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# The Weekly Almanian

VOL. 1. NO. 23.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 1908.

PER COPY 5 CENTS.

## WILL BE A BIG DAY

County Athletics Contest Will be  
Held on Davis Field May 29  
—Rousing Time Promised

At the January meeting of the Gratiot County Teachers' association the subject of school athletics was given considerable attention and a suggestion was made that some kind of an organization be formed for the purpose of fostering the right athletic spirit in the schools of the county. The matter was left in the hands of the committee composed of ten superintendents and principals.

This committee met last Saturday in Commissioner C. F. Pike's office and decided to hold a field day for the schools of the county on Davis field Alma, May 29.

There are to be two classes of contests at that time, one open to pupils in high school grades in schools having more than two teachers, the other open to pupils of rural schools and pupils in grades below the high schools. The list of events for the former class is as follows: 50 yard dash, 100 yard dash, 200 yard dash, 440 yard dash, ½ mile dash, 1 mile dash, ½ mile relay, 120 yard high hurdle, 220 yard low hurdle, pole vault, high jump, broad jump, 12 pound shot, 12 pound hammer and discus. The list of events for the second class is the same as the foregoing except there is no high hurdle and the low hurdle is 120 yards instead of 220 yards.

It was decided to give first, second and third prizes for each event in each class, the first prize to be a medal and the second and third prizes to be ribbons.

It was suggested by one member of the committee that this day could be made doubly eventful by adding to the athletic contests regular eighth grade graduation exercises, at which time the pupils who have finished the work of the eighth grade in the district school should assemble, listen to an address by some educator and receive their diplomas. Commissioner Pike seemed much interested in this suggestion and if it is possible to do so he will arrange to have such an eighth grade graduation at the time of field day. By means of such a doubly important occasion the young people would be encouraged to remain in school until they should receive at least a high school education.

Supt. F. E. Ellsworth, of Alma, was chosen to prepare a constitution and by-laws and to present them at the next meeting of the association which will be held March 21.

So many valuable suggestions were offered by Prof. J. C. Harper, athletic trainer in Alma College, that he was chosen member of the committee.

There was a man in Henderson,  
Who had a tall and slenderson,  
A human rail,  
Who used a nail  
To fasten his suspenserson.

## O'CONNELL, The Liberator.

Delivered by MISS ELVENA HOOVER of Alma College at the State Oratorical Contest held at Hope College, Holland, March 6, 1908.

Ireland is no longer favorable to the growth of dissatisfaction. Nothing in the daily life of the Irishman of to-day can supply provocation. The memory of past wrongs is gradually disappearing and the greatest boon that could be bestowed is a draught of Lethe deep enough to efface even the memory of all former disturbances.

But if we must turn our eyes backward let us avert them from the dark and dreary days with which none of us claim kinship and take refuge in that later period when first the ideas of right and wrong began to influence the relation between those two countries—England and Ireland. This period coincides with the appearance of a remarkable man—take him all in all—the most remarkable man that Ireland ever produced. His genius and energy shaped the course of events; his actions determined the history of Ireland. That man remarkable and versatile, that Hercules among orators, was Daniel O'Connell.

The man and the opportunity are both needed to produce great events. Glance at the ninety years when England held sway in the Emerald Isle and you will then understand O'Connell's opportunity. For three generations Ireland lay crushed under the penal laws, the dreams of resistance forgotten, the ideas of a free and unrestricted state almost lost. Picture her, in that age so humane and enlightened, an island soaked in the blood of countless rebellions, an island divided by factions and sunk in despair—Ireland, fettered and manacled, held in the iron grasp of the English aristocracy—Ireland, plundered and beggared, groaning under the burdens of foreign government and foreign lords. This was the political condition when at Carham O'Connell was born.

A gloomy period of twenty years succeeded. Tyranny scarcely feared resistance. Poverty and destitution had made their homes in the land. Turbulence was abroad. Wealth and learning lost their independent attitude and twined their sickly parasitic tendrils about the pillars of state. The people had the bearing of slaves. If a hope had arisen in a patriot's heart it would have been crushed by a glance at England, whose garrisons and navies encircled the globe.

