

The Weekly Almanian

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VOL. 1. NO. 14.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1907.

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NATIONAL CONVENTION

All About How Graves Went to Washington and What He Did While There.

"All aboard for Buffalo, Bethlehem, Philadelphia, Washington, and all points south." Well, "here we go, or else we don't." "Good bye, old man. Have a good time? Trust me for that. Drop you a card? Sure, you'll hear from us. Good bye." "Might just as well leave your suit cases down, fellows. They have to be examined anyway, before you get into Canada. "Long live the King," says Paul, "he won't find anything in mine but my girl's picture and a guide book." And so it went. More or less jolly and joking to pass the night by and keep us from thinking how nice a good sleep would be if we had the price of a berth. At six thirty a m we rubbed our eyes and blinked out of the car window at the beautiful Niagara. As this is not a description of a tour through the east, but simply a "delegate's report," we cannot monopolize too much of the "rapturous beauties of nature," and so will find you by Niagara, on to Buffalo, aboard the Black Diamond Express, across New York state, past the beautiful lakes Cayuga and Geneva, give you a fleeting glimpse of the campus of Cornell University, hurry you on down through Pennsylvania along the banks of the Susquehanna, around the mountains, through the mountains and over the mountains at more than a mile a minute pace. You will change cars with us at Philadelphia and show us what car to take upon our arrival in Washington. However, it is not necessary, for the Y. M. C. A. has a man waiting for us, and before we know it we tumble into a bed, dead tired out, with only a good night's sleep between us and the convention.

And what a convention it was. The beautiful city of Washington added enchantment and the meetings of the convention furnished inspiration to all. We were acquainted with none of the delegates until we began to separate ourselves by states and then, "what you here," "well, hello, John, glad to see you" etc. was heard from all directions. The first meeting held Friday afternoon in the D A R hall was mostly organization and election of officers for the international association. The immense motto strung across the entire back of the platform, "Unum in Christo," surrounded by flags and banners of all nations reminded us that we were indeed from all parts of the earth to strengthen our "union in Christ" and to perfect plans for the furtherance of His kingdom on earth. The address of the afternoon was given by Rev. Chas. H. Parkhurst of New York City, his subject being, "The Divine Element of Character Building." It was a grand address, as were all the others of the convention. To give a second hand digest

(Continued on next page.)

SYNOD AND COLLEGE.

(The following exposition of the relations of Alma College to the Synod comes from the Rev. T. D. Marsh, D. D., of Grand Rapids. We commend it to our readers as an impartial and valuable contribution to the discussion.)

Alma College is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church and it is controlled by the Synod of Michigan through the election of its trustees, but it is and has been from its beginning non-sectarian. A sectarian college is one in which not only the officers and faculty are members of a particular church but the tenets of that church are taught in the college. All Roman Catholic institutions and some others are of that kind. Alma College has trustees who are members of other churches than the Presbyterian and has had members of other churches in its faculty.

The great truths of religion upon which all Christians agree are taught, but the distinctive doctrines of Presbyterianism are not in its curriculum. Students who go there are not instructed with a view to making them Presbyterians, but they are taught with a view to their being intelligent and faithful Christians. The college may properly be called denominational but should not be called sectarian.

The question for you to discuss is properly whether it would be for the best interests of Alma College to be—if it might—undenominational.

Let us say here that this is not a practical question. There is not only no prospect, there is scarcely a possibility that Alma College shall become undenominational. The discussions in Synod and elsewhere are not leading to that end.

But it is not inappropriate to consider whether Alma College gains or loses by its relations to the Presbyterian Church.

You ask, what would be the principal losses to the college if it were to become (non-sectarian) undenominational?

1. It would lose the inestimable asset of a special and strong, even intense interest in it of a numerous, intelligent, and influential body of people. That is a most valuable asset to any college. No other asset can compensate a college for the loss of that asset. The Presbyterians of Michigan as a body, believe in Alma College and have a just and honorable pride in it.

The late discussions all testify to that, and there are very many other assurances. While it is true that some wealthy Presbyterians have not been ready to give large sums to the college, it is nevertheless true that the Presbyterians of Michigan have had for twenty years a strong and growing interest in the college and have shown their interest in many ways, notably in sending so many of their sons and daughters to be educated there.

2. The college would lose a large portion of its student body if it were not connected with the Presbyterian Church. It may be said in reply to this that it would gain other students, but if it lost the special interest and influence of such a body as the Presbyterians of Michigan there could be no other special interest that would supply

its place and do so much to give it a numerous, vigorous and intelligent student body. The strength and success of any college is not in endowment and equipment only but largely in the students that attend it and its alumni. Alma College has had a steadily growing success in these respects, and much of that success would be lost if it were to lose the interest and influence of the Presbyterians of Michigan.

