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The Weekly Almanian

VOL. 1. NO. 20.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1908.

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ZETA SIGMA BANQUET

Annual Function of the Society
Held on the Eve of Wash-
ington's Birthday.

Of all the social functions during the year, the members of the Zeta Sigma look forward to the annual stag banquet given in honor of the Father of our Country, with the greatest anticipation. On this occasion we are brought in contact with men who have undergone similar struggles and delights, who have been confronted by and mastered equally perplexing questions, who having experienced the ups and downs of college life are solicitous that we economize our time in a search after truth and wisdom, and who by manfully putting their hands to the plow and never looking back are accomplishing success in their chosen professions and indeed are a mighty inspiration to the active members of the society.

Because of the unexpected business engagements and poor traveling accommodations throughout the state on account of the heavy snowfall the absence of Rev. C. W. Sidebotham '01; Rev. W. H. Long, '98, and W. F. Knox, '03, was a great disappointment. However, we were highly favored by the presence of Prof. J. E. Mitchell, '93, Lucius Bagley, '03, Henry Soule, '03; Ray G. Swigart, '04, and Prof. J. T. Ewing and Coach Jesse C. Harper.

After having chatted for a few moments in the Wright House parlors the banqueters marched into the dining hall about 8:30 p. m. where an attractive and well appreciated dinner was served. As time passed the pleasure of those assembled increased accordingly as was evidenced by the hearty peals of laughter that came from our midst, and the old saying, "Dinner lubricates business," was certainly verified.

After this most satisfying part of the program we expectantly awaited the toasts of the evening. Because of unforseen pastoral duties, Rev. C. W. Sidebotham, who was to act as toastmaster, was detained at his home. Upon receipt of this news the outlook was somewhat dubious but not for long, since one of Zeta Sigma's charter members, Prof. J. E. Mitchell, is always ready to lend a helping hand, and to him as toastmaster, we attribute the success of the evening. Quite apropos was his mode of introducing the several speakers, the first being Henry H. Soule, '03, who responded to the toast, "Our Annual Banquet—Deep Meaning Often Lies in Ancient Custom." Characteristic traits of the old members were recalled as well as the significant features of our annual reunion being mentioned. The next response was to the toast, "On the Outside Looking in—I love not I those cartrope speeches that are longer than the memory of man can fathom," by Harry Marsh, '11.

An exposition of the warm, kindly regard for the members of the society have for outsiders was given. Also the desirability of getting on the inside of everything that one attempts rather than being simply a looker on. Then came the man who like Oliver Wendell Holmes never dares speak as funny as he can, Stanley Graves, '10, who gave us a few "What Nexts?" As usual the humorous side of Mr. Graves nature asserted itself but finally five "what nexts" were brought to our attention. Robert Craig, '08, responded to the toast, "The Dinner—The proof of the pudding is in the eating," and not only honored the occasion by joke and pun but by a talk on success and its achievement. The next toast, "Zeta Sigma's Friendship—Friendship above all ties doth bring the heart, and faith in friendship is the noblest part," was given a response by George D. Sutton, '08. After laying aside the story telling, the relations of the society to its honorary members, to the faculty, to other societies in the college, and especially to Alpha Theta, and how to improve and make all of them more ideal both for ourselves and those concerned in the institution, was presented. To the toast, "Zeta Sigma's Progress—He who labors diligently need never despair; we can accomplish everything by diligence and labor," was given a very pat response by Harry A. Craig, '09. Here and there a witty remark or anecdote was told which could not help but drive the point in question home. A life history of the society was related and also plans for a more perfect organization and for the accomplishment of greater individual benefit. Next the toastmaster proposed that we drink to the following, "Here's to Prof. Ewing, may he live long, and may the years continue to add only gentleness and manliness to his nature." After which upon being urged, Prof. Ewing talked very kindly and sympathetically to the young men assembled. The concluding remarks of Prof. Mitchell were characteristic of his nature, in that he is ever ready to give and take a joke, ready to assist where assistance should be rendered, ever desirous to see the society prosper, and anxious that success should crown the efforts of each individual member. All in all it is an event that will remain ever fresh in our memory.

