

The Vidette - Reporter

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

VOL. 31.

IOWA CITY IOWA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1899.

NO. 57.

Judging a Debate.

The following extracts are clipped from the Ariel (Univ. of Minnesota) because they are of interest to those interested in the judging of debates at our own University:

"How to judge a debate is a question with which we should all be familiar; too much cannot be said upon the subject. Different circumstances often affect the case, so no fixed rules can be laid down, yet there are several which apply in nearly all cases.

First. Always judge a debate from the impression the speakers have made upon you, and not upon your private opinion of the subject.

Second. Leave out all personalities and prejudices. Give each an equal chance.

Third. Always base your judgment on the force of the argument and not on the oratorical merits of the speakers, unless it has been previously arranged that this is to be taken into consideration.

Fourth. Allow for defects of speech and similar handicaps, as some very good arguments are often lost by the inability of the speaker to make them clear.

Fifth. In judging a debate, have some real grounds or reasons for giving a decision, and not just on general principles.

The correct way to judge a debate is to listen attentively to all the speakers, and when the last speaker is through, you will have your decision all made up—isn't it always so? The first impression is the right one, whereas, if you stop to review the debate, you will lose your first general impression, and consequently cannot make a fair judgment.

Another plan is given as follows: Let the debate take place on neutral ground, that is, in a community which might be supposed unprejudiced as between the teams; to-wit: if the debate is between Wisconsin and Minnesota, let it transpire in Kansas or in some other state which has had no dealings with either party to the contest. Let it occur preferably in a community of only average intelligence, with the view of contriving that the bulk of the arguments adduced may be news to the audience, and then let the question be decided by the vote of the audience. This plan, with a few minor modifications, it would seem, would insure a fairer verdict as to the relative merits of the arguments actually presented, than does the present system, and for the following reasons.

Under the present system the judges are men prominent in political and literary circles; men well read and studied, who have years ago debated and settled, at least in their own minds, every question procurable as a bone of contention between modern debating societies.

To sum up: under the present system the judges, instead of carefully analyzing and weighing the arguments presented by the contestants, are lamentably prone to allow their personal opinion and prejudices to figure in the decision. The proposed plan contemplates, as a tribunal, a large audience of average intellect, yet devoid of an abundance of preconceived ideas on such subjects as are

habitually debated by college teams. Their individual notions would be, to a great extent, formed during the debate, and the team contributing the most to the formation of those notions, would win. Which is the same as saying that the team giving the best debate wins, and this is the consummation devoutly to be wished."

Zetagathian.

The program was opened by a beautiful violin solo by Miss Slavata.

Mr. Hawk, in his own inimitable way, recited a very touching little poem, "Farmer Finney's Turnip."

In an oration, "The Crisis of Life," Mr. Emery made a very pleasing appearance.

Messrs. Weldy and Eller affirmed the question: "Resolved, that the negro problem is not yet solved." Both gentlemen made very creditable appearances.

The negative was ably upheld by Messrs. Thomas and Holt.

The decision of the judges was two for the affirmative.

Mr. Simonton gave a humorous dialect recitation on "The Dutchman's Dolly Varden."

The program was closed by a nicely rendered cornet solo by Mr. Kuck. He responded to a hearty encore.

Forum.

The following is the program as given by the Forum, Friday, Feb. 17: Declamation Mr. True Paper Mr. Thorne "A Correction of the Law."

Debate—"Resolved, that the army of the United States should be increased to a force of 100,000 men."

Affirmed by Messrs. McGee and Sullivan.

Denied by Messrs. McElroy and Lynch.

Music Mr. Bachm Instrumental Solo.

Optional Mr. Blackburn "Anthony's Speech."

Extempo Speech Mr. Piersol "Felix Faure."

Special mention should be made of the scholarly way in which Mr. Thorne handled and presented his subject, and also of the speech of Mr. Piersol. Mr. Piersol possesses rare qualities as a speech maker, presenting his subject in a logical, eloquent, and forcible manner, with but a moment's previous thought.

