

# The Vidette - Reporter.

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

VOL. 31.

IOWA CITY IOWA, SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1899.

NO. 74.

## PROBLEMS OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS.

A NOTABLE ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR H. H. SEERLEY, C. '79.

The initial meeting of the Southeastern Teacher's Convention was held in the Presbyterian church, Thursday evening. After a brief address of welcome by Mayor Stebbins, and response by State Superintendent Barrett, the speaker of the evening, President Seerley, of the State Normal, was introduced. In beginning, Mr. Seerley called attention to the significance of the present moment as concerns present problems. To-day our social and financial progress is far in advance of our educational progress. The questions before the convention concern the state and the nation in a remarkable way, since teachers are citizens, and as such should wield a wide influence for the betterment of present conditions.

Continuing, the speaker said that certain problems confront the teaching profession. The first of these is that of the people themselves. Before any reform can be made, public sentiment must be created, public interest secured, and ultimately public decision and action brought about. Only when the people act liberally and generously can reform in our school system become possible.

The second problem is one of leadership. To lead the people, trained, tactful leaders are prerequisites. A leader must possess unusual qualities, ability to do something, diplomacy by which people's hands, hearts and lives may be trained to good works, reliability, power to think independently, and a spirit that uplifts and inspires all within its reach. They become proficient leaders who spend more time in planning to hold their positions than in securing others; who become a force in a community through years of honest labor and manly service, and by working, not as a slave, but because their work affords opportunity for unselfish deeds, and finally, who possess the qualities mentioned above.

The last problem considered was that of the individual child. Educational progress will come when each child is understood, and the good things in this life built up into a character noble, true and grand.

The address was one of great power, and cannot help but inspire the teachers of southeastern Iowa to press on to loftier things in their profession. President Seerley himself is a living example of what life and character should be, and can be made to be through persistent effort. He to-day occupies a prominent position in the educational world, is an honor to his Alma Mater and a blessing to his nation, because he has followed courageously the line marked out in this address.

## Olympic Games in 1900.

The VIDETTE-REPORTER is in receipt of the following letter, which is self-explanatory:

Baron Pierre de Coubertin, whose interest in athletics has caused the revival of the Olympian games, and who had charge of them in Athens in 1896, will also have the management in Paris in 1900. While I was visiting him last

summer, he fully outlined to me the program, and said that as the American athletes made such a creditable showing in Athens, he hoped that a very large number would come from many different American institutions in 1900. He also made the request that I should present the matter to the institutions of the middle-west. I take this method of calling the attention of students to the games. Large posters have been sent, and will be placed where all interested may see them.

GEORGE E. FELLOWS,  
March, 1899. Univ. of Chicago.

## THE LAYMAN'S TEACHER.

ADDRESS BY GOV. SHAW BEFORE THE TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION.

Governor Leslie M. Shaw addressed the Southeastern Teacher's Association, Friday morning, at the Opera House. His talk upon the subject, "The Teacher as Seen by the Layman," was heard with the greatest of attention by the assembled teachers, being frequently interrupted by laughter and applause. He said in part:

"There is no such power in the state as the teachers of the state. The profession of a teacher is a good profession, but a mighty poor trade. It has many critics, but it is always much easier to find fault than to commend.

"It seems to me, however, that the public schools of the state are far below what they ought. That you as teachers are doing far less than you ought to do. During my school days I have been under twenty persons who heard me recite, and found but four who left their fingermarks upon their character.

"You teachers should go out and find out the boys and girls. The greatest discovery of the century has been that of mother. May that of the next be the boy. May you struggle with your subjects until you have brought out five-fifths of the boy and girl.

"If I may be permitted to point out a few weaknesses of our public schools, I would say first that the pupils are not taught concentration enough. They are not trained to consecutive thought. 'A college education' in so long a time, a college in this state advertises—when there is no patent process in education, no royal road to learning.

"It seems to me that we are paying too much attention to the memory. We are building warehouses and elevators when we are not teaching the boys to boys to grind the grain. You will break down that elevator after a while. Memory is exalted to the extreme. A little of this, and a half-hour a week of that, is the schedule, instead of the boy's taking hold of something and mastering it.

"We begin too much and do too little. Every day somebody bobs up and wants some hobby or fad taught in the public schools.

"Do teach your children something, and with all your teaching do give them some strong mental grasp. Do not teach boys and girls that they are too good and too high-toned."

