

The Weekly Almanian.

SPECIAL ORATORY AND DEBATING NUMBER

VOL. II, NO. 21.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1909.

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STATE ORATORICAL

Nine Colleges Represented at Kalamazoo, March 5.

SECOND IN WOMEN'S CONTEST

Alma's Representative in Men's Contest Victim of Unfortunate Circumstances.

The annual inter-collegiate state oratorical contest was held at Kalamazoo, March 5, before the most enthusiastic audience ever gathered for the occasion. Kalamazoo certainly outdid itself in entertaining her hundreds of visitors and deserves only praise for the most satisfactory way everything was conducted and the courteous treatment afforded to everyone. The visiting students had everything done for them that was within the range of student endeavor and one and all united in voting Kalamazoo an admirable host. Nearly all the colleges were represented by a large delegation of enthusiastic rooters and there were certainly things doing in the real college way, from start to finish.

The women's contest was called at 3 p. m., in the Congregational church. Kalamazoo decoration committee must indeed have been artists every one, for the church was a gala of college colors, smacking strongly of Kalamazoo, of course, but representing all the institutions in a conspicuous and artistic manner. The musical programs furnished with both the afternoon and evening contests were delightful—before the contests were over, nearly every college had an opportunity to show what it could produce along the line of, not oratory alone, but singing, whistling, and stunts in general.

Miss Redman spoke first at the women's contest and the fact that she landed second place is sufficient to show that she did exceptionally well. Her oration drew two firsts in thought and composition and her delivery was good. Her markings in delivery were not obtainable, but her final standing was second, which, out of five contestants, is something to be proud of. Miss French followed for Hillsdale and took the coveted first prize, which she clearly deserved. Her oration was a masterpiece in thought and composition and her delivery was

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Oration Taking Second Place at the Woman's State Oratorical Contest, Held at Kalamazoo March 5th, 1909, Delivered by Miss Agnes Redman, '10.

A Plea For Recognition.

History presents the story of down-trodden races. It pictures to us Nineveh, Marathon and Thermopylae, conquered Troy, devastated Carthage, humbled Rome, the Netherlands with its infamous Council of Blood, Bagdad with its butcheries, unhappy Ireland with its memories of Drogheda and Wexford, San Domingo and Warsaw—everywhere the inevitable conflict of races. Even this liberal and tolerant age, with its boasted justice, liberty and equality has witnessed the cruel atrocities of the Boxers; has beheld the terrible bloodshed at Port Arthur; has produced the ghastly Kief, Odessa and Kishinev; and has seen the struggles in the Reichstag and the oppression in Herzegovina. China, Manchuria, Russia, Germany, Austria—everywhere race antipathy and race persecution. But there is one people who through the ages have been the victims of oppression and outrage. From the bondage in Egypt, from the captivity in Babylon, from the vengeance of Antiochus Epiphanes, from the devastation in Jerusalem, from the banishment by England and Spain, from the ruthless slaughter in Roumania, and from the dreadful Pale in Russia, we have a race at all times under the ban, yet still surviving—the Jew.

He had emerged from the "twilight of fable" and had reached the height of his power when Romulus was founding Rome and Greece was in the infancy of her glory. Centuries before Homer sang of gods and wars or Aeneas had laid the foundations of the grandest and proudest city of the ancient world, the prophets of Israel had advocated ethical monotheism, a universal God and a universal brotherhood. The Jewish race, established by Abraham, has survived every nation of antiquity. Egypt, Chaldea, Assyria, Babylonia, Phoenecia, Carthage, Greece, Rome,—each rose to supremacy and sank into oblivion, but the Israelites, driven by the sword, forced from their homes, stung by the lash, burned at the stake, faced fagot and ban, believing in God and the Holy Book. Clasp to their breasts the precious Talmud, they have come through the ages pure, unchanged. Persecution and tyranny have not eradicated them. That race which withstood alluring Egypt, mighty Babylon, splendid Assyria and pagan Phoenecia, had a world's morality to establish and a world's God to enthrone.

