

Harvard Letter.

ALMANIAN.

Beautiful Sprig.

Sprig, sweet sprig, is cobig;
For I feel it id the air,
See, the groud is gedty thawing,
Bud and slush are everywhere.

Dow I doff by widter fladdels,
Ad I dod by subber close
Thed for weeks ad weeks together
Vaidly try blow by dose.
—J. P. Welsh, "Harvard Lampoon."

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A Retrospect of the State Oratorical Contest.

ON March 2 the colleges of Michigan sent their winning orators, together with delegations of various numbers, to Alma to the ninth annual oratorical contest of the Michigan league. It was an inspiring delegation which met together at the Alma Sanitarium, where they were most satisfactorily accommodated during their short stay in the city. Hope college manifested the greatest enthusiasm, sending twenty-five vigorous youths and fair maidens to cheer their orator on to victory. M. A. C. sent eight, Olivet five, Albion five, and the other colleges from two to four.

The executive committee of the league, consisting of one gentleman from each college met at 1:30 o'clock on the big day, transacting the business pertaining to the contest.

During the early hours of the afternoon, the visitors strolled about the campus, enjoying the beautiful sights which met their eyes. At 4:30 all were invited to Wright hall,

where a reception was given in honor of the orators by the Misses Mary L. Allen, Mary Gelston and Katherine Ingles. The Alma faculty, the seniors and a few others of the college were present to join in causing the occasion to be a pleasant one for the guests. A delightful hour was spent in the making of acquaintances.

At 8 o'clock in the evening the orators were at the opera house ready to throw out their flowers of oratory broadcast over a goodly sized audience. Each college had a separate section of seats. The Alma students, of course, were present en masse to lead in the cheering and singing. Hope's contingent were close rivals of the home rooters in making the room resound with lusty yells. Their display of banners was a pretty sight. Even the colleges with the small delegations gave their yells, which though of small volume expressed an enthusiastic spirit.

The meeting was in charge of

Charles Obee, of Adrian, president of the league. He called upon Pres. A. F. Bruske for an address of welcome, after which Alma's orator, George Sutton, began the contest with his oration on "John Hay as Diplomat." With his usual vigor and enthusiasm he portrayed the great Secretary's life work, commanding the absorbed attention of the audience from beginning to end.

R. L. Coldren's oration on "The Hero of the Dark Continent" was an admirably composed production, but the speaker being not entirely at ease did not deliver it in an impressive manner.

The Hope orator, A. J. Kolyn, commanded the interest of the audience more than any other speaker, his production being a dramatic eulogy of our popular chief-executive, "The Great Peacemaker." He spoke in glowing terms of Roosevelt's unparalleled accomplishments as peace advocate. His delivery was easy, graceful, varied and spirited, well deserving the high rank accorded it. A low mark in composition prevented the gentleman from gaining a high place in the summary.

The winning orator, Robert Gordon, of Kalamazoo, had a peculiarly interesting theme, "The College Man's Mission," an appeal for higher education. He compared the college men of our national leaders in the various activities of life, with men who did not attend college. His argument was clear, unified and direct. His delivery was of such a nature that the three judges agreed upon him as the best man.

Miss Gertrude Peters, of M. A. C. spoke upon "The Development of a National Conscience." She traced the growth of the abolition movement, showing how slowly but surely the spirit was infused into the conscience of the north until the inevitable result came in 1861 and the slaves were freed. Her production, though more didactic than dramatic, was exceedingly interesting. It gave fresh and inspiring thought upon a well worn theme.

J. H. Moeller, of the State Normal, who acted as substitute for H. E. Williams, Ypsi's winning orator, spoke upon "Alfred the Great," discussing his political and religious influence in rather a biographical rather than an original manner. His delivery, though slightly affected, was not without its excellence, but could not compare with that of the other orators in respect of force or earnestness.

"The Triumph of the Fraternal Spirit" was the theme of one of the most original, logical and neatly arranged productions on the program, the work of St. Clare Parsons, of Olivet. It well deserved the first rank as a composition. Mr. Parson's delivery, however, was faulty in several respects. It was not free, but somewhat restrained. The speaker had an awkward bearing, which he did not get rid of until the latter part of his speech, when he managed to forget himself and livened up to beautiful and spirited presentation of the climax of his discussion.

C. A. Robinson, of Adrian, spoke

upon Ruskin, "The Apostle of Beauty." The composition was essay-like, not suited to an oratorical contest. He developed with much originality the life-work of Ruskin. The audience needed vigor and enthusiasm by this time in the program, and these qualities Mr. Robinson failed to manifest.

The last speaker was E. O. Gildart, of Albion, who last year came so near to the coveted prize, that only one point did he lack for first honors. Unfortunately he again failed to reach the coveted goal but his oration did justice to himself and his college. He spoke upon "The Ingenuity of the American People" maintaining that to their resource of mind the Americans owed a great debt in attaining the present high place among world powers. His composition was original, clear and convincing. The speaker made the mistake of waxing dramatic upon a theme, which did not call for a great display of this quality. As for voice power, grace upon the platform and complete control of himself, Mr. Gildart was undoubted the best of the orators.

The judges on thought and composition were Rev. Reed Stuart, of Detroit; Prof. J. G. Carter Troop, of Chicago, and Prof. E. H. Lewis, of

Chicago. The judges on delivery were W. W. Wedemeyer, of Ann Arbor, Hon. Charles Simons, of Detroit, and Rev. James Barclay, of Detroit. Their combined decisions made the outcome of the contest as follows:

Winner of the \$25 gold medal, Robert Gordon, of Kalamazoo. The other orators received ranks in the following order:

Second—St. Clare Parsons, Olivet.

Third—E. O. Gildart, Albion.

Fourth—George Sutton, Alma.

Fifth—Gertrude Peters, M. A. C.

Sixth—A. J. Kolyn, Hope.

Seventh—C. A. Robinson, Adrian.

Eighth—R. L. Coldren, Hillsdale.

Ninth—J. H. Moeller, Normal.

The music for the evening's program was furnished by Miss Grace Messinger, soprano; Herman Morse tenor; Miss Mary Sharp, pianist; and by the double quartette.

The occasion was a pleasant one in every respect. The spirit of friendly rivalry, which was manifested, is to be commended. The colleges now look forward to the outcome of the National contest to be held at Topeka, Kansas, May 4th, at which Mr. Gordon will represent Michigan.

Fred J. Soule.



George—"I love you; won't you be my wife?"

Mary—"You must see mama first."

George—"I have seen her several times, and I love you just the same."—
Ex.

John Hay as Diplomat.

George Sutton, '08.

OUR nation had its birth a little less than a century and a half ago. Many have been the vicissitudes which have attended our progress from that day to this. At the present a government "by the people and for the people" receives recognition in the council of nations, while at that time it was considered an unpardonable heresy.

The happy results came about through the efforts of statesmen and through the patriotism of their fellow citizens. They have all consciously or unconsciously heeded the silent but ever effective call of the founders of our nation. No man could then do justice in judging the character of their ideals; but other times and other men are reiterating their plea for universal liberty. Conspicuous among these stands that heroic diplomat of yesterday—John Hay.

