

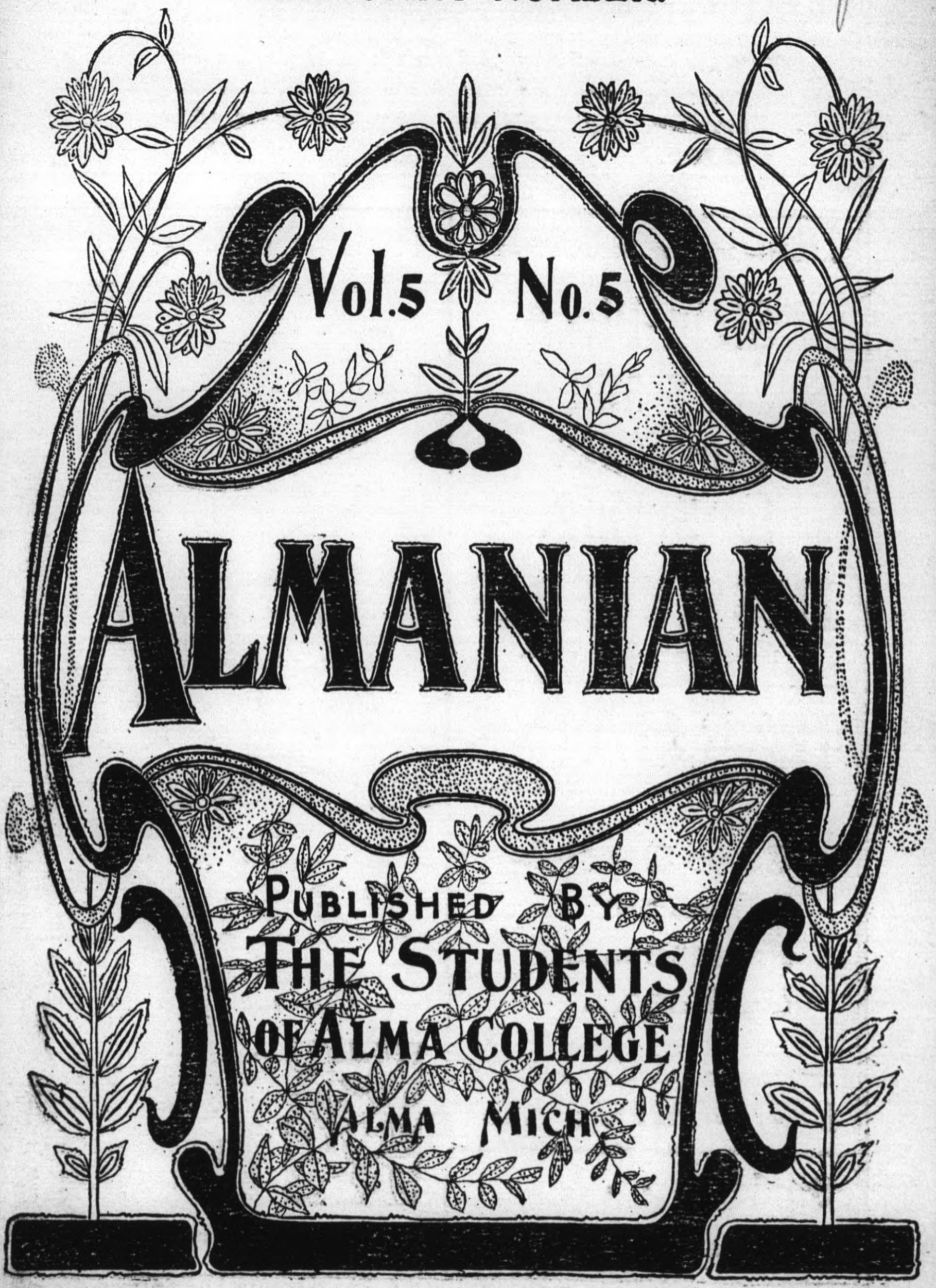
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ALMANIAN

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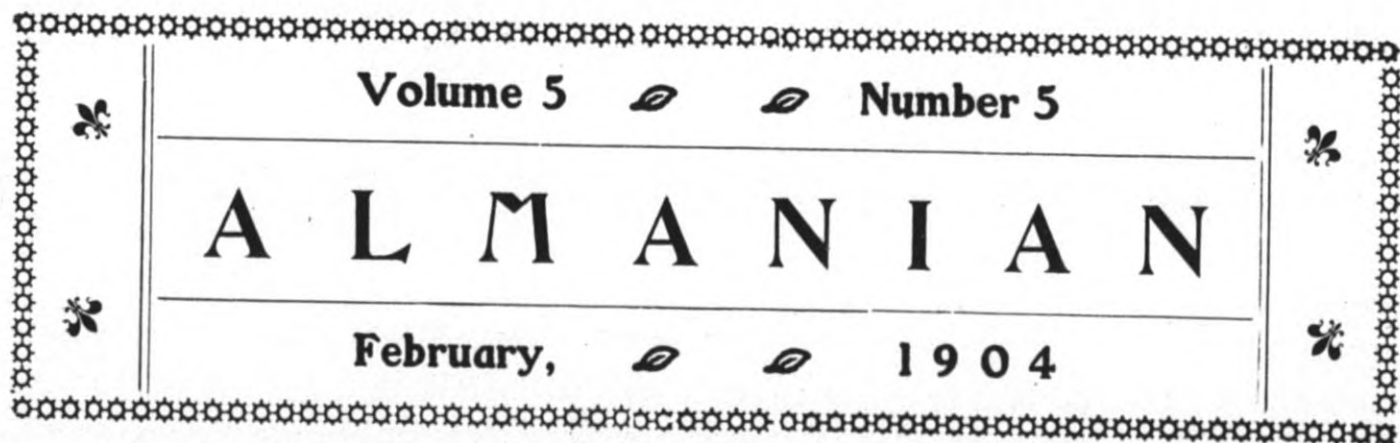
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Little Rivers.

BERTHA A. HIGBEE.

THE very breath of the woods, the indefinable odors of the forest, the music of trees, the warbling of birds and brooks are all in Dr. Van Dyke's book, "Little Rivers."

A preface or an introduction to a book is genuinely enjoyable when in it we catch the real spirit of what is to follow. The gentle dedication of the volume is a whiff of the woodland fragrance, which issues from the later pages:

"To one who wanders by my side
As cheerfully as rivers glide,
Whose eyes are brown as woodland
streams,

And very fair and full of dreams;
Whose heart is like a mountain spring,
Whose thoughts like merry rivers sing;
To her—my little daughter Brooke—
I dedicate this little book."

The introductory chapter is an exquisite bit of work, and in none of the eight chapters which make up the rest of the book do we find anything more delightful than this. In the delicate word pictures we see dashes of color that remind us of Browning; the quaint phrasing suggests Stevenson; the bird songs and the voices of the forest are a hint of Walt Whitman; the quiet humor refreshes one like

that of Dickens; the bits of "blue-sky philosophy" are as wise as Emerson. Yet Dr. Van Dyke is entirely unique; not only do we find him a lover of nature, who has studied long in her school of out-of-doors and has learned there many and profound secrets, but we see him as well to be the man of culture who has visited many lands, known many peoples and read many a wise book. He is indeed a competent guide to show us the Canadian forest, the Adirondack lakes, the Scotch hills, or the streams and mountains of the Tyrol.