But how mysterious and inscrutable are the ways of Providence! The season of intense gloom into which O'Connell was born was the period that preceded the dawn of Irish Liberty. No matter how extensive the empire or how vast the armies and navies of England, Ireland was to be freed and by the influence of a single statesman. The voice of this young Demosthenes went forth among his humble, heart-broken countrymen like the harbinger of happier homes and days of freedom. He was to raise this hapless isle from its helpless suppliant condition; he was to lift his countrymen from the mire of slavery and teach them to assume the rights of free men.

Nature herself had framed him for this mission in life. He was almost six feet high, of burly figure and commanding presence, of giant strength and exhaustless energy; he possessed a voice that rose high above the uproar of the crowd—a voice, soft or gentle, overwhelming or terrible, the breathing of the flute or the roaring of thunder. But it was not with his voice alone that he spoke; his hand, his eye, his mouth, his foot, each and all was a language of insinuation, coercion and persuasion. His apprehension was quick, his wit keen, his scowl terrible, his look withering, his revenge crushing. There was not a chord of feeling that he could not strike with power. At one moment he melted his hearers by his pathos, at another convulsed them by

(Continued on page three.)

## CLASS AND SOCIETY

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

### ZETA SIGMA

The Alpha Theta program given before Zeta Sigma last Monday evening was beyond expectations. We expected an excellent one but we heard a super-excellent one. Ireland was the theme for the evening, and 'be-gorra, it was great.' The stories told by each one in response to roll call were rich and many the sore sides that resulted. The trouble was that the minute you heard a new one you forgot the last. The papers given were well written and well read. The Emerald Isle was shown up in many new and interesting lights.

A short impromptu program, followed by some light refreshments completed an enjoyable evening. We extend thanks to Phi Phi Alpha for certain courtesies rendered.

### PHI PHI ALPHA.

Phi Phi Alpha gave a program before the Froebel Society Monday evening, March 9th. The different numbers were well prepared and well received, especially the impromptu debate which brought down the house.

After the program was concluded a social evening was enjoyed in the Froebel rooms which were prettily decorated for the evening. An interesting part of the entertainment consisted of an art contest, in which the men were required to paint water-color landscapes. Many fine sketches were produced and the prize was awarded to Harold G. Avery.

A delectable spread was finished by the Froebels just before the hour for closing.

Needless to say, the Phis look forward to next year with great eagerness.

### V. M. C. A.

The annual election of officers of the Association occurred Saturday noon, March 7. The officers elected were:—President, M. L. Marshall; vice president, Roy R. Campbell; secretary, Harlow O. Whitmore; treasurer, Stephen B. Hill; reporter, Norman H. Angell. The new officers will take their positions after spring vacation. Plans were also adopted for the improvement of the Association room. The walls will be retinted. A committee has been appointed to collect the money and make all necessary arrangements.

### WILLING.

'Wilt thou, fair maid,' the poet said.

A couplet make with me?  
She smiled, she blusht, she hung her head.

'I'm not averse, said she.—New York Press

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**CAMPUS GOSSIP.**

Alma lost the fourth game of her series with Mt. Pleasant last Friday night by a score of 23-35. The game was played in the Mt. Pleasant gymnasium and the Normals had it on their visitors during the first half, the score being 22-8 in favor of Mt. Pleasant. In the second half Alma made a better showing, making 15 points to the Normals 13. The game was clean and fast, and all that was to be desired in the way of basket ball. Drier of Saginaw officiated. A large crowd witnessed the contest.

Alma girls are moved by the leap year spirit, and in evidence of that fact will edit the next week's Almanian. The regular staff is highly pleased to "make way for the ladies" and their literary productions. Next week's issue will without doubt be way beyond the ordinary numbers in the way of interest and general excellence, and if extra copies are desired it will be necessary to order them ahead of time.

The following people made up Alma's delegation to the Oratorical Contest at Hope: Edith Cook, '08, Ruth Pierson '08, H. J. Bastone, '08, Harry Helmer '08, Miss Sophia Dunham and Prof. J. Q. Adams.

Miss Alice Marsh is at present secretary of the Y. W. C. A. in Saginaw

A. Raymond Moon, who has been so successful a Y. M. C. A. Secretary at M. A. C., has left that position to enter a business career in Detroit.

Students at Alma in '04 will retain pleasant memories of Fred D. Frost. He is located in Oregon where he has taken up a lumber claim.