Has there ever been a man greater than he whose acts as Secretary of State, placed the United States in a position as commanding as was ever occupied by any nation? His diplomatic wisdom is the result of a life work with the leading men of the world. John Hay developed with his country. Inspired by the spirit of America he has aroused the world to a desire for righteousness and justice in internal relations.

The secret of this man's influence lies in his strong convictions and sturdy character. When but a boy

he was graduated from Brown University, with the highest literary honors. Studying law under Abraham Lincoln, one of the greatest students of world politics, he was soon admitted to the bar in Springfield, Illinois. Life to him meant perfection in every phase. Above all other attainments, he was an accomplished citizen of the world. Loyalty was essentially a predominant characteristic. Loyalty! not a lover of self, not a lover of our nation only, but a lover of humanity! Has there ever before been a citizen of the United States who has so nearly transformed the chaos of the world's events into international creation? Caesar with his pomp and splendor could not move the world with greater majesty! Nevertheless, the present age does not appreciate the man, because he did not bid for popularity, but remained behind the scenes, watching the modest but ever progressive results of his astute policy.

Previous Secretaries did not penetrate deeply into their work; did not seek to eradicate the primary cause of existing evils, and left affairs extremely complicated. Appalled by the magnitude of the forces directly opposing truth and justice in international relations, John Hay hesitatingly gave his service as Secretary of State. His first really great work began with the Cuban situation. Conditions had changed since the

Civil War in the United States. In 1861, brother fought against brother because of an ancient institution. The interests of humanity were at stake. The North conquered after a long and weary struggle. The interests of humanity triumphed. The revolt against inhuman conditions at our country's very door in 1898; the rescue of Cuba from Spanish tyranny and oppression, was urged by all parties, by the North and the South, by the East and the West, with equal emphasis. At that time, President McKinley had little knowledge of European politics, but he knew men, and accomplished a masterstroke in sending as ambassador to London, the man in whom rested our Nation's destiny—John Hay.

An alliance of nations with Spain would have thwarted our plan in behalf of Cuba. Spain must be kept isolated. England had power to make or mar the alliance. With an unconquerable will and an audacious boldness in behalf of justice, Mr. Hay so vividly presented the high purposes of the United States, that the English premier convinced all nations, that the Cuban question concerned only the United States; that if Spain and the United States must fight, England would not interfere; and that every nation must observe the laws of neutrality. War ensued, with result known to all men. With an independent and constitutional government, the Cubans today stand higher than the men who shot them down half a generation ago.

Commerce has ever been endangered by warring nations. These dangers were greatly diminished during the Anglo-Boer war. England declared that "food-stuffs" in transit to an enemy's ports were to be considered contraband of war. John Hay persuaded England to accept a general declaration to the contrary, unless there was proof that the food was intended for the enemy's military uses. Greatly did this increase the present feeling of good will among the nations.

With unusual statesmanship, Mr. Hay saw great things to be accomplished in the Far East. Having been for centuries exclusive, China thought little of her possibilities as a commercial power. A military nation she had never been. Incapable of self-defence the injustice of the "opium war" only aroused an indignant desire for future retribution. Little wonder that England was unsuccessful in procuring free trade! The only Secretary of State who was able to negotiate with China was John Hay. Obtaining an agreement among the powers that Chinese ports should remain open on equal terms of trade to all nations, he convinced China that our only demand was freedom of commerce—an "open door" to her market. Through this and all subsequent events he cautiously avoided any interference with her national traditions and policy.

Through the course of years, European nations have eagerly sought an opportunity to partition China among themselves. Their

hostilities aroused the great Empire from its lethargy. A spirit of reform—a modernizing spirit began to show itself. Then that strict conservative party, "The Boxers," rebelliously arose, dethroned the Emperor, executed his advisers, slaughtered the missionaries, and imperiled the lives of all foreign ambassadors. The only minister of foreign affairs who understood the situation was John Hay. His "Circular Note" revealed to all nations the principles which underlay the disorders in China. After procuring her commercial integrity, he next insured her territorial integrity. Fearless of the world, he maintained the administrative entity of China.

Having changed the policy of other nations, he attempted to improve the sentiments of his own people. For fifty years we desired to cut a canal across the Isthmus of Panama; for fifty years that privilege was denied us. To remove the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, Secretary Hay's most formidable enemy was not England, but the United States Senate. Alone he dared to struggle with that obstinate body; alone he was victorious. The Hay-Pauncefote treaty has been adopted. The project of the Isthmian Canal, the greatest commercial feature of the Twentieth Century, which has never had a parallel in history is destined to be realized.

Empire builders we have had in the past, but the sword has invariably been their confidence. In contrast with these John Hay, our world builder, has ushered in a new era of diplomacy. He has built a nation upon a firmer foundation, by showing to the world that the in-

terests of nations are interdependent, that no two can clash without disturbing the equilibrium of all, and that no nation should choose as its own destiny, the advancement of self at the expense of a weak neighbor. Paradoxical as it may seem, his diplomacy has shown to the world that the only way for any nation to grow permanently strong is to exercise due consideration for the interests of other nations. Such a policy establishes confidence, and confidence begets prosperity and universal harmony.

As the author of the far sighted statemanship which limited the conflict over Cuba to the two warring nations, Spain and the United States; as the author of the open door of China, the administrative entity of China; the limiting of actual hostilities during the Russo-Japanese war, and the possibility of an Isthmian Canal because of the abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, the name of John Hay will go down into history as the one man who has shown clearly to the world that the hostilities fought by a fair and kind diplomacy are fraught with far greater results for the well being of the race than those of war could ever be.

The life work of such a man will ever prove an inspiration to mankind. The key of it all will be found in his unswerving adherence to the right. His delight was in making such a record for himself and for his country, that when the pages of history should be turned back a thousand years, there would be found written concerning him—John Hay was a man.

An Impetus to Scholarship.

James L. McBride, '04.

THE little article of Mr. Helmer's in a recent Almanian struck a very responsive chord in the Alumni, for the attitude of every old grad towards scholarship at Alma is expressed in Mr. Helmer's insistence upon a high standard of excellence in every undergraduate department.

Of course it is comparatively easy for an old grad to find flaws here and there in the college from which he has gone forth in the Brave Days of Old. For to him and doubtless to him only, it seems as if the men on the present eleven cannot tackle and kick and hit the line like the gridiron warriors of his day. Neither the shoots and twists of the present pitchers look quite so bewildering as they did back in the '90's when he forsooth, donned the dusty uniform and went forth to the fray; for it may even be that the fatal three strikes that once sent him in silence to a wrathful coach have long ago developed into a home-run that saved the day. Ah, yes, take it all in all, the college world, in a scholastic, athletic, certainly in a social sense is not quite the same as when we were undergrads. It is just as in other reminiscences when the perspective of years lends a halo to the men of the past that does not glorify the head of the present collegian. And the reason for it all is that we have come to believe that the way we

did things then was the identical way in which we would do them now—if we only had the chance.