But the waterways hold foremost place in his heart, for he says: "I am all for little rivers—my prose shall flow—or struggle along at such a pace as the prosaic muse may grant me to attain—in praise of Beaverkill and Neversink and Swiftwater, of Saranoc and Raquette and Au Sable. I will set my affections upon rivers that are not too great for intimacy."

It is easy to understand, as one reads, how the ancient nature lovers see in every spring and stream, a dryad or a nymph; for in this book we come to feel that each little river has a personality of its own that birds

are something human, that flowers and trees are sympathetic friends.

"The life of a river," says Dr. Van Dyke, "like that of a human, being, consists in the union of soul and body, the water and the banks. They belong together. They act and react upon each other. The stream moulds and makes the shore. * * * The shore guides and controls the stream. * * * Is it otherwise with the men and women whom we know and like? Does not the spirit influence the form and the form affect the spirit? Can we divide and separate them on our affections? * * * Every river that flows is good and has something worthy to be loved: but those we love most are always those we have known best. * * * Little rivers seem to have the indefinable quality that belongs to certain people in the world,—the power of drawing attention without courting it, the faculty of exciting interest by their very presence and way of doing things."

One of the most delicate bits of word-painting in all the book is this, in which he says: "The stream can show you, better than any other teacher, how nature works her enchantments with color and music. Go out to the Beaverkill 'In the tassel-time of spring,' and follow its brimming waters through the budding forests to that corner which we call the 'Painter's Camp.' See how the banks are all *enamelled* with the pale hepatica, the painted trillium and delicate pink-veined spring-beauty. A little later in the year when the ferns are uncurling their long fronds, the troops of blue and white violets will come dancing down to the edge of the stream and creep venturously out to

the very end of that long moss-covered log in the water."

Then follows a description of the gay flowers that follow the violets in turn, and of the birds and their glad-some songs. The interpretation of their songs is delightful. The Maryland yellow throat sings out "witchery, witchery, witchery," while the chewink calls in French to his sweetheart; "chérie, chérie."

In this introduction to his book, which he calls "nothing but a handful of rustic variations to the old tune of 'Rest and be Thankful,' a record of unconventional travel, a pilgrim's scrip with a few bits of blue-sky philosophy in it," Dr. Van Dyke drops some wise words:

"Little Rivers have small responsibilities. * * * It is not required of every man or woman to be, or to do something great; most of us must content ourselves with taking small parts in the chorus. Shall we have no little lyrics because Homer and Dante have written epics?"

The first chapter is a recital of boyhood experience—when the first trout was caught, when the first real fish rod was acquired, and when the first camping-out was experienced. This latter joy was something to dwell upon, for "the promotion from all-day picnics to a two weeks' camping trip is like going from school to college." How splendid it was to wade the stream one's self instead of fishing from the shoulder of one's father; yet, "how many of our best catches are made from some one else's shoulders!"

As a fisherman of long experience Dr. Van Dyke is well able to give opinions worth heeding and none is better than this: "The trained angler

who uses the finest tackle and drops his fly on the water as accurately as Henry James places a word in a story, is the man who takes the most and the largest fish in the long run."

Among the Adirondacks he is at home. He gives us directions to be observed in selecting a guide, for "everything depends in the Adirondacks, as in so many other regions of life, upon your guide;" he warns us of the hornets' nests on the mountain side, as "the sting of a hornet is one of the saddest and most humiliating surprises of this mortal life;" and when we have climbed to the very top of Ampersand with him, for "every mountain is, rightly considered, an invitation to climb," we can see the glorious view spread out before and behind and either side of us. Dr. Van Dyke paints with bold strokes and rich color; a delicate touch here and a carefully delineated outline there, the whole panorama, and we draw a deep breath as we gaze out on the beauty of clouds and mountains, glistening lakes and silvery rivers, before we descend from the bald crown of Ampersand. Here he observes, "thus it is with mountains, as perhaps with men, a mark of superior dignity to be naturally bald."

The tramp among Scotch hills is no less delightful, and the fishing beside the heather banks no less exciting. The glimpses which we get in this chapter of Scotch character and life are charming, for by skilful strokes he throws us the strong, the stirring points and then, by no less skilful shading here and there, he emphasizes the gentle, lovable qualities of that people whom we all admire.

Another chapter brings us back in-

to Canada—to a rapid, rushing little river by New Brunswick—the Ristic-gouche. A fortnight on this river in a horse-yacht proves fascinating enough; a horse-yacht being a great broad scow with a little house built upon it, and propelled by three horses driven on the river bank. Here the salmon are found in abundance and the tree angler has found a paradise. But the region is not well known; a few adventurers have found it out and erected along the banks of the Ristic-gouche their summer cottages, whose prevailing pattern is very simple. "It consists of a broad piazza with a small house in the middle of it. The house bears the same proportion to the piazza that the crown of a Gainsborough hat does to the brim."

Two more journeys into the vast Canadian forests, a climb in the Tyrol and a fishing trip in Austria, and the book is done.

In the Tyrol we see the ice covered peaks, the lovely lakes "lying on top of the mountain like a bit of blue sky," we hear the crashing of cataracts and many a stream which "rushes in foam and thunder" over the cliff; we catch the odor of gay flowers; nor are the bird songs missing. "Over all this opulence of bloom, the larks were soaring and singing. * * * There was always a sweet spray of music sprinkling down out of the sky where the singers poised unseen. It was like walking through a shower of melody."

Could anything be more delightful or delicate than that?

Yet the fragrance of the pines is spicier, the song of the birds are cheerier, the rivers are merrier and the flowers are lovelier in the great Amer-

ican forests. We are carried two hundred miles north of Quebec, "au large" and we find, "not a little pocket wilderness like the Adirondacks, but something vast and primitive." Here there are rushing turbulent rivers that must needs be reckoned with; but "it takes a touch of danger to bring out the joy of life." Long portages must be traversed to escape the falls and rapids; but there is a splendid dinner at noon, and we sniff as we catch the fragrance of the frying trout, and involuntarily we smack our lips as we almost taste the crisp brown pan cakes which the jolly French guide turns while he and his assistants toss back and forth their little jests.' "Plain fun like plain food tastes good out of doors. Nectar is the sweet sap of a

maple tree, Ambrosia is only another name for well-turned flapjacks."

We find in this wild fastness little rivers, too, and many a dainty blossom on their banks—here are "the exquisite purple spikes of the lesser fringed orchids, loveliest and most ethereal of all the woodland flowers save one * * * your own particular favorite, the flower by whatever name you call it, that you plucked long ago when you were walking in the forest with your sweetheart."

The book is well worth your reading. Winter storms are like a dream as one spends a happy hour beside the little rivers. Dr. Van Dyke loves God's world and he knows full well the art of making you love it, too.

: : : : : :

FLORENCE.

The moonbeams fall upon a face,
That, in its loveliness complete,
Sends back to moon and star lit sky,
A message sweet.

On brow, on lip, on mantling cheek,
Revealing bounding lifeblood there;
I see it written even now,
My love is fair.