3. I now come to the most important characteristic of Alma College which is securely guarded by its relations to the Presbyterian Church, and which would be insecure and probably modified if not altogether lost if it were to become undenominational, its evangelical Christian character. Everybody knows that so long as it is a Presbyterian College or is controlled by the Synod of Michigan evangelical religion will be honored in it, and its influence will pervade the institution. To safeguard this influence is the first object of the organic connection of the college with the Presbyterian Church.

If the connection were to cease, and the college should be undenominational it might still retain a religious character, or it might lose it altogether. The evangelical type of religious influence would be endangered if not lost. This has been the fact in some colleges and universities. Harvard University the first college founded in America, was for many years an evangelical Christian college. It was the expectation of its founders that it would always have that character. But with the rise of Unitarianism and its spread in the churches around it, the college, grown to be a great university, and having no denominational control, lost its evangelical character and Unitarian sentiment became predominant in it. I might mention other institutions in which the original evangelical sentiment has been greatly modified or lost.

When the Synod of Michigan founded Alma College it had learned the need of having a college in which evangelical sentiment would be strong and pervasive, and in which those students who were preparing for the gospel ministry might readily and naturally grow into the ministry of the Presbyterian Church instead of being turned away from it. This religious character of Alma College must not be imperilled—I may confidently say, will not be imperilled—by separation from the interest and control of the Presbyterian Church. No advantage whatever that it could gain by becoming independent would be any consideration for rendering this character insecure.

I trust that the students of Alma College will appreciate the value to them of this religious character which joined to advantages and facilities for the best scholarship and intellectual training will give them the highest ideals of manhood and womanhood and make them most useful and happy in the work and achievements of life.

Last Sunday's Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. meetings were full of Christmas inspiration. Each student should expect to come back from the holidays in the best of trim for the meetings that will immediately follow.

WOMAN'S CONTEST

Miss Elvena Hoover, '08, Wins Highest Honors in The Contest of Last Week.

The first annual woman's oratorical contest in Alma College was held last Friday evening in the chapel. Although the night chosen was the one usually given over to recreation, and though the audience was rather small, expenses were more than covered. The general merit of the contest deserves great commendation. Each oration was interesting and well delivered, not one of the speakers failing to make herself understood. The audience greeted each number with hearty and sincere applause. The young women deserve the greatest credit for the work they did in preparing and speaking their orations. Next year it will be but natural to expect a better contest since this one will awaken great enthusiasm, and also give valuable information as to what oratorical contests really mean.

Miss Elvena Hoover carried off first honors. Miss Hazel Fraser came second and Miss Tanner third. The first oration was delivered by Miss Pearl Huber, who spoke on the life of Burns and discussed the power of his poetry. Her delivery was clear and natural and she showed great self command. Miss Lila Fellows followed with a well written and sympathetic character sketch of Francis E. Willard. Her delivery lacked in ease, but was not stiff nor forced, while at times her thought was presented with great vividness. Miss Hoover came next with a splendidly written oration on O'Connell, the Orator. The production was well balanced, coherent, clearcut and eloquent, fully meriting the three firsts in composition which it received. Miss Hoover's delivery while full of fire and dignity lacked the ease which longer practice will develop. Miss Agnes Redmond's oration was entitled "The Oriental Among Us," and consisted of a plea, very forceful and logical, for a recognition of the true merit of the Japanese national character. Miss Redmond's delivery was natural and distinct but lacked life. Miss Lila Tanner expressed a new conception of self reliance in her oration, "Living Without Apology." Her thought was most excellent and well put. Miss Tanner failed in the matter of distinct articulation, but otherwise her delivery was charmingly graceful. The last oration was a plea for the Necessity for Hero Worship, by Miss Fraser. The style of the production was beautiful, and the idea new and fresh. Miss Fraser took first in delivery, her rich voice, clear and careful enunciation, and fine presence easily winning that honor for her. Altogether the young women deserve to be commended on the contest and Miss Hoover, the winner, should get a big Hope.

The music furnished by t.
(Continued on fourth page.)

