance.

The lower 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 explosives. 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 90, barium nitrate 15, potassium nitrate 4, and calcium carbonate 1.

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