Yet it is equally true that the man who has lived through his college life, possesses the advantage of a retrospect which the undergrad does not possess. And further because he has lived to supply some of the demands of the world outside the college campus. The old grad should be in a better position to determine what would have best prepared him to answer successfully some of the imperative questions to which the every-day world compels an answer.

And so I say, I believe that Mr. Helmer struck the keynote that can be swelled out into the fulltoned chorus of a successful college course when he insisted that the standard of scholarship should be raised. For High Standard is only another way of spelling Thoroughness.

The graduate never gives up his belief in a liberal education; he would urge every man in college to take a keen interest in all the activities of college life, conforming to the end desired. But he has observed that the man who does things after graduation is not the man colloquially termed a Jack of all Trades, but he who has inquired and delved and studies and labored in some restricted sphere and by the way, the weightiest objection urged by the university men

against the small college is the inability to specialize in the small college as much as the ungraduate should if he would do full justice to the technical training that succeeds the literary course. For, say the university advocates, the undergrad in the school of scant numbers is compelled to participate in too many varying activities. But we question this for there is no doubt that Alma offers as good a course as any college great or small, in the state and that her graduates find themselves as well versed in the subjects constituting the curriculum, as do the graduates from any other school needs one proof. Some little Greek and Latin and Mathematics have been mastered and may be in such a form that they are ready for instant use. And this smattering of scholastic knowledge may represent a limited amount of diligent application for the time being. The graduate's A.B. or B.S. may be deserved and that it usually is deserved I have no doubt.

But this is not enough if the standard represented by a college diploma is to conform to the requirements for success exacted by an arbitrary world. For a man, if his success in after life is to be measured by his college achievements must do in college far more than is really required at the present time to secure his degree. And this increment to the regular work is what constitutes the thoroughness for which there is an extensive demand, to say the least.

There are two ways to raise the

standard that will secure this thoroughness, first by an appeal to the student, or otherwise through the demands of the course as conducted by the instructor. Now will the student struggle to increase this increment if left to himself? Hardly, for he is usually satisfied with a fair class standing. And yet marks of credit rarely reveal the amount of actual work done, but only the man's natural ability to secure a sufficient grip on the subject to secure the coveted mark. We are fond of lauding the college man's honor, but though he be honorable in all else, he not infrequently forgets his obligations toward his highest interest and lays down in the harness when the hill of a magic B or an A has been surmounted. It is against this very satisfaction, some people are so specific as to call it slovenliness that the college course should be directed. It is to eradicate this serious handicap for it will be a handicap in later days, that thoroughness should be insisted upon, and as Mr. Helmer says, thoroughness is secured through the maintenance of a high standard, which we conclude is established by the man behind the desk.

I believe that the best course ever offered in Alma was a course on the Reformation by Prof. Mitchell, and it was the best because it was difficult, almost too difficult for the average Freshman, for several of the class were asked to repeat. One of the finest things about that course was the absolute necessity of doing some hundreds of pages of as-

signed reading that was resolutely required and reported upon.

I have tried to lead up to this conclusion concerning required library work, because I am of the settled conviction that at Alma, we are not, in this respect above the average. It does not become an Alumnus of so few years to criticize or suggest too plainly, but I cannot refrain from stating, that if the student will not read of his own free will, the material as it is presented in the

class room should make it imperative for the student to read far more than the text. Let the course cover such ground, let the standard be so high, let thoroughness be so necessary that the student will be compelled to do outside work to such an extent that the obligation to do things in the best manner possible by searching for one's self will become an unvarying rule of daily life.



Ruboiyat of a Hopeful Man.

I.

See now the dew-washed, sun kissed
laughing Rose
That radiant in her peaceful Garden
grows;
The Man who looks on her renews his
Faith,
And, strengthened, smiling on his path-
way goes.

II.

Lest you with Wine your Thirst of Sor-
row slake,
Oh! from an humble one this Lesson
take
Of one who bent him o'er his Work and
sang
To tell he labored for his Master's sake.

III.

Mourn not the Fact, Oh Pessimist,
That your own Name is smallest in the
List.

Sing on,—the lowly one who sang the
heart
Strings of Ten Thousand into Music
kissed.

IV.

When some misfortune casts you on the
Rocks,
Or, if Thieves hide your wealth behind
strong Locks,
Despair not then. Renew your zeal for
Fortune smiles
On him who sturdily at Fate's Door
knocks.

V.

Earth's a Fair Field where knights in
proven mail
Seek, and, may hap, to find, a Holy
Grail;
And if you find not, still your hand may
reach
And aid some Weary Pilgrim lest he fail!

—F. W. C., '08.

Moike on Things in General.

WHY by golly boiys, every toime Oi go to Alma to visit my gal Oi see somethin' new, a'd uf all th' ways uf doin' things in general, Oi niver saw th' loikes. One uf these co-educational systems, which our colleges have appropriated so widely, is enough to give old Moike th' rickets. Why whin Oi sent my gal up to Alma, Oi thought now they teach em how to be sweet an' nice an' plump, an' sure my gal will be roight in loine whin it comes to mixin' th' gals an' boiys, an' loike as not if they see that my gal an' some young fellow have a natural gravitation toward one another an' th' same stiddy corner, why they'll just pat 'em on th' back an' show 'em their mistakes an' help 'em fix it all up, sure.

Well boiys Oi got taken off my feet just loike as Oi had been struck with a plank.

My gal said that Oi had better come to th' usual sit-'an-look-prim party which expoired every Friday noight. An' Oi thought, now sure, Moike, you'd better go an' see how sufficient your offspring is becomin' in th' art uf seven-up an' feet shufflin' an' some other uf our early-day stunts, sure.

Why boiys, Oi wish you have seen th' fun. It was a reg'lar little paradise with th' little cherubs sittin' around on their pedestals, till th' he-cherubs would come around and set near them on pedestals too. Thin they'd gige an' giggle until

one big cherub whom they all seemed to worship with an awful awe, would take a promenade down the reception hall. Th' magic charm which that cherub cast was loike a sunbeam. Th' she-cherubs an' he-cherubs would look heavenly.

A boiy came an' talked with my gal an' Oi told her to go take a walk—that she needn't feel backward, 'cause Oi could talk with th' big cherub. She said no, they wouldn't let her walk only once a week with a boiy, an' then only in daytime, 'cause 'twas naughty,—that's roight, boiys.

Oi thought Oi'd ask th' big cherub to have a hand at cribbage, if she had a board. She said she would if it weren't for settin' th' example. My, Oi pity that cherub havin' to play solitaire all her life whin th' gals, accordin' to all Oi calculate, were havin' such good old games uf whist and poker upstairs every noight.

Oi was moighty surprised to see how that bunch uf cherubs thinned out by eight o'clock. My gal said they were all tired and had gone to bed. By golly Oi should think they would get tired of such amusements as they have in that joint. Oi asked my gal if she was intendin' to go to Jackson nixt year, but she didn't see the point. Oi suppose they git used to this close confinement in toime.