Fairer is she, this love of mine,
Than star, or flower, or gem most dear;
And in her soul, her woman's self,
Without a peer.

Beecher's Work for the Union.

LEVI BUTLER.

FORTY years ago, our country passed through the great crisis of its national history, and whether that history be short as the two centuries of Grecian life or long as the twelve centuries of Rome's career as a nation, that period must ever be regarded as crucial, as the second birth of the nation. From the Declaration of Independence until the Emancipation proclamation and thirteenth amendment the U. S. was regarded simply as a magnificent experiment in democratic government. The civil war decided whether this experiment would be a repetition of the oft repeated failure of such governments or whether man had reached the plane, which all history seemed to proclaim as unattainable, in which he was capable of governing himself. From the adoption of the constitution until the civil war this country was like potters clay being moulded into shape on the Almighty's wheel of time and destiny, but the civil war was the burning process which purged the nation from the impurities of slavery and the "state's rights" idea and brought it forth the acknowledged champion of freedom and the leader in civilization and progress among the nations.

The year of 1863 was the most uncertain of the crucial period. The south had achieved or was just gaining its military successes. Morgan had pushed across the Ohio, raiding Illinois and Indiana. Grant found himself effectually checked before the Confederates at Chattanooga with chances one to ten in favor of success.

Lee had just carried the war into purely northern territory and although forced to relinquish that advanced position he was repelling with horrible slaughter, a little below Washington, every army sent against him. With our military operations in this condition volunteering ceased and the draft, which was resorted to, caused wide-spread discontent and even mob-violence. At the same time financial conditions were becoming desperate, loans were next to impossible, the public debt had reached a figure which no one expected could be paid, gold was at a premium of fifty-one per cent. Business throughout the country was paralyzed.

But worse than any of these was the fact that the firm resolve of the northern people, hitherto their greatest strength, was wavering. The administration no longer received a practically unanimous support; a large element demanded peace at any price and the southern cause received open support in the north. Indeed the fortunes of the union were swaying in the balance with those of slavery. The swing of the indicator failed to denote a perceptible advantage to either side. The Almighty alone was able to tell which would prevail. But one more drop against the union and what would be the result? A severed union—the curse of slavery—war and strife without end, a page of human history turned backward—that would be our lot.

At this time public opinion in the United Kingdom, if it did not favor the Confederacy, counseled peace at the

cost of union. They failed to see the use of protracting a seemingly useless struggle. Even John Bright, the most earnest and effective advocate the north had in all Great Britain, wrote in 1863 that further struggle was useless.

The ministry proclaimed neutrality, but the southerners were allowed against our most urgent protests to build privateers in British shipyards, to arm them with British guns, and man them with British sailors. And while cruising the seas and completely destroying our commerce these ships sometimes even floated the British flag.

While that was the attitude of the nation, the great middle class of England was being driven to extremities by the all convincing argument of ones pocket-book. England has been called one vast workshop; and to obtain cotton or other raw material had become impossible; every factory in the Kingdom was running on a working week of three to four days; the foods were exorbitant, while the insult we had given the flag of England in the Trent affair could not help but give added force to these facts of which our war was the cause. Thus the great middle class of England, which decided all important national questions from the time when the Great Charter was forced from King John until the English masses compelled George the Third to make peace with the colonies, was being driven to compel the ministry to interfere for the sake of peace, to cast the fatal drop into the quivering balance.

Then it was that Henry Ward Beecher undertook single handed to change the hostile position of this

controlling element of British politics, to one at least demanding real neutrality. Beecher spoke five times. The first four audiences gave him a reception the like of which was never given before nor since to any orator. They absolutely refused to listen to him. They stamped, they hissed, they cat-called. They went to the extreme limit of popular fury capable of expression in such meetings. Only an English audience could act with such violence and the whole history of public speech does not afford an instance approaching this. Demosthenes declaiming before the angry waves on the sea-shore spoke in a calm compared to Beecher before these raging tempests of English wrath. But he stood like rock adamantine before these howling storms, calm, and determined that America's cause should have a just hearing and such a hearing it did have. He allowed the mob to tire itself out and then seized the first opportunity and by his wit and presence of mind secured something like attention. He then conquered his hearers in much the same manner that a man climbs a steep and dangerous mountain, availing himself of every circumstance. Thus a hiss rebounds to the sender with cutting sarcasm, an impudent question or slurring remark is answered by Beecher to the confusion of the asker and support of his own argument. Every circumstance and accident is turned and twisted to enforce some point. Fighting in this manner for every point, Beecher, if not ending with applause, leaves conviction. Viewed merely as a specimen of oratorical effort these speeches rank among the choicest and best of modern times,

viewed in the light of results nothing in all history surpasses and very few indeed equal them.

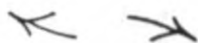
These four speeches present clearly and completely the true significance of our struggle and the reasons why England for the sake of her present self-interests, for the sake of all her past principles and traditions, for the sake of her position among nations should give at least her moral support to the north. The effect of these speeches upon the public mind of Great Britain was manifest in the different reception given Beecher when he made his great speech in London October 20th. He was received there not by angry hooting mobs but by a representative audience wild to do honor to the man who had opened its eyes to the truth.

This meant that the pressure of public opinion was turned from demanding the ministry to acknowledge the Confederacy to a demand for strict neutrality and the seizure of the Confederate ships about to sail. It meant that the fall of the fatal drop which at the beginning hung suspended over the scale pan of the union, was averted. This action of Great Britain thus brought about by Beecher meant that the United States was permitted to solve unhindered the inconsistencies of slavery and the Declaration of Independence, of state rights and national government. It made possible our history since 1865 and make possible the glorious future now opening before us.

We honor and revere the noble men who by the sacrifice of all personal interests, of life itself, to the union and liberty, made these things possible.

The civil war called forth legions of such men, to the battlefield, to the helm of state, to the work in foreign countries. Every town cherishes the memory of a number of heroes. But each succeeding year the memory of some becomes dimmer. Alas! we cannot remember them all forever. Much as we may regret it the memory of many great and noble men who fought and died from sixty-one to sixty-five is imperceptibly fading away. In the distant future when the signs and marks of that great struggle are not so fresh, when the events of the present shall be recorded neither upon the same page nor in the same chapter of history with those of the great war, when we shall view this great epoch only in the shadow of the subsequent epochs, then only the memory of those men will be preserved who were the greatest national heroes, whose services to the cause were seemingly indispensable, whose whole lives seem to have been shaped by Providence for this particular work. The list will not be long, half a dozen at the most. Even now we can almost predict who some will be. At the head of that list of men of whom the race as well as the nation may well be proud, the name of our beloved Lincoln must ever be placed. But does not the man who enabled "Honest Abe" to strike the shackles from the slave and true American liberty, with a hand unfettered by foreign intervention, does not he deserve the next place?

Will we not on that important list find written next to Lincoln's, the name of Henry Ward Beecher?



The Practical Religion of College and the College Man.

—FRED SOULE.

EACH year shows increased effort on the part of the church and of christian associations of all kinds to make religion more practical. Of this there seems no doubt. In the church we are hearing more practical preaching. By this I do not imply that churches in the past have failed to present the truth as it should be presented. Doubtless they have met the demands upon them the best that they were able. Never before has the life of the business world, surrounded as it is with influences so directly opposed to the maintainance of high christian standards—never before has it required such direct influence upon the every-day activities. Our ministers are preaching less to the masses; they are preaching more to individuals. The broader this tendency becomes, the greater will be the impulse to the real spirit of christianity.