But in this age of enlightened Christianity, with the bars of the Ghetto in many instances removed, the Jews are still suffering unspeakable tortures. Anti-Semitism is steadily increasing. Under Patriarchs and Kings the Israelites were hated because they bowed not down to Baal; at the time of Homer they were despised because they worshipped not the gods of Olympus; in the middle ages they were scorned as murderers of the Deity; now they are persecuted as infidels, as enemies of the Christian faith. Throughout the ages, persecution for conscience sake! Now, in addition, political anti-Semitism!

In Germany, especially after the death of William the First, this antagonism assumed an acute form. The Prussians forbade the Jews the right to hold land in fee, closed their synagogues, and on the pretext that they caused the Black Plague, burned them. Today Prussia's Hebrew citizens have few commercial advantages and are socially ostracized. Anti-Semitism has long raged in Roumania. There the unhappy Jew does not dream of social recognition, industrial equality or a voice in the government; he does not enjoy the shadow of justice in the courts; his children are even denied education. Hebrew blood courses in their veins! Little mercy has

INTER-SOCIETY DEBATE

Spirited Contest Held in College Chapel Monday Evening.

PREPARE FOR COLLEGE DEBATE

Both Teams Will Be Stronger for the Triangular Meet in April.

The cup debate, for some years an annual affair between the Phi Phi Alpha and Zeta Sigma Literary Societies, was thrashed out to the satisfaction of all concerned Monday evening. The contest was indeed a warm one and showed a thorough knowledge of the question from every conceivable standpoint. The question, Resolved, That the U. S. navy should be increased was thrashed to a frazzle, Zeta Sigma standing in the affirmative and Phi Phi Alpha arguing for the negative. The decision was given two for the affirmative and one for the negative.

There can be no doubt in the minds of all present, that the decision certainly hung as in a balance, the two teams being so evenly matched. There wasn't an idle second in the whole debate, much less an uninteresting one. From start to finish argument followed argument with the rapidity of a gatling gun—the arguments, showing that the navy should or should not be increased, more so than the gatling gun, perhaps.

Mr. Graves began the argument for an increase and was followed by Mr. Lindley for the negative the two somewhat decidedly agreeing to disagree upon some points at issue. Mr. Craig continued for the affirmative and was followed by Mr. Von Thurn, both gentlemen entering quite deeply into the question at hand, each being fairly positive that his view was correct. Mr. Dunham wound up the main argument for the affirmative, followed by Mr. Johnson, representing the negative. About all the material pro and con was exhausted now so it was thought best to put in the rebuttal speeches at this juncture, consequently Mr. Lindley again took the floor for the negative and clinched all the arguments from the other side, that had already been driven through the judges gray matter, by himself and his colleagues. Mr. Dunham closed

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Oratory and Debating

The fact that the Almanian can presume to attempt a special oratory and debating number is proof of the fact that there is a growing interest in these two branches of education at Alma (trusting that this statement will not be considered a plagiarism of dear old Plato when he remarked that "the fact that men sought for better things was proof of the existence of better things"). For some years the college has been steadily coming up in these departments. We have risen from last to third place in the men's state oratorical contests, believing that we would have come up one or two better this year, baring certain facts that are discussed in another column of this issue. We have risen from last place to second place in the women's oratorical contest of the state. The demand came for an instructor—a coach—and we procured one in Prof. Adams. We believe that an oratory and debating coach is now as necessary to us as an athletic coach. And so the interest has gradually grown till before long we must be taken into account among the colleges, in these two branches. A triangular debate has been arranged with Olivet and Hope. These debates should increase still more that gradual development, till oratory and debating contests become as common among the colleges as foot ball or base ball.

ALUMNI.