The last issue of the Nebraskan, a most excellent college newspaper published at the University of Nebraska, contains a fine cut of Close Hall, and an appreciative write-up of the part which that building serves in University life.

## THE RELIGION OF EDUCATION.

LECTURE BY PROFESSOR ARNOLD THOMPSON, OF ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY.

The lecture by Professor Thompson, at the Opera House last night, was listened to by a large audience. The speaker at once captivated his hearers with his jokes. He advises the teacher when over-burdened with her individual pupils, to mount the Ferris Wheel of Thought and view the aspect from above. Religion is the highest aspect of education, as indeed it is of all other work. It is not true, as many think, that religion belongs to one part of the human being, and education to another. They are inseparable. The best definitions of the two terms are identical. The teacher and the preacher are each paraphrasing the work of the other. The fundamental elements of the one are the other. Both are elevating, broadening, and invigorating; stimulating man to higher and nobler action.

There is a common element in religion. It is as broad as the human heart. This element of religion is recognized everywhere. Social necessities have driven us to understand that there is something more vital and more fundamental than that which makes a Methodist, a Baptist, or a Presbyterian. It is the yearning of a finite after an infinite which is seen in all races from the Hottentot to the civilized Caucasian. This common element of religion was further shown in the Congress of Religions at the World's Fair, where representatives of all nations met, only realizing the superiority of the infinite over the finite.

All education is initiated and sustained under the longing of the human soul. Man seeks freedom, and especially the infinite within the finite. The finite holds the infinite, and it is the power of man to distinguish what a man is and what he ought to be, which distinguishes him from the animal.

Man has two parts. He can ascend or descend. It is the duty of the teacher to show the polarity of the pupil to himself, and thus make him a rational being, since self-realization is the fundamental principle of education.

Education is initiated and sustained because man must think. He craves more life. The teacher might say: "I come that you might have life more abundantly.

We study history, not to make better citizens, but because we want more life; we want to be as large as the world, and be a part of all that with which we are surrounded.

Since man without faith cannot think, all education is based on the faith of creation, and the essential part of education is to lift the pupil up out of themselves into a higher faith, where the finite can more easily commune with the infinite.

## The Reception.

The Faculty and instructors of the University tendered a reception to the visiting teachers and their friends, immediately following the lecture at the Opera House. The armory was appropriately decorated for the occasion, and the High School orchestra furnished music throughout the evening. Shortly

before nine o'clock the Faculty began receiving their guests, which came in increasing numbers, until the floor of armory was completely filled. Over one thousand persons must have come and gone during the evening.

A dozen or more refreshment tables, scattered through the armory, served coffee and sandwiches throughout the evening. Fair Iowa is noted for her handsome and beautiful young ladies, and each of the tables found six of her prettiest, inducing the tired or hungry traveler to linger and refresh himself.

The evening was pleasantly spent by the teachers in renewing old acquaintances and making new ones. The reception also enabled many students and people of Iowa City to meet their long lost friend's sister, and other kindred relations.

The registration of teachers at the St. James being eight hundred and ninety-five, it will be seen that the reception was not alone enjoyed by the visiting teachers. Several of the professors in the University had bidden their classes to attend the reception. This was of course taken advantage of by the students, and all were made most welcome.

The reception was one of the most enjoyable affairs in years, and many students were heard to express the wish that there might be many more such enjoyable meetings of instructors, students and friends on the common grounds of relationship, fraternity, and hospitality.

## Communication.

EDITOR VIDETTE-REPORTER:

We notice an editorial in your latest issue regarding the conflicting time of drill and athletic practice. We heartily agree that something should be done to allow ample time for the training of the track team, but we do not believe that changing the drill hour would get at the real root of the difficulty. In the first place we think it hardly advisable that the members of the team be required to drill at all. But, as the editorial says, the battalion is too small at present to afford their loss.

In our opinion, the trouble lies in the fact that too many students have been excused from drill on insufficient grounds. For example, we know of one man who was excused from drill by virtue of a surgeon's certificate for physical disability, and who is now TRYING FOR A PLACE ON THE ATHLETIC TEAM! Another was excused for a slight skin disease on the hands. And so it goes.

Others have been excused on account of "too much other work." It may not be out of place to remark that drill is regular University work, as much as any other branch.