News has just reached us of the wedding of Miss Nell Stringham, '04, to Abraham Hart, special '03-'04. The ceremony was performed in East Orange, N. J., January 8. They now live in Philadelphia where Mr. Hart is engaged in the clothing business.

The last entertainment on the A. L. C. is the Alma College Almaroons.

They appear April 10, the week after the spring term opens. Their trip during spring vacation has been postponed but they will fill several engagements during the term.

William C. Wilson enjoyed an extended visit from his father last week.

The excerpt given below is reprinted from the Normal News. It may interest readers of the Almanian to learn that H. G. Hunting referred to is "Gard" Hunting, one of Alma's earliest students, having studied here during the years 1887-93. After leaving Alma Mr. Hunting was engaged in different lines of literary work and is now located in Chicago, as assistant editor of the Technical World Magazine. He is one of their regular contributors, also, and every issue contains a long and an interesting article from his pen. The article referred to below is well worth the attention of everyone.

Practically to pick a hundred thousand horse-power off the tops of eight roaring blast-furnaces and to use it in performing a hundred giant tasks, is the purpose of colossal apparatus now being installed in the wonderful steel plant building of Gary, Indiana. So writes H. G. Hunting in the Technical World Magazine for March

By means of heretofore unthought of extension of the use of the blast-furnace gas, the Indiana Steel Company will save and put to work a power which has been only partly used up to now, and which was once utterly wasted. And now that that power will entirely displace steam in the great mills and that the rolling of more than two millions tons of steel ingots per year will be but one portion of the work it will perform, indicates the tremendous importance of the innovation.

For every ton of pig-iron which flowed for many years from the mouths of the world's blast furnaces, the power of twenty-five horses was generated—and wasted. Unrecognized hundreds of thousands of horse-power, that might have moved the machinery of half the crafts that cluster around the most useful of the metals, was lost in green and yellow fireworks, before men began to see. Now, by process that has been a growth, but which has only just reached perfection, the gas is preserved and used, and the wheels of the whole great industry of steel-making will presently turn before its power alone.

The author tells the story of the wonderful development of this new side of economical power in the way to make it easily comprehended by every reader and gives a full description of the handling of the gas. The article is admirably illustrated.

The Detroit Free Press tells of a "whoop-bang" sort of a boy, with feet as broad and flat as a pie tin, who trotted through the market till he reached a stall kept by a single woman about thirty years old. Halting here he yelled: "Say! Say! your little boy has been run over and killed, up by the city hall!" "Oh! Oh! heavens—oh! oh!" as she made a dive under the counter, came up on the outside, and started to follow the boy. After going ten feet she stopped looking very foolish, then remarked: "What a goose I am! Why I ain't even married!"



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Nor less to slight the hours of night,  
He watchful is alway.  
Though poor in pence, a wealth of sense

He storeth in excess—  
With poverty in opulence.  
His needs wax never less:  
His goods are few, —a shelf or two  
Of classics, and a chair—  
A banjo—with a bird's eye view  
Of back-lots everywhere.  
In midnight gloom, shut in his room,  
His vigil he protracts.  
E'en to the morning's hectic bloom,  
Accumulating facts:  
And yet, despite or wrong or right,  
He nurturath a ban,—  
He hath the stanchless appetite  
Of any hired man.  
On Jason's fleece and storied Greece  
He feeds his hungry mind:  
Then stuffs himself like a valise  
With "eats" of any kind:  
With kings he feigns he feasts, and drains  
The wines of ages gone—  
Then husks a herring's cold remains  
And turns the hydrant on.  
—From "Morning."

**UTILITY.**

There was a man in Atchison  
Whose trousers had rough patchison,  
He found them great,  
He'd often state,  
To scratch his parlor matchison  
—Lippincott's.

You may ride a horse to water  
But you cannot make him drink;  
You may ride a Latin pony  
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—Chicago Tribune

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# O'Connell, The Liberator.