THE STATE CONTEST.

The state oratorical contest will be held at Hope College Friday, March 6. The women's contest will be held in the afternoon at 2:15. There will be six lady contestants, one each from Alma, Albion, Hillsdale, Ypsilanti, Kalamazoo, and Adrian. The men's contest will be held in the evening with the usual number, nine, of contestants.

Hope college is desirous of entertaining a large number of delegates from the different colleges. Oratory is the only inter-collegiate activity indulged in by Hope and they are going to take the opportunity of showing that their inter-collegiate spirit is as vigorous and wholesome as that of the rest

of the colleges. Treasurer A. J. Van-Houten of the M. O. L. writes to Alma from Hope College as follows:

"We are going to outdo ourselves in giving you a joyous time. We are looking for large delegations from every college and are making preparations to receive them royally. We feel assured that you will send a large delegation—first because we know you have a winner in your orator; second because we all want to back our representative enthusiastically; and third, we are going to take care of you—room and board free. Admission to the contest will be free to the delegate. We have the swellest auditorium on any occasion in the state. Bring all the girls you can. We have a new girls' "Dorm" and a few vacant rooms. Let your girls do things at the Ladies Contest held at 2:15 p. m. We are satisfied with nothing less than a car-load from your school!"

Surely after such a cordial invitation, everyone who can possibly arrange it ought to go to Hope. Alma will be well represented in both contests. Mr. Dunham has re-written and re-arranged his oration until in the matter of composition it is easily the equal of any ever sent out from Alma, and will undoubtedly take high rank with the other orations that will be presented at the contest. Although Mr. Dunham comes next to the last speaker on an unusually long and fatiguing program we feel sure that he will have delivery of such a sort as to make his auditors sit up and lean over the seats. Alma will be satisfied with nothing less than a high rank in the finals.

Miss Elvena Hoover, the representative to the Ladies Contest, will be one of the best. Her oration is of high grade, possessing the requisite dramatic qualities without being in any part forced or unnatural. Her subject, "O'Connell—The Liberator," is one that lends itself readily to an enthusiastic treatment, and as a eulogistic oration deserves only the most favorable criticism. Miss Hoover appearing toward the close of the program in the Ladies' Contest, will be at somewhat of a disadvantage, but her strong voice and natural style of delivery should offset any such disadvantages. At least one winner should come home from Hope to be greeted by the students at the Pere Marquette Depot, and no one will be surprised if two firsts fall to our lot.

At any rate Alma should send as large a delegation as possible to Hope. Remember that entertainment is free and that the railroad rates are moderate. When the State Contest was held at Alma Hope sent up a large number of rooters, who made a splendid showing at the contest with their songs and yells. We want to do as well, and surely we have two fine orators to support. If you mean to go hand your names to the Oratorical Committee at once.

The College takes possession of Cherry Hill Farm March 1. The fellows are sending home for their overalls and rubber boots.

Mr. Charles Sill of Milan has entered the Commercial School.

A GOOD LECTURE

Stereopticon Lecture Given In
College Chapel for Benefit of
The Greenroom Club.

A fair sized audience listened to Prof. John Quincy Adams' lecture on English Parliaments last Thursday evening. The lecture was given as a means of raising funds to meet the deficit incurred by the Greenroom Club in their Shakespearian tour. Advertised among the students as "One Hour in the Dark," the address was illustrated by many fine lantern slides showing pictures of the homes of the Parliaments from the earliest times up to the present. Beautiful interior views, and pictures of famous men were also shown, as well as pictures of coronations and coronation pageants.