We would suggest that all students eligible to drill, but excused for physical disability, be required to take at once a thorough physical examination, conducted by a trustworthy University physician; and that those excused for other reasons be required to submit their excuses to the committee for reconsideration.

As to the convenience of the time of drill, we believe that if the matter were investigated, it would be found that the present hour is more convenient for the majority of those drilling than any other would be. B.

Miss Ruth Edmondson of Des Moines is visiting Miss Loulu Maun.

# The Vidette - Reporter

Issued from the Republican office on Washington Street every

**TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND SATURDAY**

during the Collegiate Year at the University of Iowa.

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### Minnesota Track Meet.

Manager McDonald, of the track team, received a letter yesterday from the manager of the Minnesota track team, explaining the delay in sending the contract to Iowa City. He stated that the contract had been held up in the Advisory Council. Apologizing for this implied managerial inefficiency, the Minnesota correspondent expressed the hope that he would soon be able to pull the contract "out of chancery."

The Iowa-Minnesota track meet has progressed too favorably to allow the plan to fail now. It is to be hoped that Minnesota will very soon be able to complete the negotiations in progress by forwarding the contract to be signed by the representatives of the two schools.

### The Teacher's Convention.

The fifth annual meeting of the South-eastern Iowa Teacher's Association has been held in Iowa City the past three days. The dignified school-masters, stern in their minority, and the pretty schoolma'ams, may their tribe increase! have been here, and gone again—a fleeting vision of the term, but whose enthusiastic exception from Thursday morning to Saturday's departing train, shown denizens of Iowa City improving much on old Aeneas' 'ter conantes,' etc. And although the number of delegates did not permit of every student's acting as guide for the helpless young ladies who much desired to tread in proper company the festive halls of learning, still we did what we could. And those of us who could not obtain from Mr. Stevenson the proud commission of guide, much envying others in our hearts, went straightway to the St. James parlors, so we did. And verily became one among the pretty strangers in our land. For who was there to say us nay?

### The Dual Meet.

It is a matter of extreme regret to us that the executive committees of Iowa College and S. U. I. could not come to an agreement as to the location of the Dual Meet this year. As stated in our last issue, the disagreement is over an interpretation of the articles of agreement between the two schools.

President Brown, of Grinnell, read that the '99 meet should be at Grinnell, while Manager McDonald saw written between the lines of the articles, "Dual Meet at Iowa City this year." This state of affairs was arrived at some time ago. It was finally agreed to arbitrate the matter. The form of the question to be submitted was agreed upon, and Dr. Hollister, of Northwestern, was chosen to adjudicate the matter.

Then Grinnell bethought herself that an argument from each school should accompany the statement of facts, in order to bring about a fair and just decision. The University held that a statement of the facts alone would be sufficient to lay before the arbitrator, and refused to accept the proposed modification. After spending the greater part of two days in conference at Iowa City, the representatives of the two schools agreed to disagree.

The Dual Meet has always been an important athletic event for us. It has been most useful in determining the chances of both schools at the State Meet, besides affording our athletes an opportunity to test their mettle, preparatory to the annual contest of the colleges of the state, at Des Moines.

Owing to the state of athletic affairs here, Manager McDonald felt compelled to insist upon holding the meet on our home grounds. We presume that similar circumstances pressed President Brown. Circumstances are often unfortunate. We are sorry to lose the dual meet with Grinnell, but we will yet find her our worthy opponent in the State Field Meet, and, indeed, in our other athletic contests.

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#### A Notable Attraction Coming.

Sol Smith Russell and his new play "Hon. John Grigsby," will be seen at Greene's opera house, Cedar Rapids, Ia., Wednesday, April 12th. The engagements of Mr. Russell are always a delight, and a refreshing dramatic morsel Chas. Klein is the author. It is said that this new comedy is by far the best work this prolific and clever writer has yet turned out. The character of "Hon. John Grigsby" is said to fit Mr. Russell perfectly. A very superior company of artists accompany Mr. Russell, and the play has been given a complete production in the way of scenery, properties, and elaborate costumes. Sale opens Monday, April 10th. Seats may be secured by addressing Mr. Geo. Peck, Business Manager, Cedar Rapids, Ia.

Reduced rates for theatre parties of ten or more, via the B., C. R. & N. R'y.

Special spring reduction to students. Coover & Co. will during the spring term reduce the price of cabinet photos 50 cents per dozen to all students.

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#### FACT AND RUMOR.

Hear Professor Veblen's lecture at the Armory Monday night.