Phi Psi Party.

On Thursday evening the local chapter of Phi Kappa Psi showed their admiration for their distinguished brother, Mr. Clay Clement, by giving a theatre and dress party in his honor. After the theatre the party repaired to the Phi Psi halls, where, after a renewal of the acquaintances formed during Mr. Clement's last visit to Iowa City, refreshments were served. The remainder of the evening and a great part of the morning was very pleasantly spent in dancing.

Notice.

All candidates for the '99 base ball team will meet at Close Hall, Monday, at 4:00 p. m.

J. D. LOWRY, Capt.

Irving.

A cornet solo by Mr. Kuck opened the special Freshman program at North Hall last evening.

A. G. Remley rendered the first number of the literary program, a declamation entitled, "Here She Goes and There She Goes," in a natural and interesting manner.

The debate of the evening was upon the subject, "Resolved, that the United States should adopt the English Parliamentary system." The subject was handled in an able and searching manner, which showed careful preparation on the part of all.

Thos. Cassidy, in opening for the affirmative, showed the advantages of the English system.

Mr. Calkins, opposing, claimed the English system was incapable of transacting American legislative business, and that it could not be successfully transferred to America.

J. A. Pinkham, for the negative, showed the incompetency of the American system. His speech was the best constructive argument of the evening.

F. G. Berry, although troubled with a cold, made a telling speech, showing the defects of the English system, and challenging the affirmative to show its excellence.

A. B. DeKay showed the difficulty of fulfilling party pledges under the American system.

Mr. Laartz showed that American tendencies are already creeping into the cabinet system.

Mr. Berry, in closing for the negative, made one of the finest rebuttals of his opponents' position that has been made this year, showing with telling effect the deficiencies of the affirmative's argument.

Mr. Pinkham closed for the affirmative.

The decision went unanimously to the negative.

L. A. Wells, in an oration entitled "The Anglo-Saxon Alliance," delivered an inferior production in a successful manner.

A declamation, "How the Old Horse Won the Bet," was delivered by Merrit Brackett in a very pleasing and interesting manner. His gestures were especially good.

Miss Slavata closed the program with a most pleasing violin solo which received a hearty encore.

Locals.

Miss Belle Gilchrist, of Des Moines, who has been visiting friends in Iowa City for several days, left yesterday for Muscatine, where she will also visit for a short time with friends.

The Sunday evening lecture in the Congregational church will be given by Professor L. G. Weld. Subject, "Christian Service." All students are cordially invited to be present.

"Washington's Day and Our Day" is the subject of the address to be given by Col. Clark at the Opera House on February 22d. On Lincoln's birthday Col. Clark delivered a lecture in Des Moines, and he is fast winning a name for himself as an eloquent and entertaining speaker.

The "Woman's Number" of the American Journal of Surgery and

Genecology, of St. Louis, contains contributions from the leading women practitioners of medicine and surgery in America. Dr. Leora Johnson, of this city, has a contribution on "Congenital Anomalies."

The special canvass for members of the Christian Associations is to conclude Friday, Feb. 24. On the following evening the members of the Y. M. C. A. will meet for a grand rally, and invite their friends of the ladies' literary societies and Y. W. C. A. to enjoy the occasion with them. The special feature of the evening will be a concert-recital by the Wagner Ladies Quartette, of Monmouth, Ill.

The damage suit of Magness vs. Andrews has been occupying the attention of the district court yesterday and to-day. A year or so ago Dr. Andrews took a sciograph of the diseased foot of one Magness, who claims that permanent and lifelong injuries were inflicted by the X-rays, and therefore sues for damages in the sum of \$3000. The case is attracting the attention of scientists generally.