Prof. Adams, in his introductory remarks, dwelt upon the gradual formation of the English parliament, giving many valuable facts as to its origin. After this he depicted vividly the process by which the buildings in which the Parliaments now hold their meetings were built up on the site and around the original house of Parliament. A fine picture of the architect who designed the present houses of Parliament was shown, and a minute description given of the peculiarities and interesting points of the building. Including towers, House of Lords, House of Commons, stairways, crypts, etc.

Accounts of famous trials, historical incidents, and important debates were also brought to the attention of the audience, accompanied by the appropriate views. Short sketches were given of famous prime ministers and of great political leaders of the present time, including such men as Morley, Chamberlain, Rosebury, Campbell-Bannerman, Gladstone, Birrell, Burns, etc. Not the least interesting was the description of the etiquette of the two houses, their social functions, and their conduct during debates. An interesting description was also given of the process by which the king and queen of the English people are crowned.

Views of the coronation ceremony at different points were shown and the final view was a striking colored one of the present King and Queen.

The financial returns from the lecture were very satisfactory although the deficit is not yet made up. It is understood that plans are now under way for a farce to be given by the Greenroom Club next term. This would surely be a great drawing card and would add dollars to the treasury, as amateur theatricals have a strong hold upon the affections of Alma students.

COMING DATES.

Basketball, Alma vs. Mt. Pleasant Normal. Tonight.
Open house in Pioneer, Friday, March 20.
Strickland W Gilillan, Alma Lyceum Course Mar 3rd.
State Oratorical Contest at Hope College. March 6.

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NOVEL QUESTIONS ON LIBERAL EDUCATION.

Prof. Frank J. Miller, examiner of secondary schools, is reported to have said at the Junior Chapel of the University of Chicago, that only those who can answer the following questions in the affirmative are educated:

1. Has education given you a sympathy for all good causes?
2. Has it made you easier to interest yourself in them?
3. Has it made you public spirited? Do you look beyond your door yard and take interest in a clean city?
4. Has it made you a brotner of the weak
5. Have you learned the value of money and time
6. Have you learned to make and keep friends
7. Do you know how to be a friend to yourself
8. Can you look an honest man and a pure woman straight in the eye
9. Do you see anything to love in a little child
10. Can you be high-minded and happy in the drudgeries of life?
11. Can you think washing dishes and hoeing corn are just as compatible with high thinking as playing the piano or playing golf?
12. Can you be happy alone?
13. Are you good for anything to yourself.
14. Can you look out on the world and see anything but dollars and cents?
15. Can you look in a mud-hole and see the blue sky reflected?
16. Can you see good in everything?
17. Can you look at the sky at night and see beyond the stars?
18. Does your soul claim companionship with the creator?—The Simonian.

FROM ADRIAN.

The current Adrian College "World" publishes a cut of Dr. Bruske with the following comment under the heading

"Adrian Men Who Have Made Good in the Educational World." Augustus Bruske, who has enjoyed such a successful presidency of Alma College since 1890, was graduated from Adrian in 1869 and with the exception of two years post graduate work at Drew Theological, knew no other college home. His wife was Mary S. Hale, '70, and she has been his invaluable co-worker always. In a recent letter she says: "We both have such tender memories of old Adrian and would love to be rendering it "practical" and each day were it not that our hands are full, working for Alma."

PROHIBITION LEAGUE.

At the time of the visit to the college last week of Mr. Arthur Cobb, traveling secretary of the Intercollegiate Prohibition League, a league was organized there for the study of the temperance question. Meetings will be held monthly. Alma at the present time is the only college in the state not deeply interested in this great question. This new organization will now supply this need. The following officers were elected: President, Harold Avery; vice president, Charles Hunt; secretary, Norman H. Angell; treasurer, James Hogg.

BELIEVE.

(Note: The Almanian reprints the following poem from Success Magazine. Its author, Strickland W. Gilfillan, one of America's best known humorists, appears at the Opera House March 3, as the next number on the Lyceum Course.—Editor.)