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A THANKFULNESS

The Almanian has not only lived through the term of two months predicted as the probable length of its life, but is alive at this end of the first term of the school year and, being very much alive expects to continue until June without wavering. When we predicted in the first issue or so that the Almanian would succeed, it was a prediction based on blind faith, for the expenses of this publication are great, and the labor connected with it is enormous. But by now it is possible for the managers to sight through to the end of the year and see a practically clear course and a safe harbor. Much of the credit for this success belongs to loyal advertisers to whom we pledge our hearty support, much belongs to alumni subscribers whose dollars keep coming in from all parts of the country. It is a source of inspiration and delight to the editors to read the many warm letters of approval and commendation that the old "grads" and students write. The Almanian it is true still lacks system, still lacks polish, but by next year it will begin to take on the appearance of real worth and assume a more symmetrical and polished appearance. We thank our friends once more out of full hearts, and as a Christmas gift promise them more strenuous efforts than ever to eliminate faults and make the Weekly more and more valuable to them and to Alma.

DO IT NOW

Talk Alma, this Christmas vacation. Do some real advertising for the college, and get people interested in it. This term has been brim full of life and vigor, and has showed something of Alma's real strength. Every student who goes home from here can go feeling proud of the school. Then why not do everything possible to interest new students in Alma. Remember that loyalty and enthusiasm among the students do much toward creating a college.

Christmas goods at Rhodes' drug store.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

(Continued from first page)
of them all would be idle. The chief cause of complaint seems to have generally been that the speeches were all so inspiring that note books and pencils were forgotten entirely while the delegates sat spellbound and drank in what was said. One statement of Dr Parkhurst's seemed to strike home. Few had even realized or even thought of it before. He said, "The first Y. M. C. A. was composed of twelve disciples," and he proved it. It was a grand tribute to the work of the Y. M. C. A. No delegate left the meeting without a feeling that he was a member of a noble organization started by the Master Himself, even Jesus Christ. Another of his frank remarks caused no little amusement, yet its truth cannot be doubted. If the shoe fits put it on. He said, "Theology as a branch of psychology is admirable, but as a substitute for religion, it is abominable." He impressed upon us that perhaps we spent too much time in the study of the teachings of Christ and not enough in their practice.
(Concluded in next issue)

CAMPUS GOSSIP.

The Campbell brothers are getting the honors in baseball. John Campbell was last week elected captain of the nine for next year, succeeding his brother Roy. Success to the team and the midget baseman, capt.

Class mass meetings for the purpose of arousing spirit for interclass basketball are something new in Alma. Keep it up, Freshies and Sophs, your style is inspiring.

What has become of the poor inoffensive billy goat that cavorted on the campus last week? Let's have it back and we will develop some new track material. At any rate everyone ran away but Prexy.

John D. Finlayson's Sunday school, 2 1/2 mile west of the college, gave a chicken pie supper last Friday evening. Many students attended.

Tomorrow evening is the last prayer meeting before Christmas vacation. Surely everybody can afford time to attend this one, and make it a profitable one.

Frank Dixon's lecture on "The Man and the Mass" was the Lyceum Course attraction last week. Mr. Dixon discoursed to a considerable audience on the merits of Individualism and Socialism. His exposition of the Socialistic ideal of government was clear and instructive and his condemnation of that system, in favor of Individualism, was strongly logical. The lecture was at all times interesting and even displayed flashes of wit and humor.

AN ODE TO RHYME.

I' faith, methinks I'll write a rhyme
With four full beats unto the line.
I'll try my best to make it clear
That accent is the main thing here.
"Iambic," yes, that is the word
That every Soph has surely heard.
The foot has two—a short and long,
To accent either is not wrong.
I'll scan it first by classic rule
And then to prove I am no fool
I'll set the thing to music rare.



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"tuned up" to this "Key" we will
stay where we are.
Of course we know three feet's a yard.
But rather than my rhyme retard
I've put in four so I can say
You got full measure anyway
I've always thought some day I might
A poet be, a shining light.
Alas, alack, I've read "Genung,"
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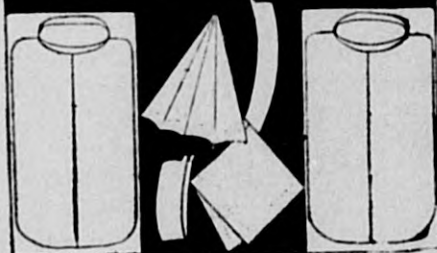
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CLASS AND SOCIETY

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SENIOR

Just because we are Seniors we beg of you not to think that we do not look forward to vacation with as much joy as ever, especially Christmas holidays. There is just as much happy anticipation in this for us as there is for any of the "kids." At present we are busy writing "Santa Claus" letters and making various other preparations. For the most part we expect to spend the vacation at our respective homes. However, "Fronce," informs us that he will be in Elsie, Ovid, and (?). Herman, on the other hand has the "toothache" and is not accountable for his actions. We do not know what he will do.

