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The Weekly Almanian

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ALMA, MICHIGAN

VOL. 1. NO. 19.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1908.

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AN EXCITING DEBATE

Zeta Sigma and Phi Phi Alpha Engaged in Strenuous Contest Monday Eve.

The final preliminary debate prior to the Alma-Olivet debates was held last Monday evening. It was also the third annual inter-society debate between the Zeta Sigma and Phi Phi Alpha Literary Societies. The prize was the silver debating cup, which now has been won by the Zeta Sigma once and by Phi Phi Alpha twice. To hold the cup it must be won by one society three times in succession.

The attendance at the debate, which was held in the College Chapel, was very fair and was much better than that at the oratorical contest. The music furnished by the School of Music was of an unusually enjoyable kind. The program was opened by Miss Amsbury with piano selections from Ole Olsen, "Mazurka" and "Papillon." Dr. Bruske gave the invocation after which Dessauer's "Awake, Dear Maid" was rendered by Miss Alexander in her most charming and easy manner. After the debate while the judges were preparing their decisions Mr. Sutton gave "It was not so to be," from "Der Trompeter von Sakingen" by Messler.

The debate was opened by George Horst in a strong speech favoring the inheritance tax, F. W. Cobb answered by outlining the ground to be covered.

Alex. Sayles in the second speech for the affirmative argued against a state tax and was followed by John Marchmont with an argument for the negative which dwelt somewhat too emphatically on the "predatory wealth" question. Don Casterlin upheld the claims of the affirmative for a national tax and was followed by Herman Morse in a speech marked by strong rebuttal points. The rebuttals then followed in reverse order, Mr. Cobb, Mr. Sayles, Mr. Marchmont, Mr. Casterlin, Mr. Morse, and Mr. Horst. Prof. J. Q. Adams who was time keeper and presiding officer announced the decisions of the judges which were all in favor of the negative, upheld by Phi Phi Alpha. The debate with Olivet will be held April 1, and will be on the same question as the debate of Monday night. "Resolved that the National Government should levy a progressive inheritance tax (constitutionality conceded)." The same side that upheld the negative at Alma will go to Olivet and uphold the negative in that place. The judges of the debate were Dr. Frank T. Carlton, Prof. of History and Economics at Albion; Prof. Webster Cook, Principal of the High School at Saginaw; and Hon. Francis H. Dodds, Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

After the debate an informal reception was given by Professor Adams to Judges, Faculty, visitors, debaters, college orators and officers of the debating league in the Zeta Sigma room, which was prettily decorated for the evening. Sherbet and maccaroons were served, after which Stanley Graves, '10, called on various persons present for short speeches.

WOULD LIKE TO KNOW.

Alma is much interested in discussing a question which has been flying around the inter-collegiate for the last two or three weeks. Is M. A. C. out of the M. I. A. A? The morning after the recent meeting of the Board of Directors at Lansing an announcement appeared in the state papers that M. A. C. was out of the Inter-collegiate Association.

While the haste with which the announcement appeared might have seemed suspicious it was accepted for the moment as authoritative. But the report did not emanate from the Agricultural College. In fact M. A. C. not only has taken no steps to withdraw from the Inter-collegiate, but there were no measures taken at the meeting of the Board toward ousting her. It further appears that M. A. C. was not notified of the meeting of the Board and that Alma's representatives were notified that the meeting would be held at a different time than on which it was held, thus causing Alma's representative to miss the meeting altogether. Alma and the remaining members of the Inter-collegiate would like to know the truth of the matter. If M. A. C. chooses to withdraw that is her own business, but since she has not withdrawn or been ousted justice and the best interests of the Inter-collegiate demand that the facts of the case be made public.

A FINE PROGRAM.

Schildkret's Hungarian Orchestra delighted a record-breaking audience in the Opera house last Tuesday evening. The Orchestra appeared as the fourth number of the Alma Lyceum Course and fully sustained their high reputation. Mr. Schildkret's organization has been well known in the United States since the time of the Chicago's World's Fair playing at many events of national importance, such as Prince Henry's visit and Alice Roosevelt's wedding.