Believe, and make the world believe,
your jaw is set to win;
Believe (belief's contagious) that your
ship's coming in;
Believe that every failure's brought
about by lack of grit;
Believe that work's a pleasure if you
buckle into it;
Believe there's help in hoping, if your
hope is backed with will;
Believe the prospect's fairer, from the
summit of the hill;
Believe, with all your power, that
you're sure of winning out;
Believe: keep on believing they are
brothers.—Death and Doubt.
Believe—not as the dreamer, with his
listless hands a-swing,—
Believe with muscles rigid and life's
battle flag a-fling;
Believe God doesn't always wait until
we cry to Him.
But blesses oftener the hand that's
fighting with a vim;
Believe, with him of old, that all
things come to them that wait.
Then, while you're waiting, hustle at
a doubly strenuous rate;
Believe that, in this life, we get our
sternly just deserts;
Believe the world is partial to the man
that hides his hurts.
Believe the clouds have only veiled—
not blotted out,—the sky;
Believe there's sweeter sunshine for
the blessed by-and-by;
Believe the blackest dark proclaims
the speedy dawn of day;
Believe your joy's but waiting till
you drive the dumps away;
Believe the nights are nothing to the
days that lie between;
Believe there's much that's better
than you've ever heard or seen;
Believe that—not alone your sin,—
your good will find you out;



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Believe: keep on believing: they are
brothers.—Death and Doubt.

THE BASHFUL BOY.

For c-c-cosy c-corners I ain't got no
use.

T-t-to sit b-b-beside the f-f-f-fire, I
refuse

It's to b-blame hot and there ain't no
exc-c-c-use

To g-g-gently sq-sq-squeeze 'er.

There ain't no place to love on a settee.
A s-s-s-sofa don't just quite appeal
t-to me.

I'm m-m-much too scared and t-t-t-
timid-like, b'gee.

To g-g-gently sq-sq-sq-squeeze 'er.

I l-l-l-like to go a strolling in the s-s-
snow

When l-l-l-little whirling d-d-driftlets
come and g-g-go.

With my stong arm I s-s-s-steady he
you know,

And g-g-genly sq-sq-squeeze 'er.

I l-l-l-like to go a-a awalking when it
storms

And r-r-rain-clouds gently shower
o'er our forms.

Then tenderly my w-w-wing her w-
w-waist adorns

And I g-g-gently sq-sq-sq-squeeze 'er.

Give me a d-d-d-dangerous pathway
by the Pine

When t-t-things that shriek and squeak
fer m-m-m-mine

Then r-r-round her w-w-waist my arm
will twine

And g-g-gently sq-sq-squeeze 'er

I l-l-l-like to come in useful on a
pinch,

At 'maginary t-things I n-n-n-never
f-flinch.

And t-t-then b'her, it's j-j-just a
cinch

To g-g-gently sqsqsqueeze 'er.

G-G-Gee!

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CLASS AND SOCIETY

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

SENIOR

The Senior class held a meeting recently and the radical element succeeded in forcing through a bill to the effect that no caps and gowns are to be worn in chapel till the spring term. It is thought by the men of the class that such a measure will be useful inasmuch as it enables the men to get along without purchasing new spring suits.

The Seniors are taking hold of their rhetorical work with unusual vim. The work in extemporization is compelling some of the more questionable characters to yield up the innermost secrets of their beings but there is no help for it,—it has to be done.

The Senior-Freshman society organizations which have been in the habit of holding daily meetings in the chapel at the period previous to the 1:15 hour have been compelled to dissolve partnership on account of Dr. Bruske's recent ban on chapel conversations.

Helmer and Cobb, renowned orators of the class of '08, are assisting Pro. Adams on Thursday afternoons in putting the Freshmen through their oratorical paces. It is worth the cost of a college course to listen to Helmer's dissertations before the green ones.

The Seniors who are making up Caesar have served an injunction on the editor of the Almanian forbidding him to publish any account of their class work. It is not modesty that impells them to such a course. We are pleased to say that the Seniors taking prep German made their grade without too much trouble.