The third semi-annual banquet of "Ye Canterbury Club" was held at Princeton, Thursday, Feb. 25, '09. This, at first glance, might appear as an isolated fact but when we glance at the program and it shows us that Harold Gaunt, '06, acted as toastmaster—making good of course—and that J. Norman King,

'05, Paul J. Allured, '06, and Geo P. Horst, '06, were among those seated at the festive board, we connect it of course with Alma. The club is considered among the leaders at Princeton and for Mr. Gaunt to land the job of toastmaster, reads good, sounds better, and no doubt was best. The three other names makes the roll look somewhat Almafied, which fact makes it the more interesting for this column.

Mrs. Bert Reeder Sidebotham has recently been suffering with appendicitis, but is now on the safe road to recovery.

Allured and King took lunch with Billy Taft on March 4th, at the White House, immediately after inauguration ceremonies. Paul reports that Billie's smile implies all of Teddy's "delighted" and a little bit more.

Library Endowment.

Several years ago, Hon. Arthur Hill of Saginaw, gave Alma College a fine Lincoln Library which was named Lincolniana. It occupies a separate case in the building and is one of the best features of the library. Complete as it is, it is to be made better.

On the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, Dr. Bruske received a check from Mr. Hill for \$500. It arrived too late to be announced at the exercises, but better late than never. The fund is to be used as an endowment for this Lincoln library. The income will not be great but it will serve to procure any good, new works brought out and thus will, in time, make the Lincoln library the best part of the whole library. Surely, it is a gift to be appreciated.

WITH REGARD TO A. A. RY,

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A Plea For Recognition.

Continued from first page.

Russia for the Jews. In her greed she robs them of land, taxes them to poverty, forces them to illiteracy and denies them the protection of law. She crushes and tramples upon the poor defenseless Hebrews cowering under the weight of her iron heel. But the Jew has endured all with his usual strength of forbearance. Today he seeks not revenge but political equality, industrial liberty and, more than all, justice.

Anti-Semites claim that the Jews are hated because of pernicious and atrocious activities; that they are responsible for the hostility everywhere around them. Shame on the pretexts of Aryan persecutors! The Jews are not hated on account of atrocious acts: these are looked for from them because they are hated. It is proved by statistics that crime is less among them than among the other races. Moreover, where not restricted, they have, according to their proportion, a larger representation in the high schools and normals. Disraeli justly gloried in his Jewish blood, claimed that the Hebrews were a superior race and that they had intellectually conquered modern Europe.

Strange as it may seem the complaint made against the Jews have also been made against other minorities. Rome's early Christians were similarly charged; the Huguenots in France, the Lutherans in Germany and the Puritans in England faced unjust accusations; and the Caucasians in China have been hated, tortured, even murdered. But are the Jews to be censured because they are isolated in society? Are they to be persecuted because they are in the minority?

In spite of Egyptian taskmasters, Assyrian kings, Roman emperors, Teutonic crusaders and the anti-Semites of today, the Jews are unsubdued and still progressing. "They are", says James K. Hosmer, "an asbestos which no fire of love or hate has been able to consume." The fact that they have survived changes which have sounded the death knell of other races, has incited the nations to jealousy and fear. Through prejudice, yes through envy, we misjudge the Jew.

This attitude is neither just nor reasonable. Let us cast aside petty differences and selfish interest and accept him as he really is. Let us tolerate him, if in no other spirit, for toleration's sake. Let us, recognizing the necessity for a difference in creed, reach out to him the hand of sympathy and brotherly love. Let the genial glow of mutual forbearance and Christian welcome rest upon this wanderer. Though tested by time, he has been found not undeserving. He has to a remarkable degree that rare quality, adaptability. He grasps quickly and intelligently the ideals of his foster country. In Germany he becomes a loyal subject of the Emperor; in France an ardent champion of the Republic; in England a strong advocate of constitutional monarchy; in the United States a proud and zealous citizen,—wherever his home, he is concerned and active for the welfare of that nation. Witness the noble author, orator and statesman, Castelar; the liberal minded, shrewd and resourceful Gambetta; the English orator and diplomat, the brilliant, the gifted Disraeli. A few years ago George Eliot was able to say, "Today the leader of the Liberty party of Germany is a Jew, the leader of the Republican party of France is a Jew, and the head of the Conservative party of England is a Jew".

