

The Vidette - Reporter.

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

VOL. 31.

IOWA CITY IOWA, TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1899.

NO. 43.

BENJ. C. CHAPIN.

IN "CYRONO DE BERGERAC" AND
"RIP VAN WINKLE."

Mr. Benjamin C. Chapin, in dramatic readings, filled the second number of the lecture course, at the opera house Monday night. Shortly after eight o'clock Mr. Chapin appeared on the platform, and for two hours gave his hearers specimens of high-grade impersonations of dramatic and amusing character.

The first selection was the balcony scene in Cyrono De Bergerac. Mr. Chapin stated that the reading was at the request of many who had expressed a desire to hear it and, as this was his first rendition of the scene upon the stage, it was to some extent extemporaneous. He moved the audience much by the comedy and pathos of the love-makings of Cyrono and Christian. His audience also appreciated the timeliness of the selection.

In the next selection, which was the two scenes from the life of the notorious Rip Van Winkle, of the Catskill mountains, Mr. Chapin showed himself perfectly at ease. The genial good humor of the great originator of Rip, so perpetuated by the greatest actors of the past generation, was well brought out by the impersonator. The audience laughed again and again over the faults and good resolutions, the hunting expeditions, and the good wife of the immortal Rip. In the second part of the selection, where Rip comes to his own self again after his twenty years of collecting rheumatism, the pathos and humor, were especially well brought out. The character of Toodles, the insipid nephew of Gretchen's husband inter-regnum, is a fine creation of Mr. Chapin's. His conception of Minar, Rip's daughter, was doubtless intended as a take-off on the modern young lady. Rip's toasts were hardly accorded the treatment of which they are susceptible. The speaker preferred to develop fully the occasions leading up to them.

On the whole, the lecturer gave complete satisfaction, fulfilling in every respect the promises of the Lecture Bureau and the expectations of its patrons.

Baconian.

"The Manufacture and Chemistry of Soap," was the subject of the paper of the evening, by Mr. Teeters. The speaker, in order to show the importance of his subject, and its just claim to the attention he was about to give it, gave the old axiom: "Cleanliness is next to Godliness," and since he showed that soap was an important agent in producing cleanliness, it must have a very important place in the world, and was therefore worthy of discussion.

Soap, in the most crude form, is a very ancient article, being mentioned several times in the Bible. But ointments and oils were at that time generally used, as we now use soap. Its antiquity is further evidenced by the remains of an old soap factory found in the ruins of Pompeii. But not until within the last two centur-

ies has soap been manufactured on a scientific basis.

There are only two properties necessary to make a soap, an alkaline and an oil; many other substances are put in, but all these except a very small amount of water are adulterations. Bran, oatmeal, sand, clay, stone, sawdust, and water, are the usual substances used for purposes of adulteration. These sometimes add to the power of the soap, as for instance and or stone in a scouring soap will assist in removing the dirt by increasing the surface tension of the soap; also oatmeal may be of value in a toilet soap, but as these substances are so cheap, it is a fraud on the part of the makers of soap to sell these at the prices they do. But it was clearly brought out in the paper and discussion that the users of soap pay more for the name and advertisement than for the soap.

There are two kinds of soap, "soft" or potash soap, that which was made by the grandmothers, and "hard" or soda soap, the kind now generally in use.

Soap makers have reached such a point in perfecting their scheme of fraud that they sell many soaps that are four-fifths water. Transparent soaps are not generally good, because they contain too much alkaline.

The speaker thought that although much of the material used in making soap comes from impure sources; in most cases this was purified by the process of making the soap.

Soap is now made in a very large vat, through which steam pipes pass, which does the cooking. Some of these vats hold from 30 to 60 tons.

Medicated soaps are used by doctors for skin diseases. The most common of these is tar soap.

After the paper was read a short discussion took place, after which Professor Weld gave a voluntary report on a newly discovered planet, which will be added to the solar system.

Illinois Would Debate.

Our League has received a request from Illinois to debate this year. Articles of agreement were submitted and a question for Iowa to choose sides. The question is the same that was submitted to Wisconsin: "Resolved, that the best interests of the country would be promoted by the adoption of the bill known as the McCleary Banking Bill; it being conceded that any loss to the government from the substitution to bank notes for government paper can be offset by a suitable tax."