Congratulations to the young ladies for the excellent work they did in the oratorical contest last Friday evening, and especially to Miss Hoover, who won the highest honors. We are proud of our members for the honors they have brought to the class.

Prof. (in Theism)—Who wrote the Phillippic?

Bob—The apostle Paul, sir Prof. (in English)—Explain the allusion in "Myrtle-garland."

H. Cook—The author has reference to the Dove of Peace carrying the myrtle branch.

Sut is againtaking a dip in the social pond.

"Bob" Craig was given a farewell party at the home of Miss Laura Brown last Friday evening, subsequent to his early departure for the Christmas vacation.

ALPHA TAU ALPHA

Monday evening's meeting was very interesting. Will Ewing gave a talk on "The New Football." The impromptu debate 'Resolved that dancing should be allowed in small colleges,' was won by the negative. George Anderson and Allan Hooper debated the question of secret societies in universities. According to the decisions of the judges no points were made.

David Inglis is showing up strong in his presidential capacity.

ZETA SIGMA

Zeta Sigma elected the following men to regulate her affairs during the coming term Monday evening, Dec. 1.

- President—Robert Craig, '08
- Vice President—Geo. D. Sutton, '08
- Secretary—H. O. Whittemore, '08
- Treasurer—Dan Duncanson, '10
- 1st Critic—Geo. Horst, '08
- 2nd Critic—Harry Helmer, '08
- Janitor—Roy Campbell '10

The debating teams for the contest between Zeta Sigma and Phi Phi Alpha have been selected. The men who will endeavor to win the silver cup for the Sigs are Horst, Sayles and Casterlin. The men who represent the Phi's are Morse, Cobb and Marchmont. The question is Resolved that the National Government should levy a progressive inheritance tax, constitutionally conceded. Zeta Sigma has chosen to uphold the affirmative side of the argument. Every man on each team is working hard with the inter-collegiate debates with Oliveet and Kazoo in mind. No question but that Alma will be splendidly represented in debate this year.

BASKET BALL SERIES.

Tuesday afternoon the first game of the interclass basketball tournament was pulled off. The Freshman and Sophomore teams were the opponents, and the "frenzied adherents" of each team crowded the gymnasium and made the building ring with claps, yells and excited rooting. The teams were about evenly matched and the contest was a fine one, well worth the looking at. At the end of the first half the score was 6-4 in favor of the Sophs, and the second closed with a score of 11-9, the Sophs winning out only by two stingy little points. For the Sophs, McCollum played a good game at center, Duncanson excelled in throwing baskets while Bradfield was generally Johnny on the spot in guarding his man. The Sophs excelled in team work at critical stages of the game, getting the Freshies off their guard more than once. The Freshies played brilliantly, but star playing was more evident than team work, and they were also somewhat unfortunate in throwing baskets. Kefgen, Fraker, and St. Cyr did excellent work for them. The game as a whole was clean, though some fouls were made. The line-up was as follows:

Sophs	Freshies
Bradfield, Forwards	St. Cyr
D. Duncanson	Kefgen
McCollum, Center	T. Chapel
F. McComb, Guard	Phillips
J. Campbell	Fraker

Thursday afternoon the second game of the series was won by the Freshmen from the Prep-Commercial team by a score of 16-7. Steele and Ewing worked well for the losing team, while Kefgen and St. Cyr starred for the Freshmen. The Prep-Commercial line-up was as follows: Cook, center; Henderson and Steele, forwards; Ewing and VonThurn, guards. The Freshman line-up was unchanged from Tuesday's game.

The third game of the interclass series came off Saturday morning. The Sophs defeated the Commercial-Prep team in an uninteresting, and very rough contest. Completely outclassing their opponents, the Sophs scored 30 points to their opponents' 6 in an hour's play. The Commercial-Prep scores were all made by Steele on Sophomore fouls. McCollum made the majority of the points for his team. The line-up was the same as on Tuesday.

Saturday evening a fair sized and excited crowd of students filled the gymnasium to watch the deciding game of the tournament. The Sophs and Freshmen lined up as in the foregoing games. The first half exhibited classy team work by the Sophs, who scored baskets with rapidity, while the Freshmen seemed somewhat bewildered by their opponents' speed. However they soon caught on, and the scoring ceased in the last part of the half. When time for the intermission was called the score was 13-0, favor of the Sophomores. In the second half the Freshies came back with a shifted line-up and played a much harder game, scoring 8 points to the Sophs' 1. The game ended with the score 13-8, favor of the Sophs, who get the class banner as a trophy. The tournament proves that we have plenty of material for a swift team.

