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The Weekly Almanian

VOL. 1. NO. 22.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1908.

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DUNHAM GETS THIRD

Alma Is Well Represented at Hope and Takes A Fair Share of the Honors

The 11th annual contest of the Michigan Oratorical League took place at Hope College, Holland, Michigan, on March 6th. Hope was on that day therefore, "The Mecca towards which all Michigan intercollegiate pilgrims were journeying. Every college had a delegation, and, no matter how large or how small, Hope College extended to all a most royal welcome. Nothing that the college and city could do to make the visitors feel at home was left undone. Altogether it was the best conducted and strongest contest in the history of the M. O. L. and all honor is due to Hope College and the orators for this success.

One of the interesting features of the contest this year was the Women's Oratorical held in the afternoon in the Carnegie gymnasium, which was beautifully decorated for both occasions. This is the first contest of its kind ever held in the state and the success of the venture plainly indicates that a Women's Oratorical League must become a permanent feature; and steps are to be taken at once to affect such an organization.

Six colleges, Adrian, Albion, Alma, Hillsdale, Kalamazoo and Ypsilanti, were represented in the Ladies' Contest.

The winning speech was given by Miss Lena Weadge of Albion College on the subject "A Peril to the American Home." Miss Weadge discussed the servant problem in a very creditable manner and her delivery was good. She secured second rank in composition and third in delivery. A close second for first place was the oration "Robert E. Lee" given by Miss Catherine Diebel of Ypsilanti.

In rank Miss Diebel tied with Albion for first honors, but the place was awarded to the latter on the strength of a larger percentage in grade. Miss Gertrude Worden of Hillsdale secured third place. Her subject was "Democracy and the Social Consciousness" and received first place by the judges in composition.

As is the case with every contest this one met with its usual share of criticism because "the decisions were not right." However that may be it is perfectly natural for every college to have perfect confidence in its representative and when things do bring the desired result criticism follows. Alma had all confidence in Miss Hoover to win a high place with her strong and forceful oration on "O'Connell, the Liberator," which was generally conceded to be the strongest oration of the afternoon. However it was not a favorite with the judges, who criticised it as being "too heavy and inappropriate for a girl."

The greatest interest however, was
(Continued on page two)

MIRABEAU.

The single individual seldom changes permanently the current of human history. Those world figures who have gained and wielded such Herculean power have been rare indeed. It is true that Charles Martel, by repulsing the Saracen hordes, saved the world to Christianity; that Patrick Henry, touching the chords of nationalism, invoked the doom of tyranny; that Bismarck, welding together the petty German principalities, created a world power; that Lincoln, seizing his opportunity, struck the shackles from three million bondmen; but the philosophical historian asserts that such results were inevitable, even if these names had never been written on history's pages. For there is a continuity to history which the individual may aid or check, but never turn. One, choosing to be borne on the flood-tide of fortune, gains a never-dying fame; another, endeavoring to stem the tide, meets what the world calls failure. But to him who wills to guide to nobler ends the progress of time, come fame or failure, the world owes her choicest homage. Huss and Savonarola, religious reformers; Kosciusko and Bolivar, national liberators; John Brown and Garrison, race emancipators; not one was completely successful. Individualism received but little aid from John Milton. The immortal Gladstone could not wrest "Home Rule" from the British Parliament—(It is yet a dream). Unsuccessful heroes! With the courage born of conviction each faced a hostile public and valiantly championed the principles dictated by conscience. Another such man was Honore Gabriel Riqueti, Comte de Mirabeau. The hasty critic would write above his life "Failure," but mature judgment reveals him as a most potent factor in the establishment of French liberty.

The story of Count Mirabeau is one of the saddest in the annals of the human race. Heredity and environment wrought havoc with his life. Deformed, misshapen, cursed at birth by a frenzied father, the unfortunate babe was reared in an atmosphere of unrest. He inherited great mental vigor, but with it was given a nature so notoriously passionate and sensuous that in later years people scorning him, said "He is a Mirabeau; they are all devils." The father tyrannical, the son strong-willed, a breach early appeared and widened daily. Paternal love soon turned to hate; filial devotion to open hostility. At the father's command prisons yawned upon the son but the dungeon's gloom could not cool the hot blood of a Mirabeau. Wilder and more lawless did he grow, until he became a social leper, a fugitive from justice. Yet that outcast, friendless and condemned to die, was soon to appear as the most colossal figure in French history.