Oi wint to a somethin' they called chapel one mornin'. Oi didn't know

what they came there for, tho' Oi concluded it was to get their lessons for th' day. But they said afterwards that they came so they wouldn't get any black marks against their character. Oi was surprised to see how many of th' big fellows wore great thick sweaters with a big A on 'em. They seemed awful proud of 'em. It ain't often you get somethin' to be proud of up there at Alma—unless it's your record in Bible, they say.

Oi visited two museums for stuffed animals, etc. One was called Hood Museum, th' other Pioneer Hall. Th' latter was much more interestin', cause they had fixed some of those stuffed criters so they could swear and talk. One of 'em was female. She seemed to be noted for sweapin' and talkin'. They informed me that this specimen was exceedingly rare. Her habitat, it was said, was in th' vicinity of the campus. Oi didn't just catch the drift. They said she was a sociable creature; "Animalis Entertainibus" was th' technical name, if Oi've not lost th' checker. This referred to th' peculiar trait of havin' th' young gintlemen professors and intimate bachelor friends at tea. Another specimen was a creature of physical beauty, genus homo, color whoite, ancestry unknown, disposition merr-y, prospects favorable, habitat a lecture room. He seemed to me loike a favorable person for my son-in-law, but, as Oi said, he was but a specimen.

That makes me think of another specimen of different nature, but

very sufficient in his loine. He was instructor of cornet in th' college, Oi learned. There were none of his pupils who could play as he did. Even th' most refined audience he entertained convulsively, they said. Oi didn't know what they meant unless it was that his music could never be forgotten.

One of th' best soights was th' daily gymnasium work. It was conducted on an extravagant basis, they said; Oi noticed they were foolin' on a new mat. There was an instructor for ivery boiy and they was doin' wonders. Oi tell you it is th' systematic trainin' that these colleges afford which so agreeably benefits th' student.

There were three other things which Oi particularly enjoyed. One was a select hop which th' Faculty and Oi had down to th' San. One of the pals told me not to let on, cause th' students might get wise and petition for th' privilege, which of course would have to be granted. This would necessitate a new instructor for th' heavy footed.

Another thing which filled me heart with jim-jams was a visit to th' department of reptiles. Th' professor seemed to be an intimate terms with his snakes, being able to give th' birthplace, together with a complete biographical sketch of each one. Th' most of them were born in Africa, Ireland an' St. Louis, he said. Sure boiys, Oi wish Oi had a knowledge of such things, Oi do by golly.

But Oi was agoin' to tell you another thing Oi attended. It was th'

state contest uf oratories, Oi recall. They had it in a big place so th' hot air would not sufficate th' people, as it was remarked by th' chairman. Oi have heard wonderful things but nothin' loike this for noise since that Indian foight at th' college last fall. Why, boiys, a fellow would get up an' bristle an'

bluster an' sit down; then up would jump some fellows an' give a war-whoop or a song, an' when they got tired, then they'd give th' nixt fellow a chance. Th' fellow that won was given a dollar, Oi guess. Oi wondered where mine came in, but —Oi guess Oi'll cut it out.

F. J. S.



QUOTATIONS OF THE STIDDIES

P. Allured—"Strange things are very fascinating to me."

Finlayson—"It is Pierson my heart!"

Lindley—"Beryl still sings
Lindley, Lindley
Sweet as a sugar-cane
Lindley, Lindley,
Won't you be mine
When the stars am ashining
Then my heart am apining
Meet me pretty Lindley
Down by the watermelon
vine"

(Sung to the tune of Lindy)

Percy—"It Simms (seems) like Eva."

Rohns, reciting in history—"Wallace is the pride of the Presbyterian church, in Alma of course."

Tomes, in one of his flights of desperate hunger—"But as for me, give me a good cook, or give me death."

E. Allured—"Ione a Park (er)

F. Cobb—"Polly wants a cracker (jack) that's me.

Morse—"Occasionally I like a fine Hunt. Bastone—"Of all the colors, Brown is my favorite."

L. Anderson—"I giss I'm Holden Lila."

Horst—"Coats pressed to the best of my ability on and after this date."

Humphrey—"I like Black very well."

Taylor—"I wonder how I'll Markham."

Garcia—"By revelations our Visions becomes bright and fair."

Williams to Miss Francis—"How do you like sweet-williams?"

Casterlin—"Grace when endowed in a person is an exquisite luxury."

Sutton—"I a Dor (a) pretty girls."

Fairman—"I will help Eisman take Caro (f) the Whitneys."

Smith—"I must have a coat."

M. Cobb—"Lynn me some witch-Hazel."

Moon—"I Rhod (a) near Braddock."

Adams—"I like to stroke my Baird."

Moore—"I'll have Nun to do with them, they like Moore too well, I giss I'll play my cornet."



ALMANIAN.

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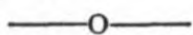
BY this time the orators in the
state contest, recently held at
Alma, have recovered from the
shocks of defeat or from the exulta-
tions of victory, and can look back
upon the event with sane minds and

unprejudiced views. Of course the
best man won. The best man al-
ways does—that is, we say so; for
what else is there to say? It is use-
less to “harp” about careless judges,
lottery decisions, college pulls, and
the like. There is one consolation
for the defeated orators, that pos-
sibly other judges would have had
other opinions. Why yes, without
a doubt, there are as many minds
in the world as individuals. But
what need is there of clinging to any
such consolation. The best way to
dispel the pangs of defeat is to
make another effort and do better.

We extend our congratulations
and the best wishes of Alma College
to the gentleman whose proud dis-
tinction it will be to represent the
colleges of Michigan at the inter-
state contest in the not far distant
future. We would be honored—we
colleges of the Wolverine state—if
a Michigan man captured the prize
which orators of Missouri, Kansas,
Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Minnesota,
Iowa, Colorado, Nebraska and Wis-
consin are striving for. We will
await with interest the outcome.

For the present the memory of
the recent event will claim an occa-
sional thought. Alma College was
pleased to entertain the representa-
tives and delegates of the various
schools. This was the first time
that the state orators have exploded
their bombastic sentiments before
an Alma audience. We enjoyed the
novelty of the occasion, the efferves-
cence of the occasion—and the dig-
nity, the earnestness, the inspiration
of the occasion. The enthusiasm of

the delegates and the appeals of the orators have enlivened Alma students and given them something to think about. The existence of the State Oratorical Association and the rivalry of the contests surely furnish an impetus to literary efficiency in the various colleges of the organization.



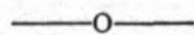
MAY we say a word about a trainer for spring athletics without being rated as cranks upon Alma's athletic situation? We learn regarding baseball that the authorities have practically secured the service of a gentleman of this city, whose ability as a ball-player and a coach can not be challenged. If the gentleman can be upon the field to help the fellows, the prospects for a successful season may well be spoken of as favorable.