(Continued from page one.)

his humor; he first held them at the heights of imagination, then bound them by the chains of logic. He controlled at will the wildest emotions of an Irish mob and passed with the ease of a master from bursts of passion to the tenderest pathos. There was no rhetorical trickery. He never strove like Shiel to strike and dazzle, to create a sensation and be admired. His bursts of passion displayed that genuineness and freshness which art so seldom can counterfeit. His speeches are the masterful utterances of a great man, haughty and arrogant at times no doubt, but haughty and arrogant because the speaker in the pride of his integrity scorned from the depths of his soul all meanness and baseness. "Few are the men," it is said, "who have such power over the multitude, who so thoroughly rule the people about them, or who have so completely within their grasp the reins of the political Pegasus." The tribunes of old had no greater influence over the Romans. The Gracchi, Rienzi, Mirabeau could not have surpassed him. He was a magnificent orator, trenchant, versatile, self-possessed, sincere in all his denunciations, ready in unstudied and effective retort—an orator, native, natural, persuasive, resourceful and unsurpassed.

Moreover, he was a constructive statesman. What the present generation knows of him and remembers is that he found the Irish Catholics in a state of great political degradation, that he freed them, that he began the conflict against the most tremendous odds when he was still a young man and that he had won the day before he was fifty; though in doing it he had to attack the most stolid, self-satisfied and imperious race in the world, and in their dearest and most deeply-rooted prejudice. Never yet in the history of a peaceful agitation has one man done so much, for O'Connell was the Catholic movement. If he had been removed then, emancipation would have come, if ever, from the slow development of the English conscience, rather than in the better and nobler way from the struggle of the Catholics themselves. Ireland was to be secured for the Irish: peace was to be theirs; union was to be theirs; social, political and religious rights were to be theirs; a constitutional government and universal freedom, all were to be theirs. Justly could O'Connell say, "Grattan sat by the cradle of his country and followed her hearse; it was left for me to sound the resurrection-trumpet and to show she was not dead, but sleeping."

It is from this standpoint that O'Connell not only ranks with men who revolutionized their times like Kossuth, Luther, Mazzini, Voltaire and Rousseau but with founders of states like Alexander, Caesar, Bismarck, Augustus, Napoleon and Washington.

Alexander diffused the language and civilization of Greece wherever victory led him, but he did it through blood and oppression. His marvellous successes also dazzled his judgment and inflamed his passion. Caesar, styled "The Father of his Country," was ruled by military successes. His policy, like that of Augustus, was to concentrate in his own person the chief offices of state and thus establish a single rule. This he did but only by means of the sword. Ambition, cold and heartless, found him later prostrate at the foot of Pompey's statue. Bismarck was the guiding spirit of Germany, its "Peace-Maker and Peace-Keeper." Austria, Prussia and France were humbled at his feet. But he was also the "man of blood and iron" holding in his military despotism the whole German Empire. Napoleon, Emperor of France, ran the most fool-hardy risks in the hope of obtaining results which would dazzle the world, ever regulating his policy in accordance with his own ambitious schemes. At the zenith of his glory he was arbiter of Europe, the paramount head of a confederacy of princes but he obtained his glory through force of arms. And that same arbiter of events led him to his Waterloo and to St. Helena. O'Connell was the "Monarch of Ireland." He was a king without sacerdotal unction, royal descent, election or usurpation—a king without crown, court or guards—a king of seven millions by consent of clergy and laity—a king with power to levy armies, to maintain war and conclude peace—a king who

(Continued on page four.)

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## O'Connell, The Liberator.

(Continued from page three.)

could keep his subjects in perpetual submission or turn them forth to a carnival of revenge. He was Ireland—Ireland revived and regenerated—Ireland, but ruling not with the iron heel of tyranny, the rod of oppression or the sword of carnage. Rather was he exerting his soul's efforts and influence in behalf of religious and constitutional liberty.

Washington's glorious victories at Trenton and Princeton, at Chad's Ford and Germantown, his privations at Valley Forge, all are hallowed in the memory of man. He it was who changed the ideals of political greatness, established American government and reared the columns of American Liberty. But there is one who revolutionized the whole social system of Ireland; who remodelled its representative, educational and ecclesiastical institutions; who gave Liberty of Conscience, not to one country only, but to all Europe; and who by his own individual efforts instigated Universal Freedom. This was the glory of O'Connell. He it was who maintained a national conflict—the conflict of resistance against force, freedom against oppression and right against usurpation; who banished the Penal Code and severed the alliance with England; yet who maintained that her deliverance should not be hazarded by a single crime or lost by the sacrifice of a single life. Civil and religious liberty for Ireland but liberty without war, insurrection or rebellion.

