

The Weekly Almanian

VOL. 1. NO. 17.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1908.

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THE ALMAROONS

The Quartette Expects to go on the Road in Near Future.

Alma's strong musical department has never been quite so well advertised as it was last year by the Almaroons. The organization effected at that time by the men of the college possessing musical ability has done wonders in the way of keeping Alma before the public eye. Their tour last



HERMAN N. MORSE

year was a complete success, and practically insured the permanence of the organization. This year the Almaroons consist of a quartette of four of the best male voices in the School of Music and an accompanist Mr. Roy Davis organist of the Central M E church of Lansing. Messrs. Morse, McNitt, Sutton and Cook have become land-marks at Alma during their years of study here, and need little introduction. The Almaroon folder, lately gotten out for the



RALPH V. MCNITT

purpose of advertising their work contains many enthusiastic recommendations from last years audiences but no out-of-town words of praise of course are quite equal to expressing the enthusiasm felt by Alma people for the

college glee club. As evidence of the merit of the School of Music appearing before college audiences many times during the year and as all a-



GEO. D. SUTTON

round college men, they deserve and receive the unqualified support of the student body.

A letter recently received from the Rev. W. C. Covert of the Forty-first Street Presbyterian Church, Chicago, may be interesting in this connection. Rev. Covert is well known to Alma Presbyterians, and he writes as follows.

'My dear Dr. Bruske:—I wish you would say to the Alma College Glee



MAYNARD A. COOK

Club for me, that the evening I spent listening to their program is a most delightful memory. I like the ginger and movement of their music if you may speak of the of the quality of ginger as belonging to music. They took the platform as if they meant business and every man stood to do his part and did it well. The individual work and the ensemble as well pleased me; also those inimitable musical stunts that only college boys know how to produce. I greatly appreciated the spirit and melody and accurate music of your Club and I congratulate you and the College on such an organization'

The coming tour of the Almaroons is not yet made public but in all probability it will take place during the spring vacation, while several shorter

trips will very likely be taken on during the next semester. Alma students were gratified to learn that the quartette will give the closing number of the Alma Lyceum Course. The date will be sometime in March. Herman N. Morse is first tenor and leader, Ralph V. McNitt second tenor, George Douglass Sutton baritone, Maynard A. Cook basso and Roy Davis pianist. Mr. Davis is very much at home either with the piano or pipe organ and has a wide experience as accompanist.

OPEN HOUSE COMING.

At the meeting reported in last week's paper the men of Pioneer Hall voted to appoint a committee to set a date and draw up plans for entertainment at the annual open house. This committee met last Wednesday evening in Coach Harper's room on first floor and decided on February 28 as the date. It is thought this date will not interfere with any of the numerous functions that are due in the coming two or three weeks and that it will prove satisfactory to everyone. The committee further outlined a new and pleasing scheme of entertainment whereby it is thought that old Pioneer will be turned into a place bursting with merriment, music, and hospitality on the evening when open house is held. It is not possible yet to make the plans public, but they are most elaborate and a large and well organized number of committees is busily engaged in carrying them out under the general supervision of one of the best administrative heads in the country. The committees are as follows:

Decorations—Roy Campbell, Dan Duncanson, Leslie Kefgen.

Music—Irwin Bradfield, G. Douglass Sutton, F. R. Phillips.

Entertainment—Stanley P. Graves, George Anderson, Frank Anderson, B. John Chapel.

Refreshments—Frank H. Locker, Albert Henderson, Harlow O. Whitte. more.

Booths—John Campbell, Stephen Hill, Herbert Ehlers, Allan McFadden, Alexander Duncanson.

Invitations—Norman Henry Angell.

Reception—M. L. Marshall, Robert Craig, Jr.

Finance—Bastone.

Little Jack Horner sat in a corner
Eating some concentrated lye,
When his mother came in
He had emptied the tin —
And they'll meet in the sweet bye
and bye.—Ex.

"Little boy, can I go through this gate to the river?" politely inquired a very stout lady.

I guess so, a load of hay went through this morning.—Ex.

"How is it, sir, that I find you kissing my daughter? I repeat sir how is it?"

"Fine sir, fine" replied the young man.—Ex.