The program rendered last Tuesday evening, while running largely to lighter and more popular selections, contained enough high-grade numbers to display the great ability of the eight men who make up the orchestra. The rendition of the Miserere from "Il Trovatore" while original was dignified, avoiding sensational effects, and interpreting the sorrowful beauty of the piece in such a clear manner that every member of the large audience felt the appeal of the music. The personality of Mr. Schildkret showed most plainly, perhaps, in the beautiful Hungarian Waltzes where he allowed himself great freedom in producing his effects. The violin soloist with the orchestra played Annie Laurie and Old Black Joe in a colorful manner, evoking such golden tones from his instrument and displaying such finished skill that the only criticism heard was that he did not play selections of such an order as to make greater demand upon his powers. The solos of Mr. Schildkret upon the flute and piccolo, and of Mr. Wentkowski upon the clarinet took with the audience, who were persistent in calling for more.

"MUCH ADO" AGAIN.

The "Much Ado" cast is not letting any grass grow under their feet. Although the financial part of the "tour" did not turn out to be quite what was expected, yet there is a feeling of satisfaction prevalent among the members of the cast that it was through no fault of theirs or of the Professor's that the deficit was incurred. They however, feel it incumbent upon them to meet this deficit. With this in view a meeting of the entire cast was called last week and ways and means were discussed with this for an object. With their characteristic promptness they met the difficulty and overcame it.

On Thursday evening February 20, Professor Adams will give an illustrated lecture on English Parliaments in the College Chapel. At first thought we are inclined to characterize it as the usual "dry historical lecture." Not so, however, with this one. To call it so would be false. Professor Adams has visited and made a personal study of the great part of the scenes which will be thrown upon the curtain. It is "his own, his native land" which he discusses and those who hear him may reap benefits of his personal study. The subject will be treated in a way quite out of the ordinary. Not so much stress will be laid upon the fact that certain parliaments existed, nor the expounding of what they did, but rather the history of the parliaments as touching upon their respective buildings, their etiquette, their seating, customs, dress and similarly interesting manners.

The views obtained by the Professor himself and not bought from a company are, besides their beauty of color and scene interesting and to the point. Slides showing the crowning of kings, the opening of parliaments, royal banquets, pageants and coronations, famous men and historical scenes are only a few of the hundred or more slides that will be shown. The Almanian is of the opinion that nothing quite like this can be had at any of the lecture courses, in spite of the fact that they are the very best.

If I should die tonight
And Pink should come to my cold
corpse and say,
"That's all right, Bill! you raised an A"
If I should die tonight
And "Marg" should sob, "I wish that
he could know
"He got a B before he had to go!"
I'll bet I'd rise in my large white cravat
And say, "What's that?"
If I should die tonight
And Cook should come to my black
bier and cry
"I wish you'd paid before you had
to die!"
And you should come to me, all still,
and hush—
Er, "Lend me back that postage stamp,
you dub!"
Compassion might me fill, but I'd lie
still.
(Note: A long way after Ben King.)

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OUR CONSTITUTION

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the Almanian Pub. Association.

The proposed amendments to the Almanian constitution have at last been reported out of committee and are published this week for discussion by Almanian subscribers prior to taking a vote upon the amendments.

Ever subscriber to the Almanian has one vote upon all elections, constitutional amendments, etc.

It is proposed to amend section 1, article IV, of the Constitution so that it shall read as follows: "The editorial staff shall consist of one managing editor, one alumni editor, one athletic editor, one news editor, one circulation manager, and one advertising manager."

The proposed amendment to section 2, article VI, relating to meetings, is as follows: "At every meeting the secretary of the board of control shall act as clerk, keeping all transactions of the associations on file for reference at any meeting. Such minutes shall be in the care of the secretary of the board of control from year to year."

Section 1, article VIII, will probably be most strenuously discussed. The proposed amendment is: "All earnings of the association from year to year shall be divided as follows: two-thirds equally between the managing editor, the circulation manager, and the advertising manager, and the remainder equally between the remaining members of the staff."

Amendment of section 1, article I, division II: "The managing editor must, at the time he enters upon his duties be classified as junior or senior."

Section 2, article I, division II: "The remaining members of the staff with the exception of the alumni editor must, at the time they enter upon their duties be classified in the college department." Section 1, article II, division II: This is to be amended by striking out the word editor-in-chief and substituting the word managing editor. Section 2 is to be amended as follows: "The managing editor shall personally have in charge each week's issue of the Almanian. Section 3, is to be amended as follows: "The news editor shall have general supervision of the class, society and campus news; the athletic editor shall have general supervision of the athletic news." Section 5, is to be amended by striking out the words business and subscription and substituting for them the words advertising and circulation.