The Southeastern Iowa Teachers' Association will meet in Iowa City, April 6th, 1899. Mr. S. K. Stevenson, C. '96, as General Chairman of the local committee, will have charge of the reception of the guests of the city and of their entertainment while here. Mr. F. C. Ensign, C. '97, is chairman of the reception committee. Among others of the committee are Acting-President Currier, Professor J. J. McConnell, Professor A. A. Loos, Assistant Professor B. Shimek, S. E. Whitling, C. '96, and F. V. Brock, C. '96. Miss Libbie Lodwick, C. '98, is a committeeman on information and ushering.

The following account of a young lawyer's first marriage case is clipped from the Jefferson Bee. It will be remembered that the prominent figure in the article, Mr. S. Jefferson Sayers, was once Managing Editor of the VIDETTE-REPORTER, graduating from the Collegiate department of the University in 1897: "The rumor circulated last Saturday that our young legal friend, S. J. Sayers, had married a woman, was amended later by the correct report that he had married a man and woman. It was his first matrimonial job as a justice of the peace, an ordeal which is always approached with trepidation, but they say he did it up masterfully, and so quick that some interested friends who had skirmished around to get up a crowd for him, failed to get there until it was all over. Now that this crucial test is safely passed, Jeff will be easily equal to meet all emergencies with calmness and self-possession."

The faculty and students of Allison College, Ohio, have decided that each student shall pay one dollar for the support of athletics when he takes out his classification-card.

Oxford has refused to join with Cambridge in arranging for field and track contests between the athletes of English and American universities.

An unknown friend of the University of Cincinnati has left a legacy of \$60,000, which will be used in constructing a library building.

The Vidette - Reporter

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Proper Recognition.

The action of the Athletic Union, last Wednesday evening, in unanimously re-electing Mr. George W. Egan to the office of President of the Athletic Union, is one that cannot but meet the approval of every person conversant with University athletic affairs. Since Mr. Egan took charge of the Union one year ago, a new era has been inaugurated in athletics at S.U.I. Untiring energy for the cause, executive ability in the management of business details, and his happy knack of "making everything go," have combined to make his term of office as President the most successful in the history of the Union. The only proper reward of such service was re-election. We congratulate both Mr. Egan and the Athletic Union, the former upon his success, past and future, in the management of athletic affairs, the latter upon its securing the service of such an estimable officer for the ensuing year.

The New Holiday.

The students learn with pleasure that February 22d will be observed as a holiday in the Collegiate and Law departments—not on account of the daily duties, but because their patriotic nature and innate love of America's heroes makes dear to them the name of Washington. The day has long been a legal holiday in many states, and it seems entirely fitting that we, as a University, should observe the by appropriate exercises in many anniversary. The day is recognized neighboring schools. May the Faculties decide to make this a permanent custom.

"Whence Cometh the Cash."

The Athletic Union, at its meeting Wednesday evening, voted against the proposition to levy a tax of fifty

cents upon the members of the Union. We regard this as an unfortunate action for several reasons. The purpose of the motion was undoubtedly subject to a considerable misunderstanding on the part of the members, and this is the probable reason of its failure.

The Athletic Union is at present confronted with the problem of beginning the training of two athletic teams. It is dependent upon its members for the money needed to do this. The money realized from the recent minstrel entertainment is, of course, to be applied upon obligations already outstanding. The officers of the Union naturally hesitate to contract new obligations when old bills are yet unpaid. The duty of the members of the Union, therefore, becomes plain, to levy a tax upon themselves to meet the expenses of putting the base ball and track teams in condition for victory next spring.

We hope that after mature reflection, the Athletic Union will consider favorably, at its next meeting, the proposition of a fifty cent tax. It is necessary and expedient.

We would also reiterate our approval of the proposition, now under consideration by the committee on revision of the constitution, of making membership in the Union permanent upon the payment of the one dollar initiation fee. Then the system of regular term taxes—fifty cents a term being the most desirable due—would add, as we have said before, highly increased revenues and interest—two factors most to be desired in a university Athletic Union.

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FACT AND RUMOR.