You may brush, you may air
Your clothes if you will,
But the scent of tobacco
Will cling to them still —Ex.

THE DAY OF PRAYER

For Colleges Fittingly Observed at Alma—Rev. J. A. Dunkel Gave the Address.

Last Thursday the day of prayer for colleges was observed by special exercises held during the day. In accordance with the annual custom the services were opened with an address given on this occasion by Rev. J. A. Dunkel of Saginaw. The discourse was characterized by clear-cut thinking and forceful speaking, making it one of inspiration and helpfulness to all who had the privilege of listening to Rev. Dunkel.

The subject considered was "The Problem of Life" and the text was taken from the first and last verses of the Book of Ecclesiastes.

One of the problems that confronts every one is what shall be made his life work. To illustrate this fact and the importance of having an ideal for which to strive Rev Dunkel presented in outline the struggle of Solomon to learn the true meaning of life. In order to understand this story of a man's life as related in Ecclesiastes we must have the key that unlocks the secret of the book. The same trouble is experienced here as with the book of Job which is so often misjudged and misunderstood. Not until one has sounded the keynote, learned that it is the spirit of Christ that prevades the story can he appreciate it.

Just so is it with the Book of Ecclesiastes. We must obtain the key that unlocks its secrets before we can employ them to our benefit. Agnostics and all classes of doubters have come to this book for their thunder, but not to be used in understanding but in skepticism. Thus it remains for us to find the keynote for God has set before us here a truth. If we look at the story for the same practical truths for all men and women that obtained with Solomon, we shall see that here is not a compilation of heterogeneous ideas but the events of a life that should be an inspiration, and direct one to the true path of life.

Ecclesiastes begins and ends like the Book of Job and like Job, Solomon finally emerges from his struggle the child of God. If we read this as the story of a man's life it will help us to understand our duty to others and to self.

First, the book is the story of a man's thought and purpose and interests; second of his his characters and personality. Solomon made of his life a desert and there was only an occasional oasis in it of good.

If one makes a failure of life and if his life becomes a desert he is ready to offer apologies and excuses. There is always zeal for explaining away shortcomings. Thus the Book of Ecclesiastes is given to us to teach us the value of an ideal and to teach that when we go out into life we must not only find our duty but do it. Apologies are shallow and work defeat.

(Continued on page four)

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MOTTO:
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Now that we know that Davis Field will be fitted up in first class shape and second to none in the state, it is time to begin planning for an Alma College Inter-scholastic Meet. By placing on the annual program such an event Alma will be taking another step forward. We want more students; we want the sturdy athletic kind as well as others and one of the best ways to get them is by promoting a first class meet on Davis Field with the usual banners and medals to be given to the high school men who win out. Possibly the first year would not bring a screaming success but it would be a start and if such a meet were arranged the high school men would soon be working for points with as much earnestness as we now are plugging for M. I. A. A. honors. Conduct an Alma Interscholastic by the same methods as the M. I. A. A. and we will see a goodly bunch of men coming in line already for college athletics. Other colleges are working on this plan and are now gathering in the good results. Why not get busy here? We have just as good a college and a little better field than the other fellows and as to the Coach—well, he suits us. What we want now is more athletes and if we get acquainted with our highschool neighbors Alma will be attracting more men than at present.

ABOUT ADVERTISING

A newspaper of any size depends not upon its circulation but upon its advertising for its profits. We read of the large circulation of such papers as the New York Times and the Chicago Record Herald and we conclude from that fact that they must coin a world of money. They do but their large circulation is not the direct cause. The fact that they can guarantee a large circulation enables them to boost their advertising rates. Hence their profits. Now the Almanian for the last eight issues at least has depended solely upon its advertising for its financial support. With

the limited circulation which we must necessarily have because of its being a somewhat localized sheet—our subscription list will probably not for a long time at least exceed six hundred—we find it impossible to obtain a very high advertising rate. The one stipulation which we can make however—and it is one which only a paper of this kind can boast of is that its subscribers will patronize its advertisers. We know this is so of the Almanian and hope that it will continue to be

LEAP YEAR COMMENT

There are twenty-five leap years in this century; the greatest possible number—Press Notice.