Article VII, division I, is to be amended as follows: "The Almanian shall be published weekly throughout the college year."

A copy of the constitution and the proposed amendments will be posted in the library this week.

Professor—Germany consumes more beer than any other nation.
Student—I don't see how that could be so, with Milwaukee, Cincinnati, and G—A—in the United States.

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RALPH McCOLLUM, '10 - ASSOCIATE EDITOR
WALLACE WEBBER, '08 - ALUMNI EDITOR
Ithaca, Michigan.
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Attention is called to the proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Almanian Publishing Association which appear in another column of this issue. Since the form of the publication has been changed from a monthly to a weekly, it has been thought necessary to make the proposed changes. A discussion of these amendments is urged, and communications of opinion from subscribers will be welcomed up to the time the amendments are put to vote.

The most hoped for benefit of the amendments is that they will free the managing editor from the more strenuous work of news-getting and news-writing and enable him to exercise closer supervision over the general make-up and policy of the paper. At present the editorial staff is too limited and with the best intentions in the world errors in typography and errors in policy are bound to occur. However, we are doing our very best, and are trying to make that best better. When at times our humor has seemed too coarse, or a criticism seemed directed against the college, we have regretted it and we mean to go on to the end of the year in the endeavor to show the world in a convincing manner that Alma is excellent clear through and is the best place in Michigan for men and women to take a college course.

LINCOLN'S DAY.

Lincoln's birthday was formally observed in the Chapel Exercises last Wednesday morning. After the customary daily exercises were concluded Dr. Bruske introduced the subject of the observation of Lincoln's birthday in a few appropriate remarks, after which he called upon Miss Grace Messenger to sing "Barbara Frietchie." The musical setting of this familiar ballad of Whittier's was perfectly suited to the beautiful voice of Miss Messenger, and the solo was received with great enthusiasm. Harry Marsh recited Whitman's lyric, "O Captain, My Captain," entering deeply into the

spirit of the poem. Miss Hazel Fraser read an essay upon "The Humor of Lincoln." Miss Fraser dwelt on the idea that Lincoln's humor was not so much a means of recreation as a practical advantage, inasmuch as it enabled him to save time and strength allowing him to point a moral in a moment where other men would have been obliged to carry on lengthy arguments. In concluding the exercises the choir led the singing of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

NATURE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE.

(Continued from last issue.)

The influence of Brook farm, too had a great part in this movement. And all who took part in that fascinating wild-cat scheme perhaps received no greater impulse from it than the love of the woods, which was firmly planted and cultivated in every heart. From a financial standpoint, that Farm was a failure. Even had it never suffered from the accident of fire as it did, it would probably not have been a success. Its people were too literary and artistic and visionary to know how to make dollars and cents balance as they should. But there were other than financial gains that can from this motley assemblage of wits and geniuses.

And after Nathaniel Hawthorne had milked the cows—a task he hated—or stabled the transcendental heifer which he named Margaret Fuller on account of her intelligent face and belligerent ways, or Sophia Ripley had set the bread for baking and sprinkled down the clothes for tomorrow's ironing, there were all sorts of intellectual and amusing pastimes for afternoon and evening hours. There were impromptu debates and musicales, there were dances in which it is said the clothes-pies dropped from the pockets of George William Curtis where they had been since he helped hang the clothes in the morning. But no pastimes were so loved and cultivated as those which inspired a love of the trees and woods and flowers. Nature for nature's sake, it almost amounted to. Long walks, days in the woods, outdoor carnivals—outdoor life in any form became a passion with them. And the influences of that Farm that amounted to only a failure as a business arrangement, have never been lost. Margaret Fuller talked as she could not write. Emerson, Alcott, Hawthorne, the Ripleys, the Cannings, the Peabodys, all who made up the charming circle which gave to Boston and New England its name have been influenced by that interesting group at Brook Farm and not less important than the transcendental theories they discussed and promulgated, not less than the new conceptions of literature and theology and art which resulted from that close association and constant touch of our most brilliant minds,—not less important than these was the love of the beautiful outside, the appreciation of the world which man has not violated, but God has left in splendor.

This is an influence which is seen in all our later writers. Whittier has made us love the New England winter in all its ruggedness and severity, and Chocoma's peaks and Bear camp water are loved and historic ground since his simple and charming ballads have been sung.