In christian associations this growth—not change—is seen in our cities, societies are establishing libraries, night schools, gymnasiums—places where the tendency is to raise men's ideas of right. Here christianity is applied not by words, but rather by influences. Men are having christianity presented to them in a new light. They are being made to see that it is not alone a duty, but is something that pays. The work of these, as well as other societies, is showing the men who are reached that christianity makes other people respect them and makes them respect themselves, that it gives them better positions, that it

makes them better citizens, and that with all this it saves their souls.

It is not surprising then, since this practical spirit is being felt so generally, that it has also been working its way into our colleges. Nowhere is there a better field for practical religious life than in a college such as ours. There are the influences of the church connected with the institution—for it is the denominational college which is being considered. There are the influences of the faculty which is in almost every case composed of christian men and women. The work that this body can do in our college, is inestimable. There may be christian men among the students, but unless those who are directing the intellectual life of the college lead the religious life also, the loss is great, for the student body can not work to to the best advantage alone. But when the two combine their efforts, the results are always beneficial.

Yet the great weight lies upon the college man himself. He must act with others; he must act by himself. He has much in his favor for he is surrounded by a number of fellow christians who usually form the majority of the student body. He is aided by a prevailing spirit for good rather than for evil. He may feel that upon the christian association rests the duty of showing other students the attitude they should take in regard to christianity. He may feel that he must make his own religion more practical before he can conscientiously talk to a fellow student, yet he must recog-

nize the association can do little as a body until individual work is done. He must see that, whatever his own imperfections, there is one distinction between himself and that one of his friends who has not accepted the high standards of christian living, namely that he has an inspiration which his fellow can not have.

Thanks to the spirit of our colleges, no man need feel ashamed to acknowledge that he is a christian; or to work, that he may lead his fellow to be a christian. No matter who the man may be, or however much he may resent the work of his fellows for his own well-being, in his heart he can not but respect the christian student. This fact gives another impetus to the growth of the religious spirit, for a respect for a right principle always precedes its acceptance.

Christianity always places upon the christian certain obligations. For some these are greater—or at least seen more evident—than for others. If this is true, upon the christian in college the responsibilities are indeed greater. At any rate the opportunities for him to make his life a real practical christian life are most favorable, and the better the opportunities for work the greater the work expected. That college men are recognizing they are judged by different standards than other men is becoming more and more evident. The result of their work is testifying to it. The work that our own college is accomplishing each year is showing that men realize their favorable field. The results are seen in increased earnestness and in changed

lives. But there is a result which though not so direct perhaps is nevertheless certain and effective. It is not that which is revealed in the life within the college walls. Rather is it seen in distant towns and cities, yes even in remote lands. It is seen in the life and activities of those who have left the institutions where they have studied, but who have not lost the zeal which the religious spirit of their *Alma Mater* inspired. In the works of such men and women it is proved that the religion of our colleges is practical, that the christianity of our colleges is not a form of worship, but a real active life. The men and women who are on the mission fields, the men in the pulpit or the public schools and those who are combining christianity and business in their every day life are the same ones who led the religious work of our colleges in earlier years, or have come under the influence of such work and have been raised to a higher life. When we look at the hundreds of these men and women who have come from our colleges, we see in truth that the religion of our colleges is practical because its influence has aided in practical results.

However the college man today has as great and even greater duties in this line than ever before. The accomplishments of former years must continually be surpassed. The great burden lies with the individual. The life of each student effects the life of the school. The students of our colleges have it in their power to give to the country a lesson in practical christian living.



The First Oratorical Contest.

FOR the first time in the history of the college, this year saw Alma College with an oratorical contest. The entrance into the state oratorical contest league has given the question of oratory a new impetus in the college and the contest held last Monday night was the first of its kind that the college has ever seen. A large crowd was present to witness the contest, and from every standpoint Alma's maiden effort was a success.

Representatives from three of the literary societies of the college spoke; Fred Soule, Erle H. Casterlin, Stormzand represented the Zeta Sigma; David Johnson, Levi Butler and Norman King, the Phi Phi Alpha; Miss Edith Cook, the Philomathean.

The orations were marked on thought and composition and on delivery. The three judges on thought and composition all awarded first place to Fred Soule and he was given first on delivery by one of the judges, making his total ranking the highest. He was awarded the gold medal of the literary societies and will represent Alma in the state contest.

His oration was on the subject, "Phillips Brooks, the Man of Influence," and he traced in a masterful way the wonderful character of this great preacher, showing how he was always ready to sacrifice positions of honor for the sake of the chance humble positions offered him to influence the lives of men.

Mr. Soule's composition was written in a smooth and flowing style and his delivery had all the charm of

ease and grace. The decision of the judges met with general approval.

Erle H. Casterlin, with the subject "England and the Irish Question," was awarded second place and was a close second indeed. His delivery was characterized by enthusiasm and ease, coupled with an excellent voice. He took the position of compromise on the subject of his oration and declared that England should make concessions to the Irish people, both for their own good and the good of the Irish people whose genius has been restrained by an oppressive government.

Levi Butler's oration on "Beecher's Work for the Union" was of a clear and argumentative style, and showed the great part the eminent preacher had in transforming the sentiment of the English people into favor for the North in the Civil War, thereby discouraging the Confederates and strengthening the sentiment of the North and bridging the nation over its great crisis. His delivery was in harmony with his production.

David Johnson in speaking on the "Crimes against the Innocent" gave a strong and fervent appeal for restitution by the government to men unjustly convicted of crimes, and whose innocence is proven after they have served their sentence. He showed the vast number of unjust sentences that go unrequited and declared that it rested with the government to do justice. Mr. Johnson has excellent gifts as a speaker and training will make him a power on the platform.

The oration, "The Ideal American Citizens"—Jacob Riis, by Martin

Stormzand was given second place by the judges on thought and composition and was a masterpiece of the narrative style. Mr. Stormzand showed dramatically the rapid rise and remarkable career of this New York newspaper reporter whom Theodore Roosevelt characterized as the "Ideal American Citizens."

Miss Helen Cook, representing the Philomathean society, did great credit to herself and the society in her oration, "The Annexation of Canada." She had a finely written oration and delivered it with an ease and grace that won applause from the crowd. Her efforts was all the more commendable, on the consideration that the society she represented is an academy society and she is herself a member

of the fourth academy class.

Norman King spoke upon the "Past and Present," and took for his theme the comparison of the mediæval and modern church. Mr. King's delivery was of the conversational style and well suited to his effort. His oration was well written and showed careful preparation.

At the close of the program there was wild cheering on the part of the victorious society when the result was announced and the medal was awarded by Prof. J. W. Ewing.

The judges on thought and composition were, Dr. George F. Butler, Rev. W. K. Spencer and Prof. J. T. Ewing. Those on delivery were Prof. Jas. Mitchell, L. A. Sharp and D. L. Johnson.

REFLECTIONS.

Tell me not in high-flown language
College life is all a snap!
For just when you want to slumber,
Study breaks your peaceful nap.