Last Wednesday at lunch the seats in the dining room were rearranged. "Change of tables" was welcome to a few, and unwelcome to others. "Pum" now begins to dress for dinner at 5:45. The commercial school is enlarged by two more students. Messrs. McCloy and Allison, both of Fairgrove, entering last week.

Christmas goods at Rhodes' drug store.

WOMAN'S CONTEST

(Continued from first page)

and instrumental departments of the School of Music was very enjoyable. Miss Sharp and Miss Amsbury rendered piano solos, while Miss Lillian Jackson and Mr. Morse gave vocal numbers.

The contest was presided over by Prof. J. T. Ewing who called upon Prof. J. E. Mitchell for the invocation. The Judges were Mrs. W. A. Bahlke, Mrs. Ellsworth, and Miss Cochran. The decisions of the Judges were of a remarkable uniformity, a thing unusual in oratorical contests.

PIONEER HALL DOINGS.

A few new members, Ferguson, McCloy, and Ellison, all on the third floor, too. You can make good fellows of yourselves by showing us a spread some Friday evening.

Open house after Christmas, fellows. Bring back everything you can get in the way of decorations. We'll show 'em!

Well, that piano on the third floor is great stuff—sometimes. We only hope that the fellows who are responsible for it will stick to their agreement of when it will be played and when not. It can easily be seen what a nuisance it would soon become if the privilege is abused, and at the same time how homelike and agreeable if not. We would suggest anything but popular music for Sunday morning.

Who said the "Batchelors Club" had disbanded? Nobody.

Did you get up in time for breakfast, Anderson?

The fellows in the hall usually do the square thing by each other. We take some pride in our Y. M. C. A. room and furniture, not because it is so great but because it is the best we have. It has been abused "Nufced."

ALUMNI TALK.

Newman Cobb, special student in Chemistry last year was on the campus last week. He is back for the winter from his position in British Columbia. Next year he expects to go to Alaska.

Carl Elbridge Anderson sp. '02-'03 now coach of the Mooney School, which won the football championship of the south in the "prep" class this year writes regarding the M. A. C. game. "Good for old Alma! Have watched the work of the team all year but had never hoped for such a result and I can assure you that it did my heart good. Shake hands with the team for me. Your paper is a dandy and I hope that you will be able to keep up the fine pace you've set. Always for Alma, C. E. Anderson."

An Alma man, now in an eastern school, writes interestingly as follows: "Sitting in my little study at 530 west 125 I often let my thoughts run back to old Alma and enjoy a quiet hour in calling back the events of my 'college days' for here there are no such things as 'college days.' Especially is this true after I have read my weekly Almanian. No one can appreciate the college paper until he has been away from Alma, and then it comes to be as essential as 'three meals a day.' I want to commend you on the appearance, the contents, and the general worth of the issues. You certainly are doing well with it. I know it is a thankless, payless job with lots of experience and carry your own breakfasts. So here is success to you and good cheer.

In talking recently with a graduate in '06 our conversation turned upon Alma and the value of education and training which we received there. Are

we as well equipped for our advanced courses as the graduates of Columbia, Yale, Harvard, etc., with whom we are competing? After a long discussion on the relative value of each year at Alma, whether the course grew stronger or whether it weakened in the last two years, whether we applied ourselves to our limit or whether the social life drew one away from the true aim and work of a college, whether the excitement of fall, winter, and spring athletics demanded too great a percentage of our time over and above that which was essential, after discussing these phases and others we decided we were competent to labor with university graduates being handicapped in no way. But we also decided that because in Alma more time was spent in recreation one way and another that we did not come away with as much equipment as we would have done had there been a better adjustment of our interests.

An average graduate forgets a goodly portion of what he learns during his first summer out of college. This is no more true of an Alma graduate than of an Oxford Doctor. Recently an Harvard man interrupted a lecture in history to inquire with all earnestness, "Prof. and what years did the crusades cover?" Again, a young lady from an eastern seminary of rank, when asked if she had consulted Rhodes History of the United States confessed she did

not know there was such an edition. And with these little reminders constantly coming that there are others who forget and do not know, we find much consolation in what we do actually know, and in that we received as good at Alma as others from elsewhere." Mr. Waldo Royce, Commercial '07, has accepted the position of lumber clerk for the Owosso Lumber Co. His address is 533 Ada St., Owosso.

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