But as to a trainer in the track work and wrestling. It is, indeed, rather late to begin a systematic training for the wrestles. Such work should have been in progress for weeks past. Yet it is by no means too late. As for track work, the time for training is at hand.

Are we to put the material at our disposal at work, or must Alma depend for success in the inter-collegiate meet in June upon the few who are interested enough to get out and work undirected? Alma's record at the state meets for some time past has not been enviable, yet the other colleges have shared with us the proceeds of the meets, as yet

making no complaint against our lack of interest or initiative in the various events and contests. But we are assured that there is a limit to patience.

Let's have a trainer who can send to the state meet a squad of men who can do Alma justice. We have the material. The students can supply the material if the authorities can supply the means.



WE learn that our resourceful president has still other plans and greater hopes for the beautification of Alma's campus and the better equipment of Alma's teaching facilities. Not only does he plan and conserve every effort for the building of a boys' dormitory opposite Wright Hall, a Science Hall opposite the Administration Hall, but also for an Ethical Laboratory to be erected on the elevated ground north of the Gymnasium. Here he plans to erect a Greek Temple in miniature, not extravagant but of sufficient size and equipment to accommodate classes in ethics for years to come. Over the door of the building, engraved in Greek will be Socrates' great injunction, "Know Thyself." The interior will be beautified by pictures, busts, statues and books which will make more real the men and the history of Ethics from the time of Moses to the time of Kant and on to the present day. We hope that the realization of this unique plan may be not far distant.

Alumni.

ALUMNI NOTES.

Professor Davis, of U. of M., recently examined the condition of the Caro public schools and reports very favorably upon them. This reflects credit upon the management of Supt. E. E. Fell "02." L. J. Butler "05" and Misses Wood and Taggett "K. G." are all connected with this school.

Miss Margaret Fitzpatrick "03" is principal of schools at Alabaster, Michigan. She organized the school system there upon a very satisfactory basis.

John Y. Brook "03" was a delegate to the recent student volunteer convention at Nashville representing New Brunswick seminary, New Jersey. He reports a very pleasant year at the seminary.

The tendency of Alma to produce teachers and preachers was shown by an old student photograph recently noticed by the editor; the picture is of seven Alma men, Foote and Randels of "00" the former of Pennsylvania State Normal, the latter of Alma, Fell "02" of Caro, Bush of "01" Tuscola County school commissioner, Porter of "99" Parkersburg, Va., A. R. Eastman "01"

Philippines, Carmichael "01" of Holly, Mich. Five teachers and two preachers.

Miss Pauline Hazelton "03" for two years instructor at Genesee Institute, Illinois, is now teaching in the high school at Howard City, Mich.

Miss Lena Morton "04" who has been spending the winter with friends in Chicago is regaining her health and expects to return to her home near Alma about the first of May.

Rev. B. S. Bates, '98, formerly pastor at Hebron, Ill., is now at Berwyn, Ill.

Wesley Bradfield, '02, is this year in Chicago, having charge of the Regionary Studies of the Forestry Department under Civil Service.

Mrs. Jennie Quick Fuller, of Hibbing, has been in Alma visiting for several weeks.

We learn that Watson Robinson, '02, is now in his own law office at 27 Williams Street, New York.

The Alumni Association of the Northwest now claims in its membership about one-half of Alma's graduates or former students who spent considerable time at the college.



Among the Colleges.

M. A. C.

The farmers have a band and the band plays. A concert was recently

given, which scored a hit, so to speak.

The Juniors at M. A. C. recently

enjoyed something which the denominational schools don't schedule. It was the annual hop. It was, as the Record says, the crowning social function of the class of 1907. The evening's program opened with a reception at the Woman's building at 7:30 on the evening of February 16. This was followed by a banquet attended by 120 persons. An elaborate feast was laid upon the board; toasts followed; at a later hour, all assembled at the Armory, where Finzel's orchestra of Detroit, put light feet to fantastic step. Of course the leading music numbers were "Dearie," "Rufus Rastus" and "How'd You Like To Spoon With Me." Magnificent decorations adorned the halls.

Sophomores tried to fill the room with H. 2 S. gas but the failure is thus commemorated:

H 2 S.

Tune—Tammany.

H two S. H two S.

'06 had a stunt in view
With '08 to put it through.

H two S. H two S.

If they'd made it; we'd have staid—nit.

H two S.

H two S. H two S.

Some wise Juniors got a hunch,
And they fooled that foxy bunch.

H two S. H two S.

Without mischance they had that dance.

H two S.



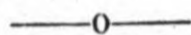
Ypsilanti.

Julius H. Moeller, who represented Ypsilanti at the state contest, was alternative to Harold E. Williams, who, though the winner at the local meet, was compelled to give up the honor of representing his college on account of illness.

Normal debaters have been mak-

ing big preparations for their annual debate with M. A. C., May 18. The subject is: Resolved that railroad rates should be fixed by a national commission.

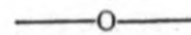
Ypsi won a double header on Mt. Pleasant, Feb. 22, in basketball, the girls winning the first game 21 to 18, the boys 33 to 18.



Olivet.

The Olivet "Echo" has a "Round Table" department, which expresses personal views. A recent discussion scores the custom at a college of "running in" property. The writer makes the astonishing statement that "running in" and stealing are the same thing. His appeal for a higher moral standard is a worthy one. Are not students generally too free with other persons' property?

The Olivet basket ball team has roused from its lethargy of years past, according to the "Echo", and is this winter making a good record under Coach Kennedy.



Hope.

The February issue of the Hope "Anchor" was entitled "Contest Number," and contains several of the orations delivered at the local contest.

Last month the collegian at Hope held a "Society Festival" to raise money for athletics. A large auditorium was fitted up with booths, where every manner of souvenir was sold. Many a comic stunt was performed. The big cry of the carnival was: "Every time you hit

the faculty, you get a revenge," and all the co-eds strove to hit the revolving pictures of professors.

—o—

Hillsdale.

The Hillsdale "Collegian" recently appeared with a half dozen discussions upon "What Hillsdale Needs in Athletics."

The gymnasium at Hillsdale has

been improved, so that now it can be used, which suggest what its condition has been.

Hillsdale's curriculum includes domestic science, and practical cooking is the regular thing.

According to schedule of baseball Hillsdale plays at Alma on May 22nd.



About the Campus.

Washington's Birthday Banquet.

Zeta Sigma's annual stag function, the Washington's birthday banquet, was held at the Alma Sanitarium, February 22nd, and was a memorable occasion in the history of the society. An unusual number of honorary members were present from among the old graduates and former students of the college. Covers were laid for thirty-two, and for about four hours there was a continual flow of wit, humor, and good fellowship around the festive board. An excellent menu was served, which was enjoyed as is only possible at a stag occasion.