Not enjoyment and not pleasure
Is our destined lot or way;
For the record of the class book
Finds us worse off every day.

Lives of freshmen all remind us
Things are green when in their prime,
All they lack is growth and culture,
They'll come out all right some time.

—*The Collegian.*

Mr. Hoolihan on English Criticism.

F. R. HURST.

“**W**HAT’S the b’ys all wavin their arms at th’ woman at th’ disk for an’ th’ girruls settin’ there like wooden injuns in th’ little room on th’ sicond flure” says Mr. Hogan. “That” says Mr. Hoolihan “is th’ class in Junior English tryin’ to find out if Plonius wanted Hamlit t’ marry Ophalia or if he wanted her to alope wid wan iv th’ hired hands. Ye see t’ stody an English play ye first rade th’ story t’ find out what Shakespere’s drivin’ at, an’ thin ye try t’ see wid th’ taycher that ivry character is th’ best wan in th’ worruld. All this is fun fur th’ students, but the rale show begins whin ye begin t’ stody th’ motives iv th’ payple in th’ play. Frinstance there’s wan fellow gits up an’ sez, “Plonius is th’ biggest niggerin’ snake-thafe that iver lied about staylin’ a chicken.” T’ this they all agreed until a white headed Swade in th’ back row, got in a argymint wid a Dootchman about Plonius’ son Lairities. The Swade sez, sezze, “Whin Plonius put his hand on th’ b’y’s hid an’ sez:

‘Th’ frinds thou hast an’ their adoptions
tried,

Grapple ‘em t’ thy soul wid hoops iv stale,’ he mint th’ b’y was t’ blarney aroun’ all his frinds so’s he could borry a little money from thimwhin iver he naded it. He sez ‘Plonius was oncapable iv ixprissin’ sich noble sintiments, he sez.

“Thin a black haired b’y that was just lookin’ at the picture iv his girrul in his watch sez, ‘It shuddent be ‘adoptions.’ It shud rade:

‘Th’ frinds thou hast an’ their *afflictions* tried

‘Grapple ‘em to thy soul etc.’

“Thin the Dootchman sez ‘ye don’t nayther wan iv yez know anything about English criticism, er Hamlit, er Ophalia er Plonius, er any iv the rist iv th’ lords, an’ jukes an jukesses.’ Sezze, ‘my folks come from Holland where ivery wan’s fimiliar wid the stoory iv Hamlit an’ all iv Shakespere’s plays.’ He sez ‘they taych ‘em in the Soonday schools there. They larn vases fr’m Shakespere instid iv th’ Bible,”

“ ‘Jist so’ sez the black haired b’y.

“ ‘That accounts fur th’ ignorance iv the Dootch in raligious matters,’ sez the Swade. Sezze, ‘I come fr’m Swaden where ivery body sez Plonius was a gintleman. My father is a d’rict discindint iv Plonius an’ I’ve got an aunt in Gran’ Rapids, that’s married t’ wan iv Hamlit’s postherity.’

“ ‘I know her’ sez the Dootchman. ‘She used t’ do me washin’ whin I worked on the Herald.’

“ ‘What d’you think about it taycher,’ comes softly fr’m th’ fiminine soide iv th’ house.

“ ‘I think it was mint fur moral an’ upliftin’ advice,’ sez the taycher.

“Thin a young fellow who had been absent th’ day befor axes the taycher if young Hamlit was raley mad. Th’ taycher sez, ‘Where was ye yisterday whin we daded that he was only puttin’ on whin he called Plonius a fish peddlar. Ye kin aisly see why he wanted th’ ol’ man t’ think he was buggy. Some folks thinks he was doin’ it t’ fin’ out about his father’s murdher, but that wasn’t it at all. He wanted th’ ol’ man t’ think he had

gone daffy over Ophalia, so's he'd see how Mr. Hamlit raley loved his daughter. Ye ramimber how he started to sing wanst in the ol' man's prisince,—

'O, Ophalia, Phalia, Phalia

'Oi've made up me moind t' stale ye

'Ophalia, Ophalia dear.

"There niver was a play wid so many blasted hopes as this wan about Hamlit an Miss Ophalia. 'An' O, the noble sintimints ixprised in so many lines.

'T' be er not t' be'

"'T' be what?' sez the Swade.

"'O jist t' be' sez the taycher.

'Don't interoopt me. No matter what it's t' be, it's in th' play an' that's

enoof. As I was sayin' there is beautiful sintmints in th' play.'"

"But why don't you git a book an stooody some iv Shakespere's plays yersilf, ye same t' be so intristed in 'em" sez Mr. Hogan.

"Well ye see its loike this, Hogan, I bought wan of 'em wanst an started t' rade it an I loiked th' stoory purty well until it began t' talk about a lot iv Dagoes down in Rome goin' out an' hollerin, 'burn! slay! foire! kill!' an' I thought if Shakespere had run so shy of material he'd got to use Dagoes an' niver a wanst wrote about the Irish, I'd lit thim rade 'em that loiked 'em."

SIMPLE SIMON.

Simple Simon met a Fly Man,

Ach, bud he vas slick!

Set der Fly Man, "Come on, Simon,
Come und ged rich qvick!"

Simple Simon gafe der Fly Man

All dot he possess;

Set der Fly Man, "Vot a pie, man,
Und a pudding—yes?"

Vispered Simon, "Mynheer Fly Man,
Vas I rich so qvick?"

Den der Fly Man gafe poor Simon
Such a bitter kick.

"Snook!" der Fly Man yelled at Simon
Pointing py der door;

Outd vent Simon vile der Fly Man
Set der trap for more.

The Earliest Monument in German Literature. - -

WINIFRED SALISBURY.

WHEN Tacitus wrote his "Germania," the Goths were living on the shores of the Baltic Sea at the mouth of the Vistula River. There they dwelt for several centuries, a brave, warlike, nature-worshipping people. But about 150 A. D., they began to spread eastward and early in the next century, we find them as far east as Roumania. Being very aggressive and fond of conflict, they made frequent incursions into Roman territory and by the Roman prisoners whom they took back, they were gradually converted to Christianity.

Among these Christian captives was a young boy by the name of Ulfilas, whose old home was in Asia Minor. After his capture, he grew up among the Visigoths and was finally sent to the court of the Emperor Constantine as a hostage. Here he learned Latin and Greek and began to teach and preach in those languages and the Gothic. When he was thirty years old, in 341 A. D., he was made Bishop of the Visigoths, at the Second Ecumenical Synod, which convened at Antioch. After being ordained bishop, he returned to his people as a missionary and for seven years he labored among them, undisturbed. But when the heathen Gothic king, Athanarich, learned that Ulfilas was introducing among his subjects, a new religion, he persecuted the Christians so fiercely that they were forced to flee. With Ulfilas as a leader, they crossed the Danube and settled near Necopolis, in Bulgaria,

upon land granted to them by Constantine. These emigrants were called the Little Goths and Ulfilas worked among them for forty years. In leading his people to a new land, guiding them through war and strife and ever endeavoring to lead them to think of higher things, he is not unlike Moses, and doubtless even that venerable leader accomplished no more good among the Israelites than did Ulfilas among his little band of Christian followers. He died, in 381, in Constantinople, where he had gone to defend his faith in Arianism against the doctrines of Athanasius, the founder of orthodoxy. But his name did not die with him, for he left something behind him which had an almost immeasurable influence on the whole Teutonic race.