Of writers in the present magazines



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mention could be made without end to show how large a hold the love of nature is taking upon the American mind. Henry Van Dyke and Stewart Edward White and Jack London and many others have each shown us his individual interpretation of the physical beauty of the world, while the number of new books written on nature study and outdoor life and put up in attractive covers and in conspicuous places among the holiday books signify that this is a subject which appeals to a popular and cultivated taste.

The encouragement of this taste is one of the features of the work of the present day in our public schools. Lessons in nature study are part of the curriculum, observation of nature is of as much importance as the daily number work and we who missed these courses a few years ago are often put to shame by younger brothers and sisters or friends who can recognize the birds and their eggs, tell us the habits of insects we have never even noticed, or the calls of animals we have ignored entirely.

Among some women's clubs the last few years, the study of birds has become quite an absorbing passion and ladies who before enjoyed their morning naps have been up early with a spy-glass and note-book scouring the woods or water's edge for a glimpse of an elusive bird or straining their ears to catch a sound of its call.

It has had its effect too, on the life of the people. It is noted in the form of the summer vacation. Every clerk, pastor, business man or broker who can get away for a few weeks goes if possible to the pioneer country where man has not disturbed nature's haunts. The cities are emptied and the woods are filled. Buckboards and burros take the place of street-cars, lunch-baskets replace the six o'clock dinner. The pen may be mightier than the sword, but it is gladly put aside for

(Continued on page three.)

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CLASS AND SOCIETY

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

FROEBEL NOTES

At the last meeting of the Froebel Society the following officers were elected for the new semester: Pres., Eula Abelson; Vice Pres., Stella Laing secretary, Ethel Springer; treasurer, Grace McCord; critics, Reta Caldwell, Helen Strange; Almanian reporter, Margaret Morrison.

The Society contemplate taking up the study of Italian Art intending pursue this work through the whole semester.

Y. W. C. A.

The Y. W. C. A. will meet next Sunday, February 23, at the usual hour 4:30 o'clock in the Association room. The subject is "Wise and Foolish Builders." Matt. 7: 21-27.

(Continued from page two.)

a fishing rod. The kodak fiend has come into being and spends his days finding takeable scenes, and his nights developing over-exposed films; and every American from Teddy down to the Fresh Air charity child takes his hurried two weeks at the seaside or in the woods or just out to Old Aunt Mary's.

IN THE DARK.

Scene I. Stairway leading to trunk room in Wright Hall. Dark. Enter troop of co-eds in haste.

First Voice—Hist! Confound that squeaky step.

Second Voice—Oh, come on, you coward.

Third Voice—Ouch!! Git off my toes.

Fourth Voice—There goes that ole cu-plump, face down.

First Voice—Scrape it up in a cup Who's got, the key?

Second Voice—Here it is—now then strike a match.

Third Voice—On what?

Second Voice—On the floor, idiot

First Voice—All in—sssss-s-s-s, up on the trunks all of you and get that door closed quick. Now for the grub.

Scene II. Trunk-room Wright Hall. Miss Pierson—Freshmen here. Sophs there, Juniors here. Seniors up by me. The rule of the evening is "sisterly love," all class spirit aside.

Miss Fraser—Now for the grub. "Cook" the cocoa on this trunk, fry the lemons on that and hurry, hurry I'm hungry as an ostrich.

Miss Hughes—Don't "lisp" a word but here is some cocoa I "thwiped." (Five minutes silence—nothing heard but the "sound of the grinders" of the "daughters of music up high.")

Fresh—'I've "trunk" my "Phil."

Soph—Don't laugh—a pun is the lowest form of wit.

Fresh—Pun my soul it is is but I don't care a wit.

Junior—Ha-ha-bravo for the Fresh.

Miss Pierson—All class jokes aside. More cocoa? Lots of it.

(Five minutes more of silence and pie.)
Presiding officer—Now for the toasts. One for each class. Miss Pierson for the Seniors. Stand up Mademoiselle and "spell."

Miss Pierson—More cocoa, please.
Presiding Officer—Very good, exceeding learned and so natural. Miss Fraser rise and respond to the toast—Juniors.

Miss Fraser—When in the course of human events it becomes necessary—
Presiding Officer—"Nuf ced." this is no place for oratory. Miss Peacock will you rise and shout for the glory of 1910.

Miss Peacock—Rah, rah, rah.
Rah, rah, rah.
Rah, rah, rah,
1910.

