

# The Vidette - Reporter.

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## Some Results of the Bahama Expedition.

[The following article was prepared for the Junior Annual:]

The sketch of the progress of the Bahama Expedition while enroute given the readers of the Annual last year served not only to satisfy to a certain extent the desire among the students for information regarding this undertaking and its carrying to a successful completion, but also to stimulate an interest among them to know something of the real and lasting results of this trip for the investigation of a most interesting, and, until lately, little known fauna. How is science to be permanently benefited by this immense collection? How can it be used in an educational manner and to what extent is the prestige of the University to be increased?

The mass of material to be handled, sorted out into appropriate jars and arranged for study, is so great that this part of the work alone has engaged the greater portion of the time of the museum force since the safe reception of the collections over a year ago—and yet probably little more than one half of this has yet been done. Every new lot of specimens examined brings to light forms that were hitherto unnoticed in the haste with which they were hurried into receptacles while on board the vessel, where, while dredging was in progress, the one engrossing thought was for the preparation of the animals for future study, since they were too numerous to permit in most cases of more than a general survey of each day's work. Now that a start has been fairly made in this direction, and several large groups have been gone over in a preliminary manner at least, comes the task of identifying the species, comparing them with those taken by other expeditions, correcting and tabulating the results for new data in geographical and bathymetrical distribution, and, in fine, of elaborating and arranging both the specimens and the facts regarding them, that both may be of easy access to students, whether of the University or of some special branch of science alone; the former of these objects may be attained by application of improved museum methods and by class lectures, but the scientific world at large can be reached only through the medium of publications, among which our Natural History Bulletin now takes high rank.

There is now passing through the press, as a volume of this Bulletin, a work by Professor Nutting on the expedition as a whole—a narrative relating not only to the course taken, the waters and islands searched through or over, but giving the details of equipment and outfitting which helped make our journey a success, and pointing out as well what should be avoided or what gave us poor service. In addition a general survey of the material is made, and each locality separately treated, with notes on its geography, climate, people, and peculiarities of fauna and flora—the whole forming a contribution to science which is of value and interest to all, and must prove particularly so to a traveler in the re-

gions over which the State University unfurled her flag of old gold.

But the field of zoology is too great to be gone over by one man, and thus to-day every large collection has to be divided among specialists for its proper working up—this group to be studied by one investigator, who has perhaps spent most of his life on the single subject, and that to another who has attained eminence in his own chosen line. It is a fitting tribute to the value and interest of the Bahama collections to say that the most learned and eminent scientists of America have signified not only their willingness to prepare reports for publication, but have looked upon it as an opportunity to add to their renown and to aid in the advancement of science.

The hydroids are to be worked up by Professor Nutting, in connection with a general monograph of the North American species of this group. In addition to the material taken directly by the Bahama Expedition he will have, through the kindness of Professor Goode, the head of the Smithsonian Institution, the species dredged or otherwise collected by the "Albatross." Through the friendship of Professor Agassiz all the collections and literature in the great Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, will also be at his disposal, while the zoological stations at Naples and Plymouth will serve to make the European forms known to him, and the facilities here offered will enable the life histories to be traced. Professor A. E. Verrill, of Yale, has just undertaken the star-fish and serpent-stars, which form one of the most important and extensive portions of the entire collection, and he will examine the gorgonians and crinoids later on.

The crustaceans have already been sent in great part to the chief authorities in this country—Mr. James E. Benedict and Miss Mary Rathburn, of the Smithsonian Institution—and a portion returned with the correct names. These animals will form the basis of an extensive report to be published in our Bulletin, and will furnish a number of hitherto unknown forms to the literature of the subject. While a considerable percentage of these still remain in the museum they will all eventually come under the notice of the above mentioned specialists.

The insects while not particularly numerous are interesting as belonging to a rather imperfectly known fauna. Of these the most of the spiders have been sent to Dr. Geo. Marx, of Washinton, who is the best known writer on our America species, while the jumping spiders or arachnids have gone to Professor Peckham, of Milwaukee, whose studies in this family have made him known over the entire world. These gentlemen will furnish reports on the above subjects, while the ants will be reported on by Mr. Theo. Pergande, and the winged hymenoptera by Mr. Wm. H. Ashmead, of the National Museum, both of these gentlemen having attained eminence in their lines of study. The hemiptera will fall to the lot of Professor Osborn, of Ames, whose studies in the order for many years have

raised him to the high position he now occupies in the minds of the devotees of science. The beetles will be worked out at the University by Mr. Wickham.