While working faithfully among his people, he devoted much time to translating the Bible from the Greek into the Gothic and succeeded in excellently reproducing the original sense. Previous to this, the only written language of the Goths was a series of signs which they had rudely scrawled on stone or wood, so this literary pioneer had to work against heavy odds. By combining some of the Greek letters with Runic signs, he finally invented an alphabet which could be easily understood by these people who did not even know what was meant by the word, reading.

He is reported to have translated the whole Bible with the exception of the Books of Kings, the reading of

which he feared would encourage the warlike tendencies of his people. Doubtless he had fellow-workers, as the few fragments of the Old Testament which remain to us in the original manuscript are in a different hand from the Gospels, and these again differ from the Pauline epistles. But the idea, the supervision, the merit, belong to this simple monk, who by raising a barbarian tongue to the dignity of a literary language, has well earned the title of "Father of German Literature."

Six different manuscripts of the Ulfilas Bible are in existence today. The most important of these is the "Codex Argenteus" or Silver Book, which is written in silver and gold on

red parchment and has had a very interesting history. In the 16th century, it was discovered in a ruined monastery at Werden, Germany. It was taken to Prague by Rudolph II, and from there to Stockholm, where it was presented to Queen Cristina. The librarian at Stockholm sold it to Holland, but it was at once repurchased for Sweden by Count de la Gordi, who paid 400 thalers for it. He had it bound in silver and presented the volume to the king of Sweden. This ruler had it placed in the University Library at Upsala, Sweden, where it now rests—the first Germanic prose, and a literary monument of higher age and value than any other living European language can boast.

A PARTING WISH.

We bade each other a long adieu,
With looks and tones regretful.
"Whatever happens," I sadly said,
"We never shall be forgetful."
"Ah, never!" replied my faithful friend,
"Our past is a pleasant story.
And oh, I hope we may meet again
This side of the crematory!"

Y. M. C. A.

THE most common word which falls from the lips of Alma's Alumni and former students is "How are the christian associations prospering?" This article has in mind the loyal Alumni and former students who have given the management of the Almanian such splendid support this year and with one restriction placed upon the question, namely—The Young Men's association—will endeavor to give such an answer as will interest and inform those who in former years made the Y. M. C. A. a possible thing in Alma college.

We have just elected officers. For president, D. A. Johnson, "05." His interest in everything that tends for true character and righteousness will make him a valuable friend for every man who in the coming year may find his way to Alma as a student.

Earl Webber also of "05" will serve in the capacity of vice-president. Mr. Webber has much of his brother's good cheer which made him such a valuable man in the Y. M. C. A. during his college days. Mr. Johnson will be ably seconded in all his plans by the vice-president.

The position of secretary will be held by Mr. William S. Cooper "06." Mr. Cooper is one of the splendid men which Detroit has begun to give to Alma in these later years. While very much occupied with the study of science he has always found time to take an active part in Y. M. C. A. work and some of the Alumni who have had the privilege of attending our meetings during the past year, know of the splendid contribution which he has made to the musical life of the asso-

ciation. He will make a strong member of the cabinet.

For treasurer Mr. W. E. Rolf "07." Mr. Rolf is already one of the few who in Alma college are known as "Patriarchs" because of long connection with the college. Mr. Rolf is a graduate of the Academy and in the year marked opposite his name, will also bear the credentials of the college department. He is in every way qualified for the trust which has been given him by the association.

Harold G. Gaunt "06" will continue to act as corresponding secretary. Mr. Gaunt is noted for his promptness in answering correspondence from the sister colleges in the state and to him may properly be given the credit of maintaining, to a large extent, the friendly feeling existing between the various associations among the colleges of Michigan. Mr. Gaunt's work during the past year has been principally connected with the Bible study and the promotion of a suitable state convention of college men in Bible study.

A large delegation, of not less than 10 and perhaps of 15 will attend the state convention at Saginaw this month.

The 12 week's course offered in Y. M. C. A. for Bible study using Dr. Bosworth's excellent outlines has just closed having had an average attendance of eight.

The mission study class to be organized this month is to be entirely upon the representative basis in the hope that the best interests of mission study will be promoted in this way. In accordance with this there will be in the class three seniors, three juniors, sophomores, two freshmen and tw

academy men which leaves an excellent nucleus for the class of next year. The text book used will be the one so widely read at the present time—"India and Christian Opportunity" by Dr. Harlan P. Beach, secretary of the publishing department of the student volunteer movement. Dr. Spencer's class at the church in "The Parables and Miracles of Christ" still engages the hearty attention and interest of a large number of the young men. It is the consensus of opinion among the fellows that Dr. Spencer is the best Bible teacher which any of them have had the privilege of being under.

These few notes on the Y. M. C. A. have been written for the pleasure of Eastman and Reed in the Phillipines; for Long, Scott, Brooke, Toner and many others in Michigan, for Randals in Nebraska and Foote in Pennsylvania, and everyone who has a warm place in his heart for Y. M. C. A. They were not written for local profit, but it is the hope of the writer that all who read it may rejoice in the steady growth of the Y. M. C. A. to a permanent influence in college life. Of course that includes you fellows in Princeton and McCormack. We are glad to hear from all of you.

WM. WINTON, "04."

TOM, DER PIPER'S SON.

Tom, Tom, der piper's son,
 Stole a pig, und away he run,
 Big Mike, der Cop, set sail,
 Und Tom he got vun year in chail.

Chim, Chim, der Cashier Man,
 Stole a bank und forgot to ran;
 Big Mike eggsclaimed, "Vy not?"
 Und Chim yust bought himself a yacht.

From An Alumnus.

If has not been my pleasure to visit my Alma Mater since the commencement day of '98, though I have thought often and planned once or twice to do so, but failed. This is such a busy world and if we are putting our best life into the place and service God has given us, there seems to be little time for pleasure save that rare and best variety we gain from our steady every day work.

The years of my life since I left Alma have been especially blessed ones and I have felt the leading and blessing of my Father with me all the way. My two summers on Traverse Bay while still in seminary, were just one constant delight, and when this summer Mrs. Divine and myself journeyed back there for the first return visit, it was with a good deal of satisfaction that we looked upon the two pretty little Congregational churches and met the earnest, devoted audiences assembled in them on His day.

The two and a half years of service in that conservative and cultured little suburb of Morgan Park, where Mrs. Divine and I took up our first house-keeping, were happy and helpful years. A thoughtful, almost critical Scotch audience made the young preacher dig hard at the Book and other books and present his matter from Sunday to Sunday in a most careful way. Just the training I felt the need of and I trust it was used to profit.

My two winters in seminary working side by side with Dr. Chichester, whom I regard as the greatest *pastor* and most spiritual man I ever met, revealed to me the great love of God

for the individual and how that love is united to the personal needs in every hour of life.