Further stipulations were to hold the debate in Iowa City on April 15th, only men having less than four years' credit to be eligible.

The League did not feel in a position to undertake another debate at present, especially under the terms of Illinois.

Notice.

Owing to unavoidable complications in arranging another date for Rev. Hillis' lecture, the lecture by Geo. R. Wendling will be given January 24th. His subject will be "Mirabeau and the French Revolution."

DUTIES OF CITIZENS.

CHANCELLOR M'CLAIN'S LECTURE AT
THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SUNDAY EVENING.

The address by Chancellor McClain was a drawing feature with many students last Sunday evening. The speaker considered in three heads, the real features of our government, the advantages of our government, the evils of our government, and the duties of citizens in correcting them.

There is manifest to-day, the Chancellor said, in prefacing his remarks, a considerable tendency to find fault with various features of our government. We criticize the muzzling of free speech in the House, the shortcomings of the Senate, and the state of municipal affairs in many of our fairest cities. If we are really so bad as some of these grumblers would have, we should either fairly confess our own unfitness or blame our forefathers who framed ideals to which their degenerate descendants could not rise. But this spirit of criticism shows large confidence in our institutions.

In political affairs the right is not wholly grouped on one side nor the wrong on the other. Partisans on the slavery, tariff, and monetary standard questions, have behaved very badly toward each other. So, too, anti-imperialists, and those who see in expansion the recognition of divine providence in the government of the islands of the seas. By greater care in the formation of individual opinion, and greater charity for those differing with us, we will be better able as a people to attain the ultimate good.

The framers of our constitution were very practical men. I do not believe that they ever supposed that their principles ought to be strictly and absolutely applied. Nor did they intend their new government to differ radically from that of England. The colonists fundamental objection to English rule was that they had not been treated as Englishmen ought to be treated.

Partisanship, bribery, betrayal of public trust, existed in Washington's times, have always existed, in fact. Our system has been improved until we now have a better government than our forefathers had. Experiments and attempted improvements upon it, such as the cabinet system, the initiative and referendum, further extension of the franchise, are to be dreaded.

The speaker enumerated some of the evils to which such innovations might give rise.

The party system in the choice of public officers has been much deplored. But no method of choosing officers has yet been devised which does not recognize the party system. Independent movements have often been made tools. When the party becomes bad, it is the duty of the voter to protest by vigorous action until the party is renovated. The course of the voter should be to keep in accordance with the party which most nearly represents his views, endeavoring constant-

ly to bring the party into more complete accord with him. This cannot be brought about except by interest in party matters. Civil service in public officers is to be commended, since when the duty of the public officer is considered, we must decide that it is to the state, not to the party.

Popular government ever imposes new duties. The tenor of civilization imposes daily fresh duties to humanity. Criticism is not the fulfillment of these duties. The easiest thing to do is to criticize. Nor is the faculty of criticism the most noticeable feature which goes to make up a great man. The finding of good points in life is that which lifts us up. Great enterprises have possibly many defects, but these very defects show the grand ideal that may be attained.

Basket Ball.

Saturday evening the High School and Freshmen basket ball teams met in Close Hall gymnasium. The game was snappy spirited and interesting. The Freshmen came out victorious, the score being 18 to 6 in their favor. This is the first time in history that the High School team has ever been beaten at basket ball, so the Freshmen may well be proud of their victory.

Call played the star game of the evening, netting 10 points to the Freshmen's credit. Martin also played an excellent game, with 8 points to his credit. The guarding of Rule and J. Bailey was excellent. Rule got the ball almost every time it came near his goal, and his passing was quick and sure.

The line-up:

FRESHMEN.	POSITION.	HIGH SCHOOL.
Martin	f	Lewis
Lynch	g	Spinden (c)
Call (c)	f	J. Bailey
Rule	g	Haus
Macy	c	Kettlewell

Goals—Call 10, Martin 8, Spinden 4, Bailey 2.

Zetagathian.