Frank R. Hurst, '04, of Lansing, acted as toastmaster, and seven of the members were called upon for responses. Wallace F. Webber, '03, spoke on "Washington, Our Ideal." Lucius Bagley, '03, recalled old times in speaking of "Our Old Scraps." Robert Craig, '08, responded to the subject, "Zeta Sigma's Friendship." Harold G. Gaunt, '06, indulged in some prophetic

hopes and spoke on "A Hope for the Future." Prof. Geo. B. Randels, '00, brought to mind the by-gone days, in responding to the subject, "The Boys of Auld Lang Syne." Paul H. Bruske, '98, was given a wide scope, and responded to "Any Old Thing."

The honorary members present were Prof. J. E. Mitchell, Prof. Geo. B. Randels, Prof. E. D. Pennell, Prof. E. N. Transeau, Ph. D.; P. H. Bruske, Wallace Webber, J. Earle Webber, Reuben Brown, Will Brown, F. R. Hurst, John Shiner, Lucius Bagley and Henry Soule.

—o—

EXCELLENT CONCERT.

The musicians of the college presented one of the most enjoyable concerts of the year, on the evening of February 24. Some funds were needed for the Nashville delegates, and this seemed a feasible way to get them. The entertainment was of a popular nature largely, many of the selections being humorous and novel in several respects.

The girls chorus made a hit by a song about a fair Alma co-ed, the verses being the result of Miss Frazier's muse-invoking. The boys octette lead the program with their highly appreciated numbers. The following are the present members of the octette: Morse, Walker, Eyer, McNitt, Allured, Sutton, Cook and Cross. Excellent solos were rendered by Grace Messinger, Dora, Herman Morse, George Sutton and Wm. Cross.

—o—

ITEMS OF THE MONTH.

The Glee Club have been planning on a trip in the Thumb during the spring recess.

Miss Susie Hawes, Miss Ruth Pierson and Mr. Frank Angell went as delegates to the international convention of the Student Volunteers held at Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 22-25.

The debate, planned for February 19, between Zeta Sigma and Phi Phi Alpha was cancelled on account of confictions regarding time of speaking. Zeta Sigma retains the cup.

Baseball practice is under way. The schedule has been arranged by Prof. Pennell and is an exceptional good one.

Miss Grace Johnson entertained her mother and sister at Wright Hall Feb. 17-19.

Miss Kate Inglis visited in Ypsilanti, Feb. 17-19.

Herbert Schultz has returned to college.

We learn that Rev. W. F. Jones, former pastor at Tecumseh, who is

well known at Alma, has accepted the pastorate at Fairfield, Iowa.

A committee of the Presbyterian church are now about to purchase a pipe organ for the church, which they hope to have in place by June.

Harry Helmer attended the state convention of the Y. M. C. A. at Adrian, Feb. 17-19. He had the honor of giving an address.

Miss Elizabeth Hunt entertained several friends at Wright Hall on the evening of Feb. 23 in honor of William Cooper, who was then about to depart for the sunny south. A dainty spread was served.

Alpha Theta officers gave the society girls a spread following a recent election.

William Winton, '04, of Ithaca, preached at the Presbyterian church Feb. 25.

Miss Edna Allen, 'ex '07, was a college visitor Feb. 25.

Frank Hurst, of Lansing, and Erle Webber, of Omena, when in Alma recently, gave most enjoyable talks before the chapel assembly, bringing forth cheer after cheer in response to their amusing stories. Mr. Webber has entered upon Y. M. C. A. at M. A. C. to succeed Mr. Hurst who has gone to Lenawee to take charge of county Y. M. C. A. work.

Erle Casterlin and Elizabeth Hunt are tutoring academic history classes.

It is said a certain K. G. girl has recently indulged in most satisfactory dreams. The only fault she has to find is that someone heard her "sleep-talk" and told the joke.

Rev. Maurice Grigsby, of Chicago, spoke at the chapel exercises on March 1. He told of his work in Chicago, including many humorous incidents which occur in his life as a city pastor. His talk was greatly enjoyed.

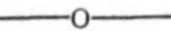
Vacation begins March 16. During the recess the male octette accompanied by the Misses Messinger, Alexander and Swigart will tour Central Michigan.

Zeta Sigma elected officers last Monday evening.

The annual indoor meet was held at the gymnasium last Saturday evening. The 'varsity basketball team won out by a score of 15-6. The winners in the wrestles were S. Alured, Byron Chapel, "Billy" Fairman, Jose Garthea and Frank Angell. The winners go to M. A. C. Friday to meet the farmers in the annual dual meet.

The seniors were royally entertained at Wright Hall last Saturday evening by two members of that class, Beryl Kefgen and Harold Gaunt.

The college is now being besieged by general agents for all kind of view companies, magazines, and the like.

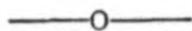


SENIOR.

The Seniors have recovered from the scandal published last month. Untruth never hurt much, anyway.

William Cooper needed a rest and some recreation of different nature than he could get at Alma, so he is now in Florida, for a month or so, getting better.

Howard Potter is practically vice-president of the college now, since Dr. Bruske has appointed him to teach in the absence of his majesty, the president.



ZETA SIGMA.

The feasts of the past few weeks have made the fellows fat!

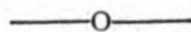
The society boys have adopted blue and white as colors, and have procured

ribbons which are to be wore hereafter at each society meeting.

The banquet of the 22d of February made a happy reunion of old friends.

The society is now planning upon the annual public to be held in the not far distant future.

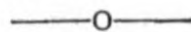
The Zeta Sigma society had the pleasure of entertaining the Alpha Theta girls on Feb. 26. The ladies delivered their usual program, which was excellent in every respect. After this a delightful social hour was spent. Refreshments were served.



FROEBEL.

The society at the beginning of the second semester elected its officers for the remainder of the year. Helen Francis was chosen president, Edith Royce, vice president; Sila Holden, secretary; and Stella Lang, treasurer.

The work being taken up this semester in the society is along different lines from previous work. The programs are read two weeks in advance so that all may be prepared upon the subject. At each meeting a paper is read on an interesting and instructive topic chosen by the program committee. This is followed by a discussion or debate in which everyone may join.



WRIGHT HALL.

On the afternoon of the State Oratorical Contest, Miss Allen, Miss Gilston and Miss Ingles entertained the Faculty and their wives and the Senior class in honor of the contestants and the delegates from the different colleges. The delegation was shown through the Hall and we were very much gratified at the expressions of approval which our dormitory home called forth. The Hopé girls were especially interested because they are about to have a new Dormitory and they are more enthusiastic than ever after their tour of Wright Hall.

Miss Ingles and Miss Kathleen Hopkin entertained Miss Louise Taylor, of M. A. C., during her stay at Alma.

The Y. M. C. A. delegates to Nashville had a good send off. Fifteen or twenty girls accompanied them regardless of eight o'clock classes which allowed for the exercise of Christian graces on the part of their instructors.

The Y. M. C. A. room has recently undergone a complete transformation. Thanks to some good fairy. The furniture has been rearranged, the room thoroughly cleaned, and brightened up generally.

Some College Verse.

His Letter.

"Dear Father:
Please excuse," he wrote,
"The hurried shortness of this note,
But studies so demand attention
That I have hardly time to mention
That I am well, and add that I
Lack funds; please send me some.
Good bye, your loving son."