In the world of affairs the Jewish race has produced those whom mankind has been forced to honor. It was the Jew who furnished the financial basis for the first expedition of Columbus; it was the Jew who introduced sugar culture into Brazil; and it was a Jew who founded the New York Stock Exchange. Moreover, we must not forget that great and powerful family, the Rothschilds, who have financed England to such an extent that they now own her debt. There is not a nation on the globe but has felt their influence.

Nor has this people been lacking in the artistic and the beautiful. It was none other than the Jewish tragedienne, Rachel, who on the stage excelled all in the impersonation of malignant passions. How often has Sarah Bernhardt by her wonderful personality held her audience for hours spell-bound! They, forgetting the present, saw before them only Cleopatra, real, capricious, passionate. Adored and feted, as have been few musicians, was Rubenstein, the master pianist, famous on two continents, through his operas "Moses" and "Paradise Lost". There was also Mendelssohn—what heart does not thrill at the mention of his name! His exquisite

harmonies, full of grace and delicacy, call forth deserved admiration. Weber could not equal him; Schumann envied him. None but Mendelssohn could have composed "Elijah", "St. Paul" or "The Hebrides". In literature we find such names as Isaac Disraeli and Ludwig Borne, and today Israel Zangwill with his "Children of the Ghetto". No sweeter poems were ever composed than those of that great Jewish singer, Heinrich Heine. They are all so simple, so musical, so tender, with a strain of infinite sadness and pathos. It was the Semite too, who gave us that beautiful piece of literature, that book in all the world the most precious—the Bible.

In philosophy and philanthropy appear such names as Moses Mendelssohn, Baruch Spinoza, Menassah ben Israel, Rabbi Emil Hirsch, Baron Maurice Hirsch and Rabbi Isaac Wise. It was Moses Mendelssohn who led his Hebrew brethren from the darkness and ignorance which the Ghetto of mediævalism forced upon them, into the light of Jewish idealism and humanity. Spinoza, through his teaching that God lives in and through all things, that God is eternal and infinite, proclaimed to the world universal views of human life and destiny. The unselfish Baron Hirsch by his generous donations for educational and philanthropic purposes has equaled, if not surpassed, the liberal Carnegie.

Surely the sons of Judah have won for themselves honored places in industry, finance, philosophy, philanthropy, statesmanship and the arts. Yet it is not in these that the Jew preeminently excels. It is rather in the realm of the ethical and the spiritual that he has been, and is, supreme. His has been a race peculiarly chosen for a special mission. Rome gave us law and government; Greece gave us intellect and art; but Israel gave us religion. In its development that religion produced the Patriarchs and the Prophets; called forth St. Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, the expounder of the faith; but the flower of that religion was the lowly Nazarene, the Prince of Peace, whom we adore as the Christ.

The Jew needs no apology. A plea for recognition should be unnecessary. Yet this is the race which in Roumania is suppressed, cursed, murdered; in Russia horribly crushed and cruelly slaughtered; and in liberty-loving, democratic America is treated with a deep, subtle, malicious aversion. It is enough to ostracize a man socially, politically and industrially to hint that he is a "Jew". Innocent victims of ill-founded prejudice! O, may America become more tolerant; may she cease to prejudge any race; may she render to the Jew the recognition which his perseverance and his genius merit.

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STATE ORATORICAL.

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excellent. Miss Slight, "The Power of Self Sacrifice," representing Kalamazoo; Miss Gardner, "The Message of the Flag," representing W. A. C.; and Miss Deibel, "Booker T. Washington," representing Ypsilanti, followed in order, completing the women's contest.