Ye Gods! Think of it. Twenty-five leap years in this century. Leaving out the ordinary "three score years and ten" the most of us ought to come in for at least fifteen chances. One of them is upon us now—don't let it slip by. Save while the barrel is full. By the time the next leap year comes around he may be gone. Get busy!

And that makes us think. Are we going to have a leap party? Real college functions are staid and tiresome try as we will to liven them up. The opening reception and the second semester reception are a nightmare to the social committees. What to do? The halloween party is easy. All you have to do is to decorate, stick a candle in a pumpkin and the rest is easy. The day furnishes the ideas. A valentine party is similar. There are plenty of class spreads and society doings but let's have another good old-fashioned "party." at which the whole college can come and enjoy itself. Why not have a leap year party? Who will start it?

(Signed) A Bachelor.

KAZOO WITHDRAWS

In the first term of the college year arrangements were completed for a triangular debating league between Alma, Kalamazoo, and Olivet. Each college was to put out two teams and the six were to hold the debates on the same evening in April '08 at the three different colleges. A couple weeks ago, however, word was received by President H. N. Morse of the Debating League that Kalamazoo was unable to meet the requirements and find six men who would make up her teams. This announcement caused more or less disappointment among Alma students to whom it looked as though this would put an end to the Triangular League. The matter has nevertheless been satisfactorily settled. Olivet upon learning of Kalamazoo's inability to debate expressed a desire for a double debate with Alma in stead of one with Alma and one with Kalamazoo. This arrangement being very satisfactory to Alma it is now practically a certainty that on the second Friday in April the two schools will meet each other in two debates, one to be held here and one at Olivet. The question will be "Resolved that federal government should levy a progressive inheritance tax, constitutionality conceded."

Caller (at door)—Is Miss Brown in?
Servant—She's engaged.
Caller—I know it, I'm what she's engaged to.—Ex.



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"What's the matter, count?"
"First, zis novel say ze man was unhorsed."
"Yes."
"Zen it say he was cowed!"—Ex.

Non paratus, Freshie dixit,
Cum a sad and doleful look,
Omne recte, Prof. respondit,
Nihil scripsit in his book.—Index

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CLASS AND SOCIETY

All About the Organizations that You are Interested In—What They are Doing.

Y. W. C. A.

The Y W C A will meet next Sunday, February 9, at the usual hour, 4:30 o'clock, in the Association room. The subject is "Temptation and Opportunity." Hebrews 4:1-16

ZETA SIGMA

With the oratorical nicely tucked away Zeta Sigma will now "dig in" on the tax problems of the country with the debate in view. The teams are working hard on the question and the first team has to hustle some to keep its prestige. The inter-society debate itself, will prove one of the most interesting and instructive events of the year. Don't miss it.

Plans for the annual Washington's Birthday Banquet are under way. This is the society's only stag affair and we will live up to our reputation of making it the "best ever." The society congratulates Mr. Dunham on his excellent work in the oratorical. The results he obtained were only those produced by long, honest, hard work. We feel sure that now he will lay all thought of society aside and prepare himself for the state contest in such a way that he will boost Alma to a high place in the intercollegiate.

Y. M. C. A.

At last the mission classes are being formed and enthusiastic work will soon be the result. No member of the Y. M. can afford not to be a member of some class. The interesting mission rally held Sunday afternoon foretells the kind of work that will be done along mission lines this year.

The report of the Y. W. C. A. convention as published in last week's Almanian was interesting to all Y. M. members. It must have been grand.

Backward, turn backward, oh time, in your flight,
Feed me on gruel again just for tonight.

I am so weary of sole leather for steak
Petrified doughnuts and vulcanized cake
Oysters that sleep in a watery bath,
Butter as strong as Goliath of Gath.
Weary of paying for what I don't eat,
Chewing up rubber and calling it steak.

Backward, turn backward for weary am I,

Let me drink milk that has never been skimmed,

Let me eat butter whose hair has been trimmed,

Let me once more have an old-fashioned pie

And then I'll be ready to turn up and die.

(Reprinted from an old Almanian, published during conditions similar to the present.)

"Oh my!" she exclaimed impatiently "we'll be sure to miss the first act. We've been waiting a good many minutes for that mother of mine."