Aside from the good results that must accrue to the University through the publication and dissemination of the works of so many scientific men, a great advantage should come through the students themselves. Many interesting and rare forms are now at the disposal of students of zoology here, which, previous to this year, were entirely omitted from the consideration of the classes, and some are even now not to be seen at all in any university in the country. The great number of species in some groups have been turned to account in making material for theses, both post and under-graduate, of a class that could be attempted in no other University west of Yale and Harvard. Others will no doubt accept the advantages thus offered, and will have an unexcelled opportunity to obtain a thorough foundation and excellent training for any original work of this class that they may undertake in later life.

In one more respect may be mentioned the advantages obtained through this expedition—the intercourse with the Smithsonian Institution which Professor Nutting has kept up constantly, but more particularly since the idea of the Bahama trip was conceived, has resulted in the placing of the University on a much more advantageous basis than ever before, and ahead of any similar institution in the country; the National Museum has thus shown her many favors which could not otherwise be expected, especially in the way of adding to our series many species representing groups hitherto almost entirely lacking.

Enough has now been said to show how far reaching and lasting the results of such an enterprise may be. Undertaken by one man, and without the elaborate and expensive equipment usually carried by the government expeditions, a class of students was taken into a region hitherto entirely unknown to every one of them, and given an insight into forms of life unobtainable in any other way, collections made which will compare favorably with those brought back by any similar expedition in the same length of time without reference to expense, the aid and influence of the greatest scientists of the country brought to the University's side—and all at an expense to her of only some four hundred dollars.

### Hesperian.

A full house assembled to hear the program given by the Sophomore Heps last Saturday evening.

Miss Jessie Hastings opened the program with a piano solo, which received a hearty encore.

This was followed by the "Art Gallery," which consisted of a number of historic portraits, which were shown in an ingeniously made frame. The portraits were all represented by the girls in costume, while Miss Mary Hornibrook gave the audience a little sketch of each. The following were

portrayed: Queen Elizabeth, Mary Queen of Scots, Little Red Riding Hood, Goddess of Liberty, God of Liberty, The Three Graces, Cleopatra, and An Afternoon Tea.

The Misses MacFarland then favored the audience with a vocal duet, which was richly deserving the appreciation it received.

Miss Dawn Bauserman followed with a declamation entitled "Aux Italiens." Her interpretation of the selection was good, her voice and delivery well suited to it, and she held the interested attention of the audience.

A pantomime, "Seeking a Wife," was next displayed. A young man not finding a wife suited to his taste, seeks the aid of a gypsy, who, by her magic art, causes to pass before his eyes a series of maidens, of all ages, and classes of society. From these he makes a selection; but in after years finding her wearisome, he seeks the gypsy again and asks that again he might see the figures as before. This time, older and wiser grown, he would fain choose the little housewife for whom he had such a contempt in earlier years. Mr. O. C. Andeason as the suitor, and Miss Abbie Safford as gypsy, deserve especial credit for their efficient aid.

Miss Williams closed the program with a vocal solo. Miss Williams' reputation is so well established that we can add nothing to her praise. She was obliged to respond to an encore.

### Saturday's Run

The cross-country runs began Saturday. There were eighteen entries for the Chantland medal, and possibly more will enter next Saturday. The run was in every way the best which ever took place here. The men ran about one and a half miles, and the time was eleven minutes. The following are the men who entered: Melchert, Lr '96; Clark, '96; Knox, L. '95; Bailey, '95; Gray, '98; Emry, L. '96; Van Epps; Wessel, '98; Carter, '98; Larrabee, L. '96; Palmetoer, '96; Moore, '98; Celley, '98; Eby, '98; Kepler, L. '96; Blinn, '98; Turner, '98; Howell, '98. Kepler came in first, Knox second, Wessel third and Gray fourth. It will be seen that a number of the men who have entered are Freshmen. We learn that there are a number of promising athletes among the Freshman class and that they have shown a disposition to work. Everything looks favorable for a good track team this year.