Between the afternoon and evenings contest Kalamazoo served a banquet at Bowen Hall. Suffice it to say that the way everything about it was done and the quality and quantity of everything good to eat, places Kalamazoo again at the front as "mine host." College spirit ran high and every one present demonstrated that if it had been a pie eating contest, there would have been some strong bids for first place, from the four corners of the state.

The men's contest was called shortly after 8 o'clock and the church was crowded to the limit. Albion, Hope and Kalamazoo predominated in the rooting, each college having nearly three hundred present. Hillsdale was there about fifty strong and Olivet, W. A. C. and Ypsi ranked next in numbers and noise. The yelling was something immense. To let loose nine colleges all at once in the confines of four church walls is to bid defiance to pandemonium itself. The best of order was preserved throughout the entire contest, however, when once the oratory was under way. Every orator received the best of attention, it being not very difficult, however, to pick out where each man's friends were by their especially attentive attitude while he, in particular, was speaking.

The speakers came in the following order:

Kalamazoo, Alfred G. Walton, "National Tendency Toward Commercialism;" M. A. C., "A Champion of American Idea," Chas. J. Oviatt; Ypsilanti, I. Milton Hover, "The Epoch of Evolution;" Olivet, Roy Kehl Thomas—"Madison, The Father of Our Union;" Adrian, E. Leroy Steffey, "What of Columbia;" Albion, Levi P. Goodwin, "The Upward Trend;" Alma, John M. Dunham, "Evolutionized Democracy;" Hillsdale, Arnold A. Odum, "The Apostle of Patriotism;" Hope, Peter H. Pleume, "Father Damien." Albion received first place, which it clearly deserved. The oration, "The Upward Trend," capturing several firsts in thought and composition and not suffering any in delivery, at the hands of the Albion orator. Mr. Goodwin.

At this juncture some statements may well be made concerning Alma's position. Be it known to all that Alma's man was protested by Olivet on the grounds of plagiarism and that the protest was upheld by

a decision of three judges whom Alma respect. We wish to state, that Alma emphatically denies the charge of plagiarism made by Olivet college, that Alma upholds the decision of the judges, contending, however, that the whole proceeding, not due to them, was unfair. Alma maintains, as she always has maintained, a spirit of clean competition in every inter-collegiate contest of any kind, be athletics or be it oratory, that she has entered into.

Alma means to have this thing decided by methods which the public will recognize and respect, intends to uphold the untainted name of the college and preserve our record clean, as it always has been. There was nothing to do under the circumstances, the charge was made at the eleventh hour, and had to be decided at once. Alma will condescend to no mud-slinging methods. She upholds the judges in their decision and will respect their decision, till the matter has been confirmed or disowned by the best authority available in such a case. Alma absolutely denies the charge and that publicly, and intends to maintain this position publicly. Our orator Mr. Dunham, will be upheld by the college. His delivery, although good, was necessarily hampered by knowledge of the unjust accusation made against him. He would have made a strong bid for second place had he not been the victim of such unfortunate circumstances. The contest is over. We want no placing in it for our man, but we intend to stand by him and prove his innocence.

INTER-SOCIETY DEBATE.

Continued from first page.

the debate with the affirmative rebuttal putting in his best licks for an increased navy, right then and there.

The decision of course awards the cup to Zeta Sigma, till the next annual debate of the two societies, when it will again be the cause of strenuous contention. The judges were A. A. Ellis of Grand Rapids, Hon. A. J. Tuttle of Lansing, and Francis King of Alma. Prof. Ewing presided and Prof. Mitchell kept time, allowing each debater fifteen minutes and the leaders eight minutes each in rebuttal. Special music was furnished by Miss Allen, Miss Pollard and Mr. Anderson, in the form of vocal and instrumental numbers.

The debate was in itself a good preparation for the coming contests, in the triangular debate with Olivet and Hope colleges. Many fallacies were shown up in the arguments, as well as pointing out where the debate may be strengthened in many ways. One team will be sent to Olivet, debating the negative, while another will remain at

home, upholding the affirmative, in contention with Hope college, which will send its negative team here.

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