To judge a statesman you must first understand the conditions of his time. Countless volumes tell the story of Mirabeau's age, the story of that most complicated and decisive movement—the French Revolution. So rapidly did the tumultuous events rush by that men to-day can scarcely realize their vastness. A glorious political structure, but undermined and crumbling, was the fearful heritage of Louis XVI. Weak king that he was, he truly typified the faded splendor of that once mighty empire. Scarcely was he crowned before the flame of discontent spread, surging and roaring, over all the land. Tyranny had bred inevitable revolt. Feudalism had made the people wild; feudalism that was driving justice from the land; feudalism that was grinding the poor into more wretched poverty; feudalism that was making aristocracy supreme. "To Arms! To Arms!" The cry of the frenzied, uncontrollable masses echoed and re-echoed from Calais to Marseilles. All France seemed mad! The revolutionists would overthrow king and government and be free! Piti-ful France! You sowed dragons' teeth; you will reap havoc and destruction.

Beside the three regular parties there was now a fourth, a party of one man, that man, Mirabeau. Through all the chang-
(Continued on page three.)

ALMA-OLIVET

The Articles of Agreement Between the Two Colleges Regarding Coming Debates.

Agreement of Alma College and Olivet College with regard to Inter-collegiate debates for the year 1908:

ARTICLE I.

Section 1. Alma College and Olivet College do hereby agree to meet each other in two debates on Friday evening, April 17th, 1908. One debate to be held at Alma and one at Olivet.

Section 2. The same question shall be used in both debates, viz:—"Resolved, that the federal government should levy a progressive inheritance tax, constitutionality conceded."

Section 3. The home team shall in each debate uphold the affirmative of the question.

Section 4. Each team shall consist of three college students in full and regular standing.

Section 5. Each speaker shall be allowed an opening speech of twelve minutes, the affirmative leading, and a rebuttal speech of five minutes each the negative leading.

Section 6. The officers of each debate shall be a presiding officer selected by the institution where the debate is held; and two time keepers, one provided by each institution.

Section 7. The judges of each debate shall be three in number, selected as here in provided. Their decision shall be by sealed ballot, cast without consultation one with the other.

Section 8. Each institution shall pay all expenses of its home debate, viz:—expenses of judges, the expenses of the three members of the visiting team, and the expense of program and incidentals.

ARTICLE I.

Section 1. The judges shall be selected in the following manner:—On or before February 29 each institution shall mail to the other institution a list of fifteen (15) names for each debate, thirty in all. Within ten (10) days the lists shall be returned with the names ratified or vetoed.

Other names shall be submitted in the place of those vetoed and the process repeated. When the lists are completed, each institution shall take the list of thirty names suggested for its local debate and shall then proceed to invite the judges for its local contest, informing the other college when ever a judge is obtained. It is further stipulated that in neither case shall all of the three judges be selected from the nominations of one college.

In case the three judges cannot be obtained from the submitted list, other names shall be submitted in like manner.

(Signed) For Alma Debating League:
Pres. Herman N. Morse
Sec'y, Norman H. Angell.

For Olivet Oratorical and Debating League:
Pres. Jephtha A. Wade.
Sec'y. Vern B. Brown.

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MOTTO:
BOOM ALMA.

Alma has again taken a step upward
As predicted by the Almanian long
ago. Alma secured a high place in the
State Oratorical contest.

Alma students were highly elected
when news of the outcome of the Men's
contest reached them, and it was
known that Alma had taken third
place, winning second in composition
and fourth in delivery. To have had
the honor of showing the standing of
his school up one notch higher is cer-
tainly grateful to Alma's orator, and
is evidence of the hard faithful work
done by him and by his coach.

Let us offer, however, a word of
appreciation for Miss Hoover, who
represented the college in the women's
contest. If the statements of the
judges of the women's contest are to
be taken seriously it was merely be-
cause Miss Hoover's oration was
deemed stronger and more forceful
than usually expected from a girl that
she was not given first place. No
truer praise than that can be offered;
although it is scarcely to the credit
of the judges to hold that excellence in
a woman is really a demerit. There
are more contests coming and next
year Alma is going to win out; and
we ask for no better representatives
than we had this year, but only that
fortune and the same hard work may
be with them.