PHILOMATHEAN.

The society has elected the following officers for the second semester: President, Gertrude Whitney; vice president, Carmen Goll; secretary, Jessie Gibbs; treasurer, Ruth Cook; critic, Maud Hooper; Almanian reporter, Carrie Rowland. The members enjoyed a treat at Stevies and are now ready for work again, preparing for a debate.

This world is old yet like to laugh,
New jokes are hard to find:
A whole new editorial staff
Can't tickle every mind;
So if your meet some ancient joke
Don't frown and call the thing a fake,
Just laugh—don't be too wise.—Ex.
How dear to our hearts is the cash
on subscription,
When the generous subscriber presents it to view,
But the one who won't pay, we refrain from description,
For perhaps, gentle reader, that one might be you.—Ex.

Stop! Don't take imitation celery teas when you ask for Celery King, a medicine of great value. The "teas" are urged upon you because they are bought cheap. Never jeopardize your health in a bad cause. Celery King only costs 25 cents and it never disappoints.

THE COMING DEBATE.

Arrangements for the two debates with Olivet are practically complete. All that remains now is the signing of an agreement concerning the manner of conducting the debate. With the exception of one or two trifling details both colleges have signified their approval of the debating contract and signed copies of the contract will probably be interchanged this week.

It has been decided that the team composed of Messrs Morse, Marchmont and Cobb will go to Olivet and uphold the negative of the question, which is worded exactly as was the question debated in the college chapel Monday evening, February 17. Messrs. Horst, Casterlin, and Sayles will meet the Olivet team on the Alma platform on the same evening and will uphold the affirmative of the question.

Both teams are hard at work again and under the coaching which they are getting will put up a much better debate than in the local contest. The two coming debates will be noteworthy contests, especially in view of the fact that four of the six debaters will engage in their last forensic contest as far as college debating in concerned, at least. Messrs. Horst, Morse, and Cobb graduate in June, and Mr. Marchmont, who is now in the class of '10, has Columbia University in view for next year. However, orators and debaters are multiplying in Alma with as great rapidity as athletes and next year will see no diminution in the quality of the men and women who go out to do battle for Alma on the platform.

POSTPONED.

At a meeting of the men in Pioneer Hall last Friday noon it was decided to postpone the annual "Open House" until March 20. This step was thought advisable, owing to the fact that two of the men have recently been taken with scarlet fever, and while it is not in the least probable that the disease was contracted in Pioneer, it was thought unwise to hold the entertainment until the next month. March 20 was selected as the only available date, March 13 being the date of the basketball game at Mt. Pleasant, and March 6 being too near the original date.

THE LID.

A lid fell in Detroit and
The entire town went dry,
While all the thirsty ones about
For one wee drop did cry
A lid fell in the dining room,
A gentle little drop,
But the Soph across the table thought
His very heart would stop.
A lid may fall and bring distress
Or then it may bring joy;
"It all depends upon the lid,"
As said the Freshman boy.
But when Prex claps the cover on,
You'd better take to bush,
For sure as ever the thing comes down
There'll be a mighty crush.
Our Prexy said, "Now look you here
This chapel's meant for study."
(Why was it that a Senior grew
Quite white and then quite ruddy?)
"When upper class men flunk like this
To crush them I am ready,
And woe unto the luckless wight
If I catch him with a steady."

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LEAP YEAR STUNT.