"Hours I should say" he replied rather tartly

"Ours" she cried joyfully "Oh George, this is so sudden"—Ex.

"Pat do you believe in fate?"
"Sure and what would we be standing in on without them?"—Ex.

FRESHMAN SPREAD

Friday night after the Sophomore exhibition, the Freshmen gave the Sophs a spread, according to custom. The class of 1911 has always been foremost and Friday night they outdid themselves. The dining room was very prettily decorated in the Fresh and Soph colors. Strings of small green and yellow pennants stretched between the pillars, the lights were covered with colored paper, and rugs on the floor made the place very cosy. Green and yellow were seen everywhere showing that, in spite of past enmity, the classes of '10 and '11 could meet on a friendly footing. The spread was especially good showing careful thought and hard work. Miss Gertrude Whitney furnished music.

The lights went out in the midst of things but they did not stay off long enough to cause delay. The Soph President will probably tell you it added spice to the occasion.

Give Tennyson a flower and he would fashion one of the finest verses ever sung by a poet. Show Burns a louse and his lines to that "crowlin' ferlie" become familiar to men of all nations. But for up-to-date genius, that Albion Free Press correspondent takes the prize. His subject, "posts" and his continued dissertations on that space filling subject would make an over-worked space filler throw a fit. Look him up, Albion, and jar him out of his rut, so that we may get some news from you. Those gymnasium posts are getting stale.

THE JUNIOR "EX."

The Junior Exhibition was held in the College Chapel, Friday evening, January 31, at 7:30. On account of the stormy evening the attendance was very slim, but the program rendered was of a very high quality. Professor Frank N. Notestein presided and the invocation was given by Prof. Jay Clizbe. H. A. Craig in his oration entitled "The Defender of the Constitution" eulogized Daniel Webster and described his great work. Miss Lois Fraker took for her subject "Wendell Phillips" and Miss Ruth Pierson spoke on "John B. Gough." "Edward Everett" and "Charles Sumner" were the subjects of the last two eulogies, which were delivered by Miss Emma Swigart and Maynard A. Cook respectively.

The music was especially noteworthy. Miss Eddy and Miss Kirby furnished piano duets for the instrumental numbers while the vocal numbers were rendered by Miss Caldwell and Miss Alexander.

Selections from Grieg, Foote, Harley and Arne made up the musical part of the program. After the exhibition in place of the customary Junior-Sophomore spread the Juniors departed for a sleighride. Their destination was St. Louis where they enjoyed a most delightful party and returned to Alma at an earlier hour than discretion allows to be mentioned.

Wild Instructor (at top of his voice)
—This is the fourth theme you've asked an extension on. Haven't you any common sense?

Delinquent Freshman—Yes, sir; hearing.—Lampoon.

Never laugh at a man for his pug nose. There is no telling what will turn up.—Bowen Blade.

A jolly young chemistry tough
While mixing some chemistry stuff
Dropped a match in a vial
And after a while
They found his front teeth and a cuff.
—Ex.

THE DAY OF PRAYER

(Continued from page one.)

Solomon was a man of power—he was king of Israel. God gave him his start and told him to work his own purpose. His failure was caused first, by his desire to give himself all wisdom, "to know all things; 'but in much wisdom is much grief,' and wisdom is vanity. On the failure of his purpose he decides to seek pleasure and is a good fellow among good fellows but this also is vanity. Next he decided to gain all power. He, as all human beings, wanted others to obey his commands, but when his ambition was reached he exclaimed "vanity of vanity, all is vanity."

Do our ideals of life seem up with these narrow aims? If so as Solomon concluded after he had gained all these vanities "a fool may succeed to my powers." However the lesson of Ecclesiastes is to teach us to dedicate all to God and not to waste our lives in vain glory.

CAMPUS GOSSIP.

Exams are on!

'Bohners' are plentiful just now. Tell 'em by the sleepy look.

There is a concon at Lansing and a conconcon at Alma. Sympathy, but why didn't you work harder?

Sleighting is fine. Several merry loads last week. One sleigh-load has hired a regular coachman for the season.

Alma students will be pleased to hear that Jose Garcia who was here about four years is now teaching school in Chilili, N. M.