CAMPUS GOSSIP.

Sheridan's day was observed in chapel
last Friday morning.

Miss Florence Bateson read an essay
on Sheridan's life, and Byron Chapel
read one on his military exploits.
The choir led in the singing of
'Columbia, The Gem of the Ocean.'
Open house at Pioneer March 20.
See Royal Campbell, room 20, about
some new posters. He has the best.

Gillilan's lecture was enjoyed by a
large audience last Tuesday evening.
His remarks on home life, his ideas of
women, and his Irish stories brought
him well deserved applause.

DUNHAM GETS THIRD

(Continued from page one.)

taken in the Men's Contest, which
was held in the evening. The orations
were all strong and much depended
on the manner in which they were
delivered in awarding the first places.
The liveliest interest was manifested
and the large hall which seats 1500
people was nearly filled.

First place in this contest was also
won by Albion. The winning oration
was delivered by Jay A. Oakes on
the subject 'The Crime of Industrial
Evolution.' His development of the
subject was strong and forceful and
his delivery showed the advantages
of a long training as a public speaker.
Mr. Oakes' right to first place was
disputed by no one. Second place
was won by Mr. Henry Hughes, of
Olivet, on the subject, 'A Problem
in Evolution.' Mr. Hughes made
a strong race for first place but fell
five points behind Albion.

Third place was taken by Mr. John
Dunham of Alma, on the subject
'Mirabeau.' Mr. Dunham was the
youngest orator of the evening, but
one of the strongest for all of that.
His oration was unique in its devel-
opment and plainly indicated a vast
amount of hard work. Even in deliv-
ery in spite of his small stature he
was able to hold his own. Alma feels
great pride in the honor which Mr.
Dunham has brought upon her for
this is the first time in the history
of the college that Alma has been able
to win a place in a state contest, and
indicates, what first class training
will do.

The judges for the Ladies' Contest
were Mrs. James Sutphen and Mrs.
Geo. E. Kollen of Holland, Mrs.
Henry Hulst and Miss Mary M.
Thompson of Grand Rapids, Miss
Mary Lowell of Kalamazoo Normal.

For the evening the judges were
James O'Donnell Bennet, of Chicago;
Milo G. Campbell, Coldwater; Perry
Powers, Cadillac and Rev. Lee Mc-
Callister, of Detroit.

After the rendering of the decisions
at midnight an informal reception
was given in Voorhees Hall; music
was furnished by the college orchestra
and a delightful time enjoyed by all
the delegates and their friends. At the
conclusion of the reception a unanim-
ous vote of thanks was voted to Hope
College for their royal welcome and
the excellent manner in which this
great event was concluded.

SENIORS

Recently the Seniors were invited
by Miss Gladys Nelson to attend a
chicken-pie supper at Ithaca. It was
a most charming occasion, indeed!

In the first place, one who has not
partaken of a chicken pie supper at
Ithaca cannot imagine how delightful
they are; so how fortunate the seniors,
the naughty-eighters, were, if you
please. A table was prepared espe-
cially for them; and as they tucked
their legs under that bountifully laden
festive board of good things, good even
beyond the dream of Wright Hall, no
where was there so joyful a crowd as
this; The ride in the bobs' had served
to banish all care and produce
appetites that were able to appreciate,
but were unable to exhaust.

After the banquet appropriate speeches



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were made with 'France' as as toast-
master. With witty remarks each
senior was introduced and each senior
had to reply to such toast as, "Good
Times We Have Had," "Some Dis-
graces with the Faculty," "Some Class
Mysteries Explained," etc. At the
conclusion we were further given a
delightful entertainment at the home
of Miss Nelson, who demonstrated in
every way her ability as a hostess.
Then in the small hours of morning we
made our way back to Alma, thor-
oughly tired, but full of joy for all
of that.

Now, gentle reader, I have no
doubt you wonder when the seniors took
this delightful excursion for we are all
blessed with more or less curiosity.
Well, we did not take the trip at all;
the best we could do was to anticipate,
and we dreamed a beautiful dream
on the strength of that kind invitation
and are still wondering what Ithaca
suppers are like.