The Phi Deltas gave a dance last night.

The Erodolphian-Hesperian contest will take place on May 4th.

Dr. L. W. Dean went to Muscatine, Wednesday, to visit his parents.

Edwin E. Davies, ex-C. '01, is assistant manager of the Michigan base ball team.

Among the list of visiting teachers is the name of President Hughes, of Taber College.

J. M. Lindley, '89, one of S. U. I.'s most loyal graduates, is cashier of the bank at Winfield, Ia.

S. C. Smith, of Winterset, a recent graduate of the Collegiate and Law departments, has been elected city solicitor or of Winterset.

E. A. Jackson, L.'00, has left for Culver, Indiana, where he will join the corps of instructors of the Culver Military Institute.

Last night's Republican printed an able editorial from the Dubuque Times, urging Professor Macbride's election to the presidency of the University.

The patronesses of the Sophomore Cotillion next Friday evening will be Mrs. W. S. Hosford, Mrs. C. B. Wilson, Mrs. A. G. Sims, Mrs. L. W. Andrews, and Mrs. B. G. Ridgeway.

Tabard initiated Mrs. F. D. Sturm, Miss Edith Cushing, and Mr. C. E. Eastman, Thursday. Yesterday the Tabard sojourners wore the black and white ribbons of the society in honor of the initiates.

LATEST STYLE HATS AND FURNISHING GOODS AT BLOOM & MAYERS.

**Sophomore Cotillion Friday evening, April 14th**

As the crowds at the reception last evening thinned out with the advance of the evening, parts of the floor space at the armory were left vacant. This was taken advantage of by the young people present, and an hour of pleasant dancing was enjoyed.

Roy M. Hanson, ex-C. '99, now principal of the Winfield schools, is in the city, attending the Teacher's Convention. He is accompanied by two of his assistants and two members of his high school graduating class who expect to enter the University soon.

Instructor Merritt read an able and instructive paper before Bacanian last evening on the subject, "The Application of Mathematics to Political Science." Mr. Merritt was particularly at home in his theme. The report of it is unavoidable crowded over to Tuesday's issue.

W. R. Boyd, of the Cedar Rapids Republican, was duly installed as postmaster at Cedar Rapids, Wednesday evening, succeeding Alex Charles. Mr. Boyd is very popular in Iowa City, and his old University friends are glad that he is placed in so responsible a position.—Republican.

E. C. Johnson, C. '93, now captain of Co. M, 49th Iowa Inf. Vol., is at his home at Maquoketa on a short turlough. He writes that there is no definite knowledge as yet as to when the 49th will be out of the service. G. M. Johnson, C. '97, a brother of the Captain, is First Lieutenant in the same company.

Everyone will want to hear Professor Veblen's lecture on "Finger Prints" at the Armory, Monday evening. Stereopticon slides, interesting types, and amusing instances of the part which finger prints perform in the functions of the universe, will be provided. See the toepint of the great newly-discovered pleiosaurus Athleticus Elephanticus Iowacitybus! All come and help him out of the rut!

The Phi Kappa Psi district convention was held at Lincoln, Nebraska, April 4th, 5th, and 6th. The festivities of the convention began Tuesday night, with a smoker to visiting delegates at the chapter house, 1630 G Street, Tuesday evening. Wednesday night a cotillion was given at the Lincoln Hotel in honor of the visiting fraters, and on Thursday evening the farewells of the convention were said at a banquet dinner, also at the Lincoln.

That the game of foot ball is much more than a test of mere brute strength, is evident to the close observer of the game. That the game is one in which the brain is trained to act promptly and accurately, is well known. Nevertheless few people make a scientific study of the various plays that can be made in the game. As in the game of chess, so in foot ball, there are hundreds of possible plays, many of which are yet to be discovered and worked out. To develop new plays is the science of foot ball. A book by Messrs. Walter Camp and Larin F. Deland, has been placed in the Collegiate library through the agency of the VIDETTE-REPORTER. The volume is an elegant one, handsomely bound, and contains illustrations of various plays, as well as a general treatise on the subject of foot ball. To a player the book will be of inestimable value, and it can not fail to make interesting reading for the lover of foot ball.

All those desiring to hear Miss Poddie Ross, "The Davenport Nightingale," please sign subscription list at Hohen-schuh & Wieneke's. She will sing here the last of this month if the guaranteed sale of seats is large enough.

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