He signed his name,
And hastened to the—football game.
—W. R. Hereford, "Harvard Lampoon."

Sub-Mistletoe.

We two stood near
The chandelier,
With mistletoe upon it.
A lovely girl,
My head awhirl,
Her wrap—I'll help her don it.

A button caught;
I surely ought
To help when she'd begun it.
A pause, a hush,
A kiss, a blush,
And now, by Jove, I've done it.
—"Lehigh Burr."

A Discovery in Biology.

I think I know what Cupid is;
Bacteria Amoris;
And when he's fairly at his work
He causes dolor cordis.
So if you'd like, for this disease,
A remedy specific,
Prepare an antitoxine, please,
By methods scientific.
Innoculate another heart
With germs of this affection,
Apply this culture to your own
'Twill heal you to perfection.
—Mary Leverett, "Vassar Miscellany."

The Sweet Girl Graduate.

So stately and so dignified
She looks in cap and gown,
I hardly dare to speak to her,
This grad of great renown.

I scarcely can believe my eyes!
It surely can't be she
Who always seemed so very shy,
So very coy to me!

But suddenly the spell departs,
And I give thanks to fate;
For anxiously she asks me if
Her mortar-board's on straight.
—"Harvard Lampoon."

A Toast.

Clink, clink,
Fill up your glasses.
Drink, drink,
Drink to the lasses.
Eyes that the blue,
Lips that are sweet,
Hearts that are true,
Figures petite.

Clink, clink,
Fill up your glasses.
Drink, drink,
Drink to the lasses.
Drink, for there's nothing so sweet as
a maid is;
Drink to the dearest of mortals,
The Ladies.
—Henry Morgan Stone, "Brunonian."

I Flunked Today.

I flunked today. "I'm not prepared,"
Was all I said. Still less I cared.
No more I strive the depths to try
Or drink the fount of wisdom dry;
Yet once at learning's court I fared.

There with the best my work compared;
My weary brain was never spared.
But now,—some one could tell you why
I flunked today.

As once to college I repaired,
A half-veiled glance my heart ensnared.
I felt my love (for knowledge) die;
And thus it was without a sigh
I flunked today.
—Albert Terhune, "Columbia Spectator."

To the Faculty.

You tell us in philosophy
That time does not exist,
That 'tis but a film of fancy,
A little mental mist.
And space—why space is nothing
More than mere mode of thought,
A sort of mental telescope
Our feeble minds have wrought.
Well, if that's true Respected Sirs
I'll breakfast at my ease
And think myself in chapel
Just as often as you please.
—H. K. Webster, "Hamilton Literary
Monthly."

Canoe Song.

Dip! dip! softly slip
Down the river shining wide,
Dim and far the dark banks are;
Life is love and naught beside.
Onward drifting with the tide.

Drip, drip, from paddle tip
Myriad ripples swirl and swoon;
Shiv'ring 'mid the ruddy stars,
Mirrored in the deep lagoon,
Faintly floats the mummied moon.

Soft, soft, high aloft,—
Ever thus till time is done,—
Worlds will die; may thou and I
Glide beneath a gentler sun,
Young as now and ever one.

E. Frere Champney,
"Harvard Advocate."



Smiles and Josh.

"What's in here?" asked the tourist.
"Remains to be seen," responded the
guide, as he led the way into the mor-
gue.—Ex.

"High grades by Seniors reached and
kept,
Were not attained by main and might,
But they, while Sophs and Freshies slept,
Were riding ponies in the night."—
Exchange.

"Did you ever notice this,
When a fellow takes a kiss
From a righteous little maiden calm
and meek,
How her scriptural learning shows,
In not turning up her nose,
But in simply turning 'round the other
cheek."—Ex.

Two lonesome skunks sat by the road
As an automobile rushed by.
It left an odor far from good,
And a tear was in one's eye.
"Oh why do you weep?" said his anxious
friend,
"Oh why do you sob and quake?"
"Because that smell," said the other
skunk,
"Was like mother used to make."

All please rise and join lustily in the
chorus—
Everybody works but the Seniors,
And they sit around all day,
Spooning in the corners
To pass the time away.
Sophomores plug debating,

Freshmen learn their dics.,
Everybody works in college
But the class of 1906.

Women and Arrows.

Young ladies—would you guess it?
—are like arrows, don't you know?

They cannot pierce a single heart until
they have a beau.
And like the helpless arrows which,
alone can nothing do,
Young ladies, till they get a beau, are
in a quiver, too.
—Saturday Evening Post.

Origin of Base Ball.

The Devil was the first coacher. He
coached Eve. She stole first. Adam stole
second. When Isaac met Rebekah she
was walking with the pitcher. Sampson
struck out a good many times when he
beat the Philistines. Moses made his
first run when he slew the Egyptian.
Cain made a base hit when he killed
Abel. Abraham made a sacrifice. The
prodigal son made a home-run. David
was a long distance thrower, and Moses
shut out the Egyptians at the Red Sea.—
American Boy.

"No," said the father to his wayward
son, "I can't expect you to have any re-
spect for me."

"Why not?" inquired the youth.

"Because," answered the old man,
"when I think whose father I am, I can't
even respect myself."

Half in earnest, half in joke,
Tell me maiden ere I'm broke,
Buying lunch and stews for you;
Tell me maiden, tell me true
Ere my money's all turned loose;
Darling, is it any use?

Si—"Do you know why they did not
play cards in the ark?"

Bill—"No."

—Si—"Noah sat on the deck."—Ex.

You must rock the baby,
His mother sternly said;
Johnny got a lot of stones—
Of course the baby's dead.

To illustrate absent mindedness.

A man put his dog to bed and kicked himself downstairs. He didn't discover his mistake till he began to yell and the dog began to snore.—Ex.

A man that steals fifty cents is a "thief."

The man that steals ten thousand dollars is a "defaulter."

If a man steals fifty thousand dollars it is a "shortage."

The man that steals five hundred thousand dollars is a "Napoleon of finance."

But the man that steals a million is a "dandy."

Tramp—"Does this road go to Blanktown?"

Farmer—"Yes."

Tramp—"How long before it starts?"

"I fear you are forgetting me,"

She said in tones polite,

"I am indeed, for getting you,
That's why I'm here tonight."

"They call it electric light," Pat confided to his lordship, "but it do beat me how they make the hairpin burn in the bottle."

"I kissed a college girl one day," related the tall student.

"Did she yell?" inquired his chum.

"I should say so! She gave a college yell that brought the whole class and I had to kiss them all before they'd let me go."—Ex.

He—"This bread of yours, my dear, is a contradiction of the laws of gravity."

She—"Indeed."

He—"Yes, it's as heavy as lead, but it won't go down."

The teacher was describing her encounter with an impertinent tramp. "And then," she said, "I fainted."

"Wi' your left or wi' your right, ma'am?" promptly inquired little Johnnie Jimfries, the pugilist's son.