Well, as every tale must have an end,
and since there is no better way to do
in this case, we "jump at conclu-
sion,"—no matter about results.
Therefore wouldn't it be to our social
advantage, dear senior, to bring about
sort of a senior junior-freshman con-
solidation, thus making our social
circle complete within itself. This
is only a suggestion, class of naughty-
eight; and we might add that it is
our idea to incorporate only the
necessary elements of the compound
named. Under such conditions the
good time so poorly described above
would be more than a dream.

C. P. Smith is still wielding the
pedagogical rod in the school near
his home.

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MIRABEAU.

(Continued from page one.)

es and vicissitudes of the period, he was pre-eminently and truly a statesman. Basing his plans not upon what ought to be, but on what is, he formed a definite policy—a policy all his own. It conflicted sometimes with the program of the revolutionists, sometimes with that of the king, yet at all times he was persistent, at all times consistent. He would abolish both feudalism and privilege and create equality in France. With logical foresight he realized that while the revolution must be radical, it must withal be conservative, for unchecked it would rush beyond limits, endangering its own accomplishments. Differing from all others he would save the monarchy. A constitutional monarchy would secure liberty and order, a French democracy could only lead to anarchy and lawlessness.

Politics were in a turmoil. Old systems were crumbling; old leaders were passing away. Out of the confusion and chaos must be evolved new systems and new leaders. The revolutionists, led by Marat, determined to stamp out absolutism. Then appeared a new leader, already favorably known by his writings. Marat was radical, lawless, destructive; his adversary conservative, law-abiding, constructive. Both were ambitious: the one was a glory seeker; the other would blot out with genius the record of his early years. Mirabeau the outcast would become Mirabeau the statesman. Through the Estates General he would step to power. So, aristocrat though he was, he made himself a representative of the people. One month later, when the National Assembly, superseding the Estates General, had determined to rule France, he determined in turn to rule it, saying, "I have the presumption to believe myself useful and even necessary to the Assembly." Such determination soon gained the mastery. His boldness of initiative captivated, his eloquence swayed, his far-sightedness convinced, his genius dominated them. The slave of passion became the master of the king, the leader of the people. On Mirabeau, the statesman, rested the fate of France.

Mirabeau, standing with a policy of clear issues midway between absolutism and radicalism, was misunderstood by capricious, passionate France. Contending against feudalism he seemed a revolutionist. Checking and tempering the struggle he seemed a monarchist. Now with the people! Now with the king! No wonder the rabble applauded and then hissed! When the king's representative demanded the Assembly to join the clergy and nobility, Mirabeau sprang up with the reply, "We are here by command of the people, and will disperse only by force of bayonets." When frenzied mobs swarmed into Paris, besieging the Bastille, freeing prisoners, and crying, "Down with the king," he restrained the assembly, which would gladly have seconded the upheaval. Mysterious policy! Now opposer of royalty. Now mediator from king to people. Revolutionists, royalists, all grew to hate this giant, who, realizing that the despotism of six hundred would be infinitely worse than that of a king, balked their every plan. When the jeering and taunting assembly accused him of treason, he responded, "I will be carried away from here either in triumph or in shreds." Then followed one of his greatest speeches, persuading them to save Paris from mob rule and to crush feudalism completely. All devising, daring, cunning, he knew not defeat, and yet each victory only made greater the estrangement.

Thus far Mirabeau had guided the revolution. What the nation needed had been attained. But alas for France, the revolutionists, far from appeased, their insatiable appetites aroused by their victories, must rush on, crush royalty, and be, as they thought, free. Two forces clashed in mortal combat. Conservatism and radicalism! Sane statesmanship and mob rule! Mirabeau and Marat! Loyalty could not exist, said France, in one whose career was so checkered, and she spurned him. Even the Assembly turned from its work of reformation and consummated the anarchy. Mirabeau pleaded, reasoned, stormed, but all in vain. His last plan to save France was scorned; his magic words had lost their charm; the last embers of loyalty were dead. The only statesman who might have guided the nation through the

(Continued on page four.)

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MIRABEAU.

(Continued from page three.)

crisis was misunderstood, hated, shunned. "O, Thou frivolous and thrice frivolous nation," cried the despised, dauntless leader, as with hand raised in warning he was crushed by France—his beloved France, rushing madly into the Reign of Terror.