I've shouted.

Presiding Officer—I couldn't help but notice it. If the Dean is within a mile she will notice it too. Miss Hughes, get up, thou groveling Freshman and defend the verdant emblem labeled 1911.

Miss Hughes—
When I come to go to Heaven
May I think of nineteen 'leven.
Parting, then, I'll tear my hair.
'Cause there won't be any there.
(Curtain.)

SITTING IN THE LIBRARY.

Sitting in the Library.
Poring o'er the news,
One can see some pretty sights,
Yet mind his P's and Q's.

Sitting in the Library.
Looking up a rhyme
One can see some funny things
Many and many a time

Here a charming Kg sits
Reading up'on Froeble
Object of a loving glance
From just across the table.

There a jaunty Senior hides
A smile behind his book
Thanking all his lucky stars
For only just a look.

Now and then a Junior wise
Hunts a magazine,
Taking care to move a chair
So he'll sure be seen.

The Soph'more tries to study hard
And wrinkles up his brow,
But there upon the printed page
He sees her face, somehow

The Freshman too is not beyond
Our silent observation
For there he sits with chair tipped
back

Defying gravitation
Sitting in the Library
Chasing idle dreams
You can spy as well as I
Amusing little scenes.

Comfort—A letter has come from
Fillus at college. Mater has read it
with many a sigh.

Mater—"Fred feels so cheap because
of his failure to pass."
Pater—"Hum!"

Mater—"What shall I write to com-
fort him?"
Pater (with resignation)—"Tell him
he needn't. He isn't."—Pluck.

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it
Now!

CAMPUS VISITORS.

Open house is rapidly drawing nearer.

Remember the date, February 28, and get busy, fellows.

Mr. A. E. Cobb, a student from Albion, addressed the men of the college on temperance a week ago, Tuesday.

The Y. M. C. A. room in Pioneer Hall is to be redecorated. A committee is busily at work securing paper, window shades, etc.

Prof. F. S. Goodrich, head of the department of Bible at Albion, and Prof. Woolbert, oratory coach at Albion, spoke last Sunday in the interests of the Anti-Saloon League at Alma.

Harry Helmer, '08, has secured an excellent position at Cadillac for next year. He will coach the highschool in football and baseball and act as physical director in the large new Y. M. C. A. building at that city.

The reception for the opening of the second semester was held last Friday evening in Wright Hall with the usual success. The reception room was decorated according to a valentine motif, presenting a pretty appearance. A short play was given in place of the ordinary stunts. It was a farce entitled, "While Brother Phil was Walking." The parts were taken by the Misses Caldwell and Springer, and Messrs. Phillips and Bradfield. After serving ice-cream and wafers the social committees closed the evening by distributing the valentines which had been accumulating in the large valentine box in the dining room during the week.

Our First War Vessels.

The outbreak of the Revolutionary war found the patriots without a navy. Congress had to create one. Four merchantmen were first purchased, hastily equipped with guns and sent to sea as cruisers, but their defects as war vessels soon became so apparent that congress determined at once to set about the building of a navy. On Oct. 3, 1775, congress ordered two cruisers built, and on Dec. 13 the order was increased to five thirty-two gun ships, five twenty-eight gun ships and three twenty-four gun ships. They were to be ready for the sea by the following April. The names given to the thirteen vessels were Boston, Congress, Effingham, Delaware, Hancock, Montgomery, Providence, Raleigh, Trumbull, Virginia, Warren, Washington and Randolph. These were the first war vessels constructed in the United States. The first commander in chief was Ezekiel Hopkins of Rhode Island, a young brother of Congressman Stephen Hopkins. He was appointed to this high office on Dec. 22, 1775.

Dickens and Thackeray.

In Mr. Layard's book, "A Great Punch Editor," is given Shirley Brooks' remembrance of Thackeray: "What delightful English he wrote! He knew this and was proud and said that Dickens might be a great moralist, but that he was the best grammarian." Now, the curious thing, observes the London Chronicle, is that Thackeray was a very shaky grammarian and that the pages of "Pendennis" abound in weak collocations and constructions, whereas the self educated Dickens was an almost infallible grammarian. Not in his work shall we find the unrelated and irresponsible "and which" or the split infinitive or anything of the kind. The vulgarity of "aggravate" for "irritate," very common with him, but by no means peculiar to him, was nearly his only verbal crime.

We Want Class and Society Notes. See?

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