The lecture in Chapel last Thursday evening furnished an opportunity for a very enjoyable leap-year stunt. The co-eds on learning of the lecture decided to take matters into their own hands and ask the men to go with them. Accordingly invitations were issued by the girls during the first of last week and the boys had the novel pleasure of accepting, while it is said some even had the experience of being able to decline two or three invitations. At any rate the fellows understand now how a girl feels when she gets an invitation, and the girls know just how much courage it requires to ask the pleasure of the company of one of the opposite sex. The co-eds were somewhat surprised, however, on learning that they must secure permission of Coach Harper, Dean of the Men's Dormitory before they could secure their fellows for the evening. Accordingly an excited group of Wright Hall girls held up that individual one noon as he was coming from lunch and beseeched him for permissions. His usually obdurate heart softened under their pleas and the only condition he exacted was that the ladies should not call at the Dormitory for the men. In order to get permission to take the men who room at 420 Maple Ave., the girls who were smitten by the charms of the fellows residing there sent a special delivery letter to the landlord, R. E. Raycraft, '08. The inability of the women to call at Pioneer Hall for the men was gotten around by compromising on the residence of Mr. Fraker, who resides just off the campus. The fellows who were so fortunate as to be invited were all gathered in the parlor of the Fraker home promptly at 7:30 p. m. when the ladies began to arrive and send up their cards for their respective affinities. After the lecture was concluded the audience proceeded en masse to Steve Bennet's popular confectionery emporium, where the fellows were treated to icecream, hot chocolate, etc.

IF ALMA WERE HEAVEN.

(With profuse acknowledgements to the jokesmith of the "College World," Adrian.)
The preps would cease stamping their feet in chapel, maybe.
There wouldn't be so much snow, maybe.
We would pay our Almanian subscriptions, maybe.
We wouldn't get conned, maybe.
The swipes wouldn't fight in the serving room, maybe.
We could take our girls to church, maybe.
There would be more leap-year parties, maybe.
"Friday night" would last till ten, maybe.
Dr. Bruske would let us steady in chapel, maybe.
Dr. Notestein couldn't tell when we bluff, maybe.
Miss Waring would try to be serious maybe.
Dr. Clizbe would select singable hymns, maybe.
"Jimmy" wouldn't smile in chapel, maybe.
The pump at Pioneer would be mended, maybe.
Prof. Cook wouldn't sputter, maybe.
Prof. Adams would wear sideburns, maybe.
Morse wouldn't get fussed so easily, maybe.
Dunham would have a smaller opinion of Dunham, maybe.
Lathers would be on time, maybe.

Titus would sign the pledge, maybe.
Dr. McCurdy would learn how to jolly, maybe.
"J. T." wouldn't be a "Three Gonger," maybe.
Hill would behave, maybe.
R. Craig, Jr., would be graceful, maybe.
Marshall would stop saying, "Walk this way, please," maybe.

CAMPUS GOSSIP.

Alma has added another hard game to her already long baseball schedule. Ypsilanti Normal team will play here June 13.

Leslie J. Menzies has left College. His address for the remainder of the year will be Yale, Mich.

Mr. Scarth Inglis, of Olivet College visited with his brother, David Inglis, in Pioneer, last week and attended the inter-society debate.

Scarlet fever is causing excitement in Pioneer. George Anderson and Earl Rock are at present recovering from the disease at Brainard Hospital.

A new plan is in vogue at Olivet, and it might be well to inaugurate it at Alma. It is this: Subscriptions paid the first semester are \$1.00; if paid the second semester, \$1.25. Such a plan cannot fail to get a goodly number of subscriptions paid up the first of the year so the staff will be insured better financial backing.

It has come at last. In an address to the men of the college last Wednesday morning after chapel Dr. Bruske censured the prevailing practice of "stiddyng" in the chapel during study hours. Many of the brightest students it is alleged are losing their prestige as scholars as a result of too many long and ardent conversations with co-eds during study hours. Hereafter the practice is forbidden.

Dr. Bruske's recent edict in regard to "stiddyng" in chapel has moved the Almanian staff to mirth. This is one of the effusions.

"The lid is on says Prexy dear,
No spooning in this chapel:
Keep to your side, don't venture near
The Eve with leap year apple."
This is our wail—forgive us if
Our tone is one of sorrow;
The cloud may pass with coming grass
And 'twill be gay tomorrow.

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