He failed to save the government. Shall we call it weakness? The critical historian VonHolst, answers—"To arrest single handed the downward plunge of a nation requires nothing less than omnipotence." Men often fail, not from lack of personal power, but because national problems are rarely solved by single individuals. Bismarck, Lincoln, Luther, the Apostle Paul, all failed in some particular. Even the Man of Galilee, the most glorious man of all time, was rejected as a knave and an imposter. The Mirabeau of to-day is not the Mirabeau painted by passion and prejudice, whose bones were gathered by the rabble and thrown into a potter's field. The flood-gates of anarchy opened at his death, pouring out their devastating torrent. When the floods had subsided, however, and reason had returned to penitent, desolated France she realized the incomparable strength and worth of him who for the principles he knew to be right opposed, single handed, royalty and people. She calls him now the supreme statesman of his age.

Supreme statesman? Yes! Would you compare him with the statesmen of a century? William Pitt, the Great Commoner, that master genius among orators, failed to convince an arrogant, haughty Parliament, and a more arrogant, stubborn king; Mirabeau was master of the situation; by power of intellect he forced appropriate legislation. The oratory and statesmanship of Alexander Hamilton secured the adoption of our constitution, but politically the Americans were the most progressive and enlightened people of the age; Mirabeau's countrymen were the most incompetent to solve political problems. Henry Clay, the great compromiser, seeking to justify human slavery, only averted the nation's catastrophe; Mirabeau, attempting to secure individual liberty, would have prevented that horrible cataclysm of crime, the Reign of Terror, had not frenzied mobs and visionary demagogues overturned his work. The great Bismarck succeeded and ruled only by a policy of "Blood and Iron;" Mirabeau achieved all he did by "Justice and Reason." Gladstone failed to wrest "Home Rule" from an enlightened legislature; Mirabeau's failure was only that he could not calm the passions and fury of an unrestrainable rabble. The farsightedness of Chatham, the political sagacity of Hamilton, the conciliatory statesmanship of Clay, the bold initiative of Bismarck, the gentle humanity of Gladstone, were all combined in Count Mirabeau. Statesman or demagogue? Time answers, "It was genius."

Believe him not ideal. It was his misfortune to have faults in proportion to his genius. He was basely immoral, often unscrupulous. Struggling for mastery with that colossal intellect was the low nature of the animal. "He was," says the historian, "a genuine son of the times. Not only their follies and vices, but their characteristic brilliant traits have in him a pre-eminent representative." Had that life, so checkered with glory and shame, but possessed a moral sense, the name of Mirabeau would be the most resplendent of modern times.

Centered in him was all the genius of orator, statesman, prophet. For he was truly an orator who by his eloquence dominated assembly and king; a statesman who overthrew the privileges of a few that he might build in their stead the monarchy of man; a prophet who foresaw the impending conflict, and after it the cherished ideas of liberty fading before the depotism of a Napoleon. He promulgated the creed, "Liberty, Fraternity, Equality;" a creed too advanced for the age of Louis XVI, but one yet destined to be completely realized. Lion-like he had fought till the end, and failed. But hidden in failure was a grander, broader success; his great hope and ambition was within a century to be consummated; French liberty was yet to be established. Out of the ashes of revolution was to spring Phoenix-like, the Republic of France; the mission of Mirabeau was then accomplished.

Solitude; by R. L. McCollum.
Strong Men, or Incense in Chapel; by Steve Hill.
A Race Track in German by. H. Helmer.
The Art of Tipping It Off, by J. C. Harper.
Haberdashery, or a No. 6 Hat on a No. 9 Head; by J. M. Dunham.
Voice Culture, a Howling Success; by Art Henderson.
Why Attend Church At Night by D. Duncanson.
The Spenders, by Baron von Hutton
Poultry Raising, or Light In Dark Places; by L. P. Koepfgen.
The Confectioner's Guide, by A. D. McFadden.
How To Use a Library, by Cook & Fraser.
Why I Never Joined a Secret Society by H. Smith.

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The Punster's Guide, by Royal Campbell.

The Art of Receiving Visitors from Home, by W. C. Wilson.

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