A small but select audience listened to the rendition of the following program in South Hall Friday evening:

Music Selected
Declamation R. V. Downing
"Seneca on the Roman Arena."
Speech C. V. Page
"Daniel O'Connell."

Debate—"Resolved, that machinery has been beneficial to the laboring classes as a whole."

Affirmed by Morse and J. J. Lambert; denied by H. E. Coad and W. F. Moore.

Oration F. G. Emery
"The American Triumvirate."
Declamation R. A. Cook
"The Last Charge of Ney."

The appearances on the program were unusually good. Mr. Downing interpreted the spirit of his piece very clearly.

Mr. Page's speech abounded in genial good humor and showed much preparation.

Messrs. Morse and Moore were spiritedly argumentative, and showed a good grasp of the question.

Mr. Lambert shows continued improvement.

The decision of the judges went to the affirmative.

Mr. Emery's voice and thoughtful discourse deserve commendation.

The society adjourned without hearing the music, which had failed to appear.

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Space-Stuffing.

The fact is so patent that the two columns of editorial effusion addressed to "our esteemed Washington street contemporary," by last week's Quill, was merely written against space, that editorial courtesy should perhaps suggest that we entirely overlook the floundering of our unhappy friend. We regret to observe, however, that the weekly Quill continues to cherish its malignant ill-feeling towards a man who "knows the chemical tests for medicinal compounds, or subscribes to the dictum similia similibus curantur."

No Thank You, Illinois!

The members of the Debating League were greatly surprised Monday morning to learn that Illinois has requested a debate with Iowa. The officers were very unanimous in their opinion, but thought best to lay the matter before the societies, and the fact that not a word of discussion, and not a dissenting vote was given, shows most plainly the sentiment towards Illinois.

Last spring it was agreed between the two Universities that a league should be formed, but at the request of our esteemed neighbor, detailed arrangements were not to be made until last fall. Early in the term our secretary began correspondence with Illinois, but his communications were ignored, and at last a letter was addressed to the president of the University. In answer he said that Illinois had made other arrangements, and "hoped that Iowa would not be inconvenienced," etc. The home league was greatly surprised at such treatment from Illinois, but hastened to obtain another debate, and the contest with Wisconsin is the result.

But now, nearly the middle of the school year, the Illinites have de-

clined to give us a debate, and so submit a question, saying we may have a week to choose sides—think of it, a whole week! Further, we are informed that the debate will be held April 15th, at Iowa City. But we are told that to culminate the agreement, they will accept the terms proposed by Iowa last fall, except in regard to the place of holding the debate, the submitting of the question, and the eligibility of debaters. So kind of you, Illinois. We are truly sorry that it will not be possible for us to meet you in a debate this year, especially on your most considerate terms.

Y. M. C. A.

The Sunday afternoon meeting was led by Mr. Sinclair, city secretary of the Y. M. C. A. at Clinton. As the subject of his remarks, he read the 23d chapter of Luke, drawing from it many instructive lessons. He spoke of the stumbling blocks placed in the way of young men on their introduction into college life, and of the great importance of getting correct bearings at that time. Some people want perfection in the church before they ally themselves with it. Would a banker, on finding a counterfeit bill among his money, destroy the whole amount? Certainly not. Then why should the church be condemned for having a few counterfeits among its members. Why do you compare yourself with the worst man in a church membership? Why don't you size yourself up with the best and see where you stand? Judge not that ye be not judged. Consider first your own imperfections, as it is yourself you must account for first. Aim to reach a high mark, make that your standard.

In estimating the character of Jesus, let us consider the testimony of his enemies, as well as his friends. Judas says: "I have betrayed innocent blood." Pilate says: "I find no fault in him." The centurions testify: "Certainly this was a righteous man," and even the demons besought him to go his way, saying of him: "This is Christ, the Son of God." His friends, what do they say? John—"Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world." Peter—"Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God." Thomas—"My Lord and my God." Such testimonies should have great weight with us in choosing the standard to which we aspire.

The imprisonment of Briggs and Burns, who occupied a position in the attic during the Freshman meeting last evening, was the cause for the Freshmen and Sophomores to rub noses again. After some little scrapping the door was broken in, and amid the yells of '01 the prisoners were rescued.