C. C. Converse, '01, is on the sick
list.
Bannister, '01, has returned to the
University.
Mr. Ed Harlan, of Atlantic, is visit-
ing friends in the city.
Chas. Moon, L. '00, is spending Sun-
day at his home in Tipton.
Thompson, L. '00, is spending Sun-
day at his home in Marion.
Belshim, M. '01, has been on the
sick list for the past week.
The Erodolphians will give their
regular program this evening.
John Sullivan, L. '00, has been cal-
led home by the illness of his sister.
Rankin, '01, is not attending classes
on account of trouble with his eyes.
G. H. Fletcher has gone to Cedar
Rapids to spend Saturday and Sunday.
Albert, '00, was chosen June orator
by the Philomathian society last even-
ing.
F. B. Blair, of Manchester, a Phi
Psi frater, is visiting friends in the
city.
The Erodolphians will entertain
the Irvings at a Colonial party next
Tuesday.
Miss Child's, of Drake University,
attended the Phi Pi party Thursday
evening.
Barnes, L. '00, left yesterday for his
home in West Liberty, where he will
spend Sunday.
The young men's meeting to-mor-
row afternoon will be led by the
General Secretary. The chorus will
present special music, as usual.

LATEST STYLE HATS AND FURNISHING GOODS AT BLOOM & MAYERS.

Remember Dixon's lecture, Feb. 22. Seats reserved for Dixon's lecture Tuesday at 3:30.

The Junior class committee is making arrangements for a big social in the near future.

Alta Robinson, '00, was absent a couple of days the past week on account of illness.

J. E. Pinkham and F. C. Berry have been chosen as Freshmen debaters for Irving debating.

It is probable that the S. U. L. Minstrels will again entertain Iowa City-ans later in the season.

The Zetagathians have chosen R. D. Ogden as their representative on the Iowa-Minnesota debate.

Miss Patrick, of Des Moines, who has been the guest of Miss Mann, leaves for Grinnell to-day.

Misses Lulu Harlan and Mina Lowe of Mt. Vernon, are visiting their friend Miss Edith Cushing.

The Irvings elected W. C. Barclay and M. V. Boddy to represent them upon the Minnesota debate.

Will Larrabee and Dr. Ed Decker were in the city to attend the Phi Psi reception last Thursday evening.

The Sigma Nus and their friends had a cake walk last night, Mr. Miller and Miss Hobby capturing the confection.

Mrs. T. H. Macbride entertained a few friends in honor of Miss Belle Gilchrist, of Des Moines, Thursday afternoon.

Miss Clara Parks, of Cedar Rapids, and Miss Harrington, of Poughkeepsie, N. P., are visiting Miss Helen Larrabee, C. '99.

Professor I. A. Loos reads a paper on the Iowa City Y. M. C. A. at the Y. M. C. A. State Convention now being held at Dubuque.

The High School teachers took their annual visiting day, Friday, and visited schools at Davenport, Cedar Rapids, Marion and Moline.

Mrs. M. P. Peck, wife of the late Dr. Peck, of the Medical department, has been elected vice-president of the National Council of Women.

Professor Arnold Tompkins, of the University of Illinois, will give an address before the Southeastern Teachers' Association, at Iowa City, April 7th.

"Chip" Stutsman, business manager of the VIDETTE-REPORTER in the early nineties, is visiting friends in the city, having arrived Thursday evening to attend the Phi Psi reception to Clay Clement.

I. E. Munger, C. '93, who has been laboring in the Indian missionary field since his graduation, is to return to the United States. His term of service in India has been saddened by the death of Mrs. Munger, nee Ankeny, C. '93.

Wm. T. Chantland, C. '93, L. '94, writes as follows to a friend of his in this city concerning the Owen's Company, which will be at the Opera House next Monday and Tuesday: FORT DODGE, IA, Feb. 15, '99.

"Owen's Company last night was finer than ever. They simply have taken Fort Dodge. This morning, for Othello to-night, every seat was sold within three hours after the sale opened."

The price of admission is 35 and 50 cents.

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