### College Notes.

Cornell has added the Russian language to the curriculum.

The chapel exercises are suspended at Pennsylvania during examination week.

The only varsity athletic organization at Stevens this year will be the lacrosse team.

Yale men are agitating a memorial to the six hundred and seven graduates and two hundred and twenty-nine non-graduates who served in the late war, one hundred and six of whom died from the direct results of the service.



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Passenger arrives from Riverside, Muscatine, 10:50 p.m.  
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THE VIDETTE REPORTER, Iowa City, Iowa.

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These fine days, indicating the approach of spring, tends to develop a desire for out door sport among the students. From present indications we will have a good base ball team this year, but from the large number of candidates for the team it would be possible to make up an excellent second team. Base ball is a sport which all enjoy, and it seems that it would be possible to organize class teams. Considerable rivalry has been stirred up in the past by having games between the different classes. We hope that the different classes will look into this matter and if possible organize a team in each class. Let some class challenge another to a game and we will venture to say that it will be accepted.

Again the time of year has arrived when "Medic" and "Dent," "Homeopath" and "Pharmacist," will be with us no more until the next school year. There is a daily diminishing of their numbers, and the air grows daily quieter around the campus. No more, we think, will we have to listen to the lusty howl of the "Medic" and the syren songs of the "Dents." We may walk boldly into their innermost sancts, the amphitheatre and the dissecting room, and we will encounter neither the gleam of the brandished dissecting knife, nor fiendish invitations to give them a dance. There will be, perhaps, the bloody tokens of a few previous battles; here and there a lock of hair or a disintegrated desk, but these will only serve as reminders of our loss, and furnish us no consolation. As stately Collegiates and Laws we may pretend to look approvingly on their departure; but when they are gone and we are daily growing torpid from lack of excitement, we will wish they were again swarming the campus, and sigh in vain for their songs and yells.

Fact and Rumor.

Will Bremner was in the city Saturday.

Sickness is reported in the family of Professor Veblen.

Miss Zue Kostomlatsky is sick and unable to attend recitations.

Rogers, ex-'96, a prominent man of last year's foot ball team is in the city.

Mabel Cook is able to attend recitations after an illness of about two weeks.

Hanks, president of the class of '98, preached in the Methodist church Sunday evening.

John Hull, '95, enjoyed a visit from his parents and sister the latter part of last week.

Mary Collson entertained the Phi Phi's in a very unique and pleasing manner Friday evening. Originality in costume was one of the features of the evening.

The Phi Delta Theta fraternity gave a party last week in honor of Will Bremner, who will leave shortly for Idaho, and A. G. Smith who goes to Europe in a few weeks.

The Latin Seminary held their last meeting Monday afternoon. Miss Mae Henry read a paper on "Greek Life," Anna Robinson had a short sketch of the "Roman Government in Judea," and Ethel Charlton closed her work about the "Catacombs" with a brief sketch of the "Catacombs of Naples." Jessie Remley read a paper on the Plaatine Hill, and Gertrude Howell one on Pompeii and Hereulaneum.

A cup worth \$200 is awarded by the class of '93 of Cornell, to the best preparatory foot ball team in New York state.

The Mechanical School of San Francisco, given by the bequest of James Lick, has recently opened. One hundred thousand dollars was spent on the building of the school.

The Yale whist club has been challenged by the Harvard club and a tournament will be held to pick out a team. Twenty-eight pairs have been entered for the tournament at Harvard to pick representatives against Yale.

A system of student discipline has been introduced at Colgate. The student council will be composed of undergraduates, nominated by the faculty and approved by the student body. Four members of this council will be chosen from the Senior class, three from the Junior, two from the Sophomoe and one from the Freshman.

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**S. U. I. Glee Club Concert.**  
The audience which greeted the  
second annual concert of our glee club  
at the Opera House last Thursday  
evening, was rather discouraging to  
such enterprises. But all, we are sure,  
wish the organization continued suc-  
cess and existence. The program re-  
dered was an honor to the musical  
talent of the University; it was very  
creditable to Mr. Cochran, the direc-  
tor, who has been untiring in his lab-  
ors and preparation. Those who at-  
tended were well satisfied and pleased  
with every number on the program, as  
the repeated encores attested.

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