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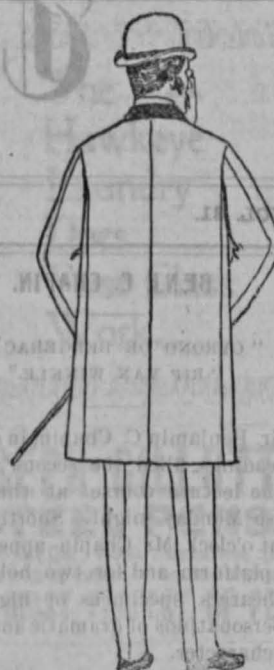
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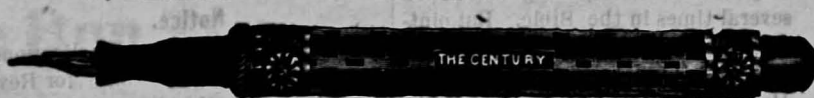
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FACT AND RUMOR.

The Sigma Nus initiated Remley Saturday night.

Professor Wilcox lectured in Cedar Rapids last evening.

The Delta Gammas initiated Miss Roach, '02, Saturday evening.

W. P. Hanson, C. '02, was initiated into the Philomathian society last Friday evening.

The Phi Psi's initiated Fairall, D. '00, Cobb, '02, Swisher, D. '00, and Strause, L. '00.

Dr. M. H. Thielme, M. '98, was married January 10th, to Miss Anna Hanson, of Exira, Ia.

Instructor Farnsworth was unable to meet his classes, Monday, on account of the grip.

Professor Macbride lectured on "The Simplest Plants—the Oldest Plants"—at Clinton, Saturday night.

H. E. Coad, C. '99, has been elected vice-president of the Oratorical Association, and Frank Wells, C. '00, treasurer.

Professor Hayes is out of town, and during his absence Chancellor McClain will occupy the hour in reviewing on "Sales."

Professor and Mrs. Zena Nagel, of Hoopetown, Ill., arrived in the city Saturday evening, and will be associated with Professor Berryhill in the Iowa City Musical College.

The lecture on English Cathedrals this evening by Dr. J. G. Gilchrist will be given in Trinity Church, not in Close Hall, as erroneously reported by one of our contemporaries.

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Iowa Geological Report.

Professor Calvin, as State Geologist, has made his annual report to the State Geological Board. During the past year seven counties were surveyed and mapped. In addition to the regular work done by the geological survey, several new features will be embodied in their labors of the present year.

The study of soils, including a chemical analysis of soils from all parts of the state, with a view of ascertaining their peculiar adaptability to various crops, will be undertaken. While this will be a task of great magnitude, its value will abundantly repay the effort required, for by it not only the students of Iowa's farmer college, but her University graduates as well, will know where to settle to ply successfully their various trades.

Philomathian.

The program was opened by Mr. Fesenbeck in a well-rendered declamation entitled "Contented."

The debate was on the question "Resolved, that the initiative and referendum should be established in the State of Iowa."

Messrs. Angus and Baker affirmed it, while Mr. Kirby and Thorburn denied. Mr. Kirby and Mr. Baker made the best speeches of the evening.

The society then listened to an excellent oration by T. E. Martin, entitled "Our Nation." The pleasing simplicity of the production, coupled with the admirable rendition, brought forth the hearty applause of the audience.

An extemporaneous speech on the "Safe Cracking" was given by Otto Brackett, followed by a second on "Debate," by E. J. Louis. Both speeches were sharp and to the point.

Forum.

The Forum rendered the following program last Friday evening:

Piano Solo..... Mrs. Coast
Reading F. D. Letts
"The Dukite Snake."

Paper..... C. R. Allen
"Destiny of the Senior Members of the Forum."

Debate—"Resolved, that the U. S. should establish a government for their possessions similar to that of the British crown colonies."

Affirmed by Anderson and Bittle. Denied by Mrs. Holbert and Thorn.

Extempo Speech..... W. R. Holly
"Jos. H. Choate."

Speech..... G. J. Piersol
"1898."

The whole program was entertaining and well rendered. The speech of Mr. Piersol deserves special mention.

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