Anderson Bros. are broken-hearted. After having been "Lady Bountiful" to all the fellows in the Hall some wretch has kicked on their playing their piano except on Saturdays 4:15 to 6:00 p. m.

But nobody cares when Graves plays that extra-heavy, double-distilled ocarina, what-do-you-call-it that looks so pretty and quaint and sounds so —!

The girls have no corner on silly dining room stunts. Certainly not when the fellows, i. e. Freshies and Sophs, go to dinner arrayed in rainbow hued bathrobes. Horrors!

And the Sophomores didn't spread the Juniors last Friday night. Don't mention it, please. It was certainly a CASE, and there was a J sleigh ride too.

Someone in Physics class said the primary colors were green, yellow, orange, red, violet, indigo, and — "Pink" cried a voice from out a gloomy corner.

It is rather late to speak about it now, but if anyone on the campus hasn't read "The Eternal Feminine" in the January Harpers it should be done at once before the Library copy is worn out.

The fellows are much interested in a new magazine, "The College World" edited by Schulte, coach at Ypsi. The scope of the publication is world-wide, it is a monthly and costs one dollar per year. If the initial number is any indication of future merit the venture will be successful. Anyone who wishes information in regard to it, should see Irwin Bradfield, who has the college agency for it.

Good news from the Library. The Century Dictionary has been rebound and its different sections look neat and enticing. Get wise, fellow!

ALUMNI TALK.

Mr. I. A. Purdy, who was with the class of '08, sends us his subscription in an interesting letter. He is now a sophomore at the Colorado School of Mines, and although getting along splendidly still retains an affection for Alma and '08.

A recent Michigan Christian Advocate contained the following item: "Fairgrove—The week of prayer was a distinct uplift and inspiration. The Presbyterian and Methodist pastors have for three years united in observance of this week set apart world-wide for a season of prayer and praise. The services were held alternating evenings in the two churches. The attendance was excellent, the interest deep. This cordial fellowship of two denominations can but knit hearts in the Masters service. The Presbyterian pastor, Rev. W. J. Ewing is conducting special evangelistic services his week in his church.

Mr. Ewing graduated with the class of '02 and although he has been at Fairgrove but a short time he is meeting with great success.

Charles D. Ferguson Com. '07 expects to return to Alma next semester and take up college work.

Madge Kerstine Booth cl '10 is teaching this year near her home in Metamora. She expects to return next year and finish her college course.

Kathleen Hopkin, sp. '07, is resting for a year at her home in Almont, Mich.

Watch for notice of the wedding of one of our alumni in the near future. His name will rhyme with (caught her).

Karl Allured, scientific with '05 is occupying the position of electrician for the Chicago Telephone Company in Chicago and is rapidly coming to the front in his calling.

Use the Item Box and do it now!

SECRETS OF PIONEER

Coach's banner has tumbled down. Dont' you care—he'll have it straightened up in time for open house all right.

Open house will be February 28. From now on any one caught entering the Hall without first wiping their feet on the mat will be tried by the vigilance committee, found guilty of treason to the cause, and sentenced to be tubbed.

Private telegraph system has been installed on the second floor. All we need now is a similar system in Wright Hall. The thing ought to become popular. By connecting the two branches we could incorporate and establish the Wright Hall Pioneer Telegraph Co., Ltd. and then we could make our dates via the "Morse" code and no one the wiser.

Coachman Rock is going to strike for higher wages. He says that twenty-five cents an evening is starvation pay

Horst wants to room in the Hall.

EIN SPASM.

They hugged auf der steps py efening, So schweetly cuddled down.

Auf der chinnazim steps by efening Vend we come home from town.

Ich came py der vindow dot efening To look mit der schweet sleeping town

Mit a powl of cold vash-water Und it floptsich opsie down

Und der moon rose der city ofer Und she schmiled droo a brimstone haze,

I dink dey got under dot trickle Und hat to call it off

Wynand—What did your father say when you told him that my love for you is as strong as a rushing river? Alyda—Dam it! —The Anchor.

AFTER INVENTORY SALES

DURING February we offer the balance of Winter Goods at greatly reduced prices. Purchasers will find substantial bargains in every department.

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