Then last spring just when we were making plans for our summer work at Morgan Park came the call to the work at Erie Chapel. It was a complete surprise for I did not know that my name was even being considered but as it was the kind of work I had always wanted to do, I came to what I think without exaggeration is the greatest chance in an American city today. Situated in the midst of the most densely populated wards of the city, with a class of people that have in them, making of strong citizens when once their hearts are touched of God, there is simply no limit to the good one may do. Of course there is seldom much chance to reach the older foreigner with his set notions and devotion to a church that is little better than the Catholic in its influence upon the practical everyday life, but in the children we have the chance that we are making our best efforts to improve.

We have fully 1500 children enrolled in our Sunday school, an audience in our gospel service Sunday evening of from two to three hundred young men and women, besides a long line of activities that are well patronized. The results of this direct gospel preaching and work are felt all over the city, for many of our young people are climbing to positions of influence in the city. You can well understand the inspiration that comes to me daily and almost hourly in this kind of work.

The Third church is very proud of

its mission and is prompt in supplying all the means and workers needed to supplement what the people of Erie chapel are doing increasingly toward their own support.

Our new building will, we hope, be completed by fall and thus facilitate our work very materially in every way.

Dr. McCaughan, pastor of the Third

church, is a most inspiring man to consult with and from his long experience in such work in days gone by, is able to help me very much in times of difficulty. I do nothing at the Third church unless invited to supply in his absence or to assist in special services, which is frequently done. His people are very kind to me, always.

SHERMAN DIVINE.

APPLIED ASTRONOMY.

He took me out to see the stars,
That astronomic bore;
He said there were two moons near Mars,
While Jupiter had four.

I thought of course he'd whisper soon
What fourfold bliss 'twould be
To stroll beneath that fourfold moon
On Jupiter with me.

And when he spoke of Saturn's ring,
I was convinced he'd say
That was the very kind of thing
To offer me some day.

But in a tangent off he went
To double stars. Now that
Was most suggestive, so content
And quite absorbed I sat.

But no, he talked a dreary mess,
Of which the only fraction
That caught my fancy, I confess,
Was "mutual attraction."

I said I thought it very queer
And stupid altogether,
For stars to keep so very near,
And yet not come together.

At that he smiled, and turned his head;
I thought he'd caught the notion,
He merely bowed good-night and said,
Their safety lay in motion.

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FEBRUARY, 1904.

IT is not without much apprehension that the present editor assumes charge of the Almanian. I have been in a position to realize the difficulties of the situation and to understand what is expected from me. But I wish to say this; that the students ask too much of the editor. He is compelled to contribute in almost every issue to every department of the paper. This makes the Almanian too much of a one-man magazine. Our college paper

is for all, and it was established with this twofold purpose in view: To keep the Alumni in touch with the student body, and to quicken the literary life of the students themselves. The editor can do the first through correct management, but he cannot accomplish the second, without heartier support than he has received in the past.

To be asked to contribute to the Almanian should be considered an honor. Will you not, therefore, when asked for an article, try to comply with the request, and will you not bring to any of the editors whatever you think may be of interest to those who read the Almanian?

ALMA'S first oratorical contest was a decided success. We are heartily in favor of the different societies' choosing the representatives, but we also think that society spirit should be more in evidence. Perhaps if the men represented their classes instead of their societies more enthusiasm might be aroused, but it is difficult to draw any results from a single contest. Alma has always felt the need of more advantages in the oratorical line and our entrance into the intercollegiate association will deepen the interest in improved public speaking. Next year, to the oratorical contest, there should be added a debate with some one of the colleges in the state. It is too late now to make any arrangements for the year, but a start towards having a debate early next year can not be made too soon.

EXAMINATIONS are over and a new semester has begun. The winter term is the one best suited to doing good work. If there are any cons,

To Licinius.

HORATI CARMINA, LIB. II; X.

When the ocean's fair breezes are blowing,
You fear not the thunder's loud roar;
When the harbor's calm ripples are smiling,
You heed not the rocks on the shore.

The delights of the palace are many,
Yet crowns may weigh heavy as lead.
Wretched peasants in huts must keep groaning,
Through want of the life-giving bread.

The great pine on the peak of the mountains
Falls to earth with the heaviest crash.
Tallest towers fall first; and 'tis hilltops
That are scarred by the lightning's red flash.

In the midst of direst affliction,
Brave souls labor hopefully on;
When surrounded by fortune's rare favors,
They think not these joys are their own.

Tho' the earth is snow-white in the morning,
By noon, will the snow melt away.
Tho' the joys of the day are all sorrows,
Their pain is forgot with the day.

Not always are fair singers silent,
Their harps of no use in their hands;
Not always, does Phoebus, in anger,
Send famine and woes on the lands.

Be courageous and brave in affliction,
Endure what you must in the fight;
And Remember, when all seems fair sailing,
The Storm-king may soon come in sight.

McB.

they should be worked off before spring vacation or they will probably stand against the student the whole year. Soon outdoor athletics will demand attention and it will be found almost impossible to do sufficient or even the necessary library work. Do what you can, now, when the weather keeps you indoors.

COMPLAINT is often made about the reading of college students or, in other words, lack of reading. It is true, that a modern curriculum demands a great deal of collateral and required reading, reading which one feels bound to cover from a sense of duty. However, it is difficult to know how much or what, students read for the pleasure of it. Some go even farther, and lament the fact that the reading habit in college seems to be disappearing.

There is no doubt, that the student who neglects to read, is depriving himself of the best of his college course. Men who graduated a score or more years ago, confirm this fact. They

tell us how natural the routine studies fade in the memory. But the delightful world of letters as it first dawns upon them—the first introduction to the critical, through Arnold's essays, that eager expectation of a new poem by Browning—there is something that abideth for all time.

The best any college can do for its students, is to give them free access to the library. There, tastes are developed, which during the susceptible and formative days, create the ideals. And, "what are they reading?" Is it Howells, Kipling, Stevenson, Alice Brown, Churchill, or Mark Twain? If so, good. Or is it some light, good-for-nothing novelist? Something merely for the passing hour? Alas for the middle days and old years now in their own making. All students may form a habit of reading which will bring them into a life-long intercourse with the master minds of all times. This will prove to be a source of delight for the time being, an endless refreshment, as well as an unending resource and an everlasting joy.

Carry me home to the pine-wood;
Give me to rest by the sea;
Leave me alone with the lulling tone.
Of the South-wind's phantasy.

For I am weary of discord,
Sick of the clash of this strife,
Sick of the bane of the prelude of pain;
And I yearn for the Symphony—Life.

News Items.

—Class and Society and General News of the College and Its Doings.—

Rev. Andrew S. Zimmerman of the Westminster church of Bay City, preached upon the subject of Symmetrical character, after the exercises, Feb. 21st. It was a simple, straight, forward discourse and after hearing him, one well knew why Mr. Zimmerman has been so successful in his pastoral work.

The Zeta Sigma society has had its room repaired and papered in green and maroon. Pictures and other decorations have been given by some of the members to add to the natural attractiveness of the room. The Phi Phi Alpha's have also beautified their room in many ways.

Saturday evening the senior class was given a sleighride by Mr. Wilcox and Miss Morton to the home of the latter. The naughty fours decided that it was the greatest spread and most enjoyable time they have ever had as a class.