"You are as full of airs as a music box," said a young man to a girl who refused to let him see her home.

"That may be," was the reply, "but I don't go with a crank."

Knowledge is power—if you know it about the right person.

We should live and learn; but by the

time we have learned it is too late to live.

Pupil. "What is the definition of a savage?" Pupil. "A savage is one who paints his face." (The world would be rather a dangerous one, admitting this fact.)

Professor (shaking pupil by the collar): "Sir, I believe Satan himself has got hold of you."

Pupil (panting): "I believe he has."—Cynosure.

To shave your face and brush your hair,
And then your best new suit to wear,

That's preparation.

And then upon a car to ride,
And walk a mile or two beside,

That's transportation.

And then before the door to smile

And think you'll stay a good long while,
That's expectation.

And then to find her not at home,

And homeward bound you'll have to roam
That's thunderation.

Xenophon says that Greeks used horses
Then why we can't I do not see;
For the Greks knew the tough old language

Just twice as well as we.—Ex.

Mistress—"Did the fisherman who stopped here this morning have frogs' legs?"

Nora—"Sure, mum, I jinnaw. He wore pants."—Cornell Widow.

A friend in need is the thief of time.

Where there's a will there's a lawsuit.

Jones—"Why is a woman like a gold mine?"

Smith (after a moment's hesitation)—
"I don't know."

Jones—"Because one can never estimate her true value."

Smith—"O yes, but nevertheless many a man has gone broke speculating."

Prof. Mitchell (Fresh. History)—"I don't care anything about your remembering dates, but you just ought to know them, that's all."

A common occurrence in Latin class,—

Recitation,

Hesitation,

Pony balked,

Ruinination.—Ex.

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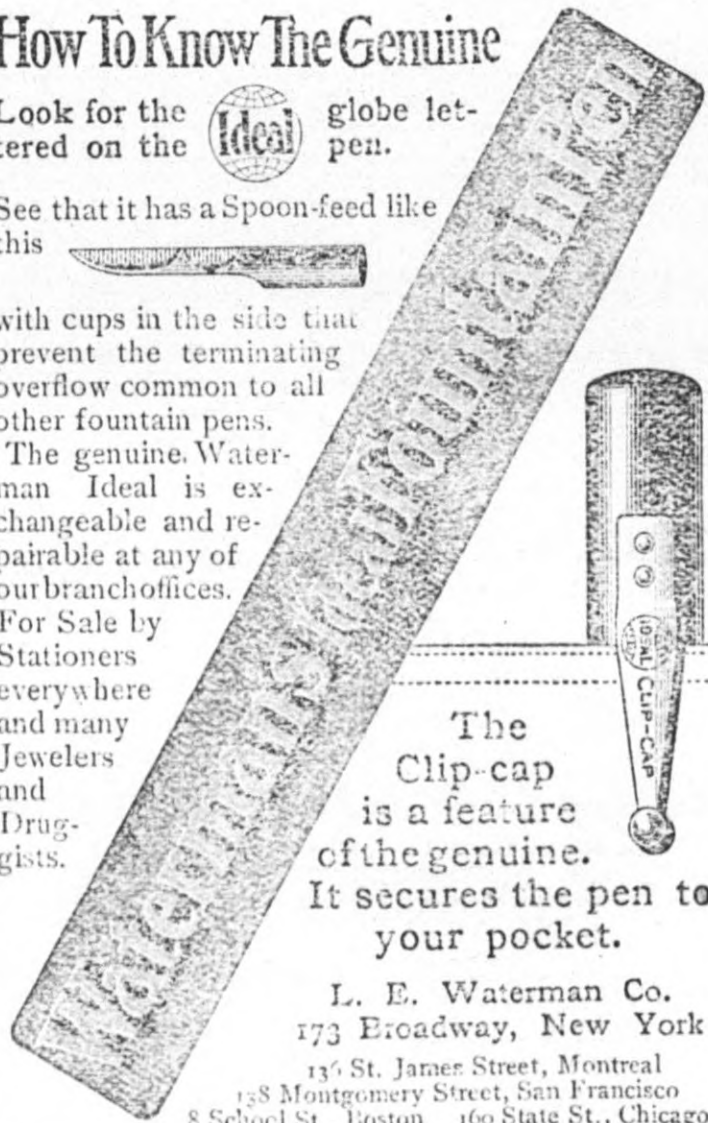
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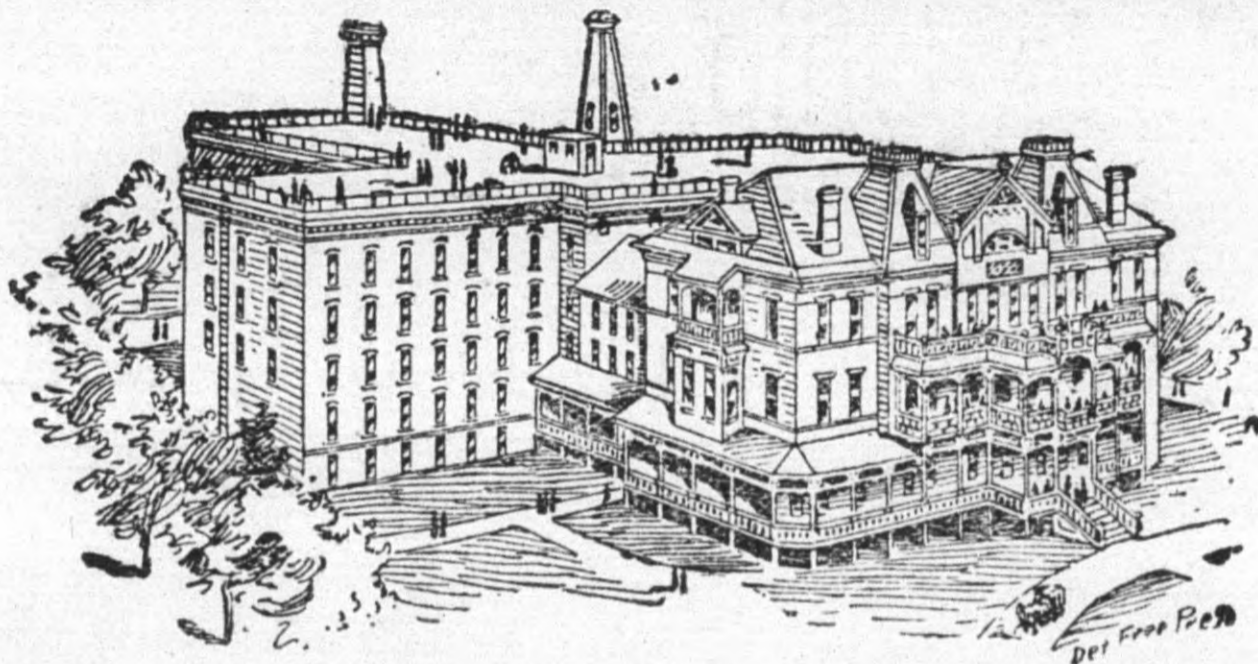
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