He left his mighty enterprise unfinished. So did the Founder of the Hebrew State, so did Hampden, so did Emmet and Fitzgerald. But has he not done enough for fame? Who ever accomplished so much for freedom with means so simple? Who but he subverted tyranny, saved the oppressed, yet spared the oppressor? Who but he ever raised seven millions of people from the debasement of ages to the dignity of freemen without exacting an ounce of gold or a drop of human blood? Whose voice like O'Connell's lingers in the ears of slaves awakening new hopes of freedom? Who but O'Connell brought Catholics and Protestants to friendly terms of peace? Liberty and Christianity are not estranged. The work he did, the power he wielded and the influence he has left behind him pronounce his fame and crown his memory with the blessings of humanity, not of Ireland only, but of the world.

His memory remains, his bright example remains, the fruit of his wise counsel remains. Marble statues may preserve his image but the humblest sod of independent Ireland, gilded with the dews of night and the light of dawn, is a prouder mausoleum than kings and conquerors can boast. The country is his monument; its independence, his epitaph. The Irish race may pass away, the fabric of its freedom be crumbled into dust but the cause for which O'Connell strove is immortal. And with the cause must ever remain the memory of this ardent champion of revolutions, this lover of liberty, this hero of independence, The Irish Liberator—Daniel O'Connell.

### ALUMNI NOTES.

Mrs. William Karkeet has returned to her home in Virginia, Minn., after a two month's visit with her parents in Alma.

Glen Montigel, special in chemistry last year, is enrolled in the chemical department of Chicago University, where he is studying organic chemistry. Mahala Reynolds, ex '07, is now located in Baker, Ore.

Daisy L. Hard, '02, is county commissioner of schools in Colville, Wash. She is very successful in her work.

Katherine Hall, com. '07 is stenographer for the Little Giant Hay Press Co., in Alma.

Bessie Holmes, com. '07, is in the office of the Alma Mfg. Co.

Miss Margaret Winn, special in mathematics the first semester of this year, is giving excellent satisfaction as instructor in mathematics in Alma High School.

Among recent letters received was one from Miss Myrtle I. Nicholson who will be well remembered by students of a few years ago. She is at

present connected with the White Marble Lime Co., of Manistique.

Wesley W. Bradfield, '02, is another old student who hasn't lost his love for his Alma Mater. He continues in Uncle Sam's Forestry work at Washington.

J. D. McGill, now connected with the First National Bank at Birmingham, Ala., recently wrote the Almanian a very interesting letter. "College days," he wrote, "are among the most pleasant recollections of life."

Fred Soule, '06, attending Union Theological Seminary, in New York City, has a word of praise for the Almanian. After a very short vacation Mr. Soule will go to northern Maine to preach during the summer.

Bert Hayes, Jr., has finished his commercial course and is now located in Grand Rapids, where he has an excellent position.

A. J. Helmer '03, principal of the Holland High School, is soon to join the Benedicts. We wish him a long life and a happy one.

Miss Fern Thomas, a former student at Alma, now at Manistique, has also acknowledged her appreciation of the Almanian.

Royal Hyde, an old student, is now situated in Almont, manager in a large implement, house.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Major Leman, of Detroit, are proud possessors of a clerk whom they expect to install soon in their drug store on Michigan avenue. Mr. Leman is an old commercial student. Mrs. Leman, nee Miss Agnes Bent, took art several terms.

Emma Butler, 'ex '08, was recently elected president of the Y. W. C. A. at Ypsilanti.

#### THE WISE MAN.

A wise man made a balloon  
And thought he would sail to the moon;  
But the moon went away  
At the dawn of the day,  
So the wise man came down before noon—Philadelphia Ledger

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**Alma Grain & Lumber Co.**

**Our Lumber Department** Will furnish you all kinds of building material for your house.

**Our Electric Department** Will wire it and install fixtures for Electric Lights.

**Our Grain Department** Will supply you with the best flour on earth for your bread and pastry.

Give us a chance.

Geo. S. Young, Pres.

Henry McCormack, Sec'y.

Wm. T. Naldrett, Vice Pres.

L. A. Sharp, Treas.

Please address all communications to the Company.