J. Wirt Dunning, '04 left for Los Angeles and San Francisco, February 9th. He had completed the full curriculum of work and on account of poor health, decided that a trip west would prove beneficial. "Johnnie Wirt" will return in June to graduate with his class. He entered Alma as a second year prep, and in the seven years that he has been a student here, has not only made a fine record as a student, but has also been prominent in college athletics. He has been a regular catcher on the baseball team for six years, and in 1900 was captain. Although too light for a football man, he played for three years on the scrubs and during the last season was coach

for that team. Mr. Dunning was twice elected to the editorship of this magazine and has contributed more to The Almanian in the last five years than any other two individuals. We sincerely hope that the delights of California will restore his health.

The Alpha Theta Literary society elected the following officers for the second semester: President, Miss Elizabeth Schmidt vice-president, Leola Lauterback; secretary, Caroline Hastings; treasurer, Edna Allen; cor. secretary, Blanche Robin; critics, Kate Bair and Lillian Hunt; sentinel, Gretta Bagley; guide, Ethel Sober.

Our delegates to the Y. M. C. A. convention at Saginaw were D. A. Johnson, W. H. Rohlf, W. S. Cooper, Ray Moon, Clare Catzenburg, Nick Therry, Louis Anderson, M. L. Marshall and Norman King.

Rev. S. P. Todd who was a student here in '97-'98 is doing fine work at Fairgrove. During his four years pastorate, the church has increased 300 percent. Mr. Todd was a commissioner to the last general assembly.

The missionary spirit of Weston T. Johnson '99 of Tokio, Japan, has been quickened by the arrival of reinforcements. It is a baby boy, Warren Malcolm.

The Alpha Theta girls gave their program in the Zeta Sigma rooms on the evening of Feb. 8th. Those who appeared on the program were Edna Allen, Bertha A. Higbee, Lillian Hunt and Gretta Bagley.

A number of the students have had severe attacks of the gripp. Wilcox, Dunning and Miss Bushnell have been

"The Voice of the Scholar," Miss Beryl Kefgen; essay, "The Honorable Points of Ignorance," Miss Leola Lauderbach; music, "Slumber Song," Miss Hooper; essay, "Egyptian Arts," Miss Hannah Mey; essay, "The Eastern Question," Miss Clara Pringle; oration, "A Warning," Mr. Earl Webber; music, "Valse in C-Sharp Minor," Miss Lou Olp.

"Ru-ben-te pu-el-la," read the prep,
As after the class he stayed.
"Well, what does it mean?" Miss Gelston
said,
The poor prep muttered in evident dread,
"Why it's Reuben and the maid."

Kindergarten.

Miss Nell Hobson has been called to her home in Caro by the illness of her sister.

Hazel G—. (reading aloud to the seniors.) "Trouble and arnica (anarchy) reigned.

The Misses Breece and Soule of Shepherd were in Alma Saturday, Feb. 6th.

Miss Ethel Meston '03, of Saginaw, writes that she will spend commencement week with us.

The kindergarten girls wish to extend thanks to Mr. Chapman for the picture of "little Wille" so kindly presented. Incidentally they wonder who has lost a small linen handkerchief.

Senior girl (trying to find a quotation.) "Mr. Angell, did Mark Twain ever say anything funny?" Mr. A.— (cheerfully) "not to me."

Miss Agnes Burnett, of Chicago, expects to be with us commencement.

"Here's to Hazel Bryan Garland—
She is little, likewise lovely,
Slim and slender, sweet and supple,
Trim and tender (as the steak is
That we have sometimes for luncheon.
And when Peter comes to see her

Then she is all smiles and sunshine
Which makes Peter very happy—
And his smiles are Bland and childlike
As he looks at other stiddies
Thinks that they are all as he is."

Miss Iva Salter, '02, is in Jacksonville, Fla., and has the same position as last year.

The Juniors begin practical work in kindergarten this semester.

The new officers of the Froebel Society are Miss Thompson, president; Miss Gilbert, vice-president; Miss Cooper, secretary; Miss Ball, treasurer; Miss Ward, 1st critic; Miss Garland, 2nd critic.

Van Campen Gilbert, of Bay City, visited the department (?) on Saturday, Feb. 6, returning to his home in the evening accompanied by his sister.

The Juniors were entertained by the Seniors at a costume party the evening of Jan. 30. A good time is reported. For further particulars see the flashlights.

Miss Grace Paddock, a former graduate; is teaching in the Industrial school at Adrian, Mich.

Miss Addie Blumberg, '99, is teaching in Sioux City, Iowa.

The chorus will give its third and last concert for the organ fund during the first week in March.

Mary had a little lamb,
'Twas wonderful to see;
But now she has no little lamb,
She has an H. G. G.

Freshman.

Ada Means well!

Now for freshman ex!

College algebra, ze great college algebra—and we got through it after all.

Bates, the boy conscientious, the misunderstanding and misunderstood.

"Professor, can't we have an extra algebra lesson Monday?"

What is the matter with our new vice-president?

Fred Conklin is gaining rapidly, but unfortunately, cannot return this year.

Yes, it was a freshman that carried off second honors in the oratorical contest.

Was that all flattery that Prexy gave us in rhetorical examination?

His whiskered lips had touched her cheeks,
And his arms in a curve hyperbolic,
Had pressed her waist. His tombstone reads,
"He died of the Painter's Colic."

Phi Phi Alpha.

The society is satisfied with the result of the oratorical contest. Although a Zeta Sigma man won the contest, the

Phi Phi Alpha society is proud of the showing made by its men.

The officers for this semester are: Mr. Butler, president; Mr. Paul Allured, vice-president; Mr. Marshall, secretary; Mr. Angell, treasurer; Mr. King, 1st critic; Mr. D. A. Johnson, 2nd critic; Mr. Hull, marshal; Mr. Cratsenburg, janitor. "Cratz" outlined his policy for this semester in an energetic speech punctuated with applause.

The work of the society for the past semester has been helpful and inspiring, with each member of the society taking an interest in raising it to a high standard. The plan of making our programs public has increased the efficiency of the society and work for this semester promises to be even more helpful than that of last year.

Cook
Stuck out his hook
To get the book
From the Junior Crook,
But O the look!
From the Junior Crook.
The whole room shook
When Cook
Took the book
In his hook.

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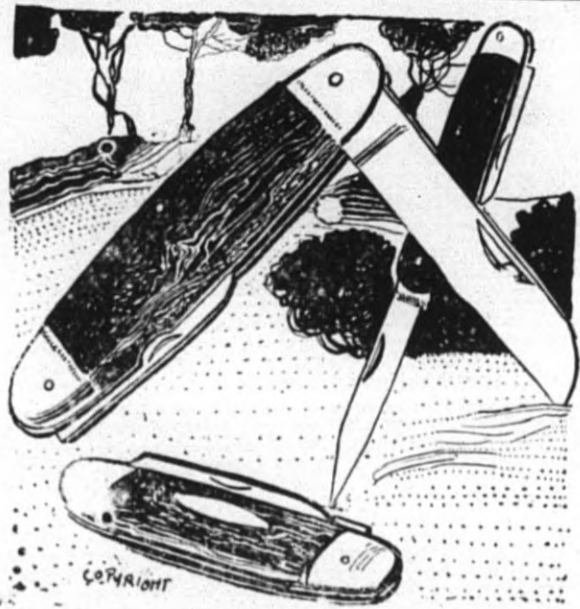


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