

## THE CONTEST.

Unusual interest has been taken in the College Contest this year on account of the almost equal ability of the orators from the different classes, making the excitement more intense. On the evening of the contest, the first striking evidence of the hearty enthusiasm prevalent in the college in general was the result of the decorative committee's work. The large bare stage in the auditorium was transformed into a cozy and tasty little stage, with walls and canopy of cream and yellow curtains. The lower part of the stage was draped, and some beautiful palms gave the festive occasion effect. Class colors were arranged gracefully upon the curtains in college colors, and the last touch was added to class and college spirit by a glimpse of the stars and stripes through the opening in the background.

Classes have yelled, and will yell in years to come, but they will have to yell hard to surpass the racket in the last contest. The Sophomores held the middle part of the room, and were at least able to make a vigorous show of vitality with their canes and long streamers of brown and yellow; while the Freshmen, who are suspicioned of having sent home for all their Christmas presents in the shape of tin horns and other musical instruments, had great success at blowing them. The Juniors and Seniors relied upon their time-hardened lungs, and yelled until Senior caps looked like roofs over a red and yellor expanse of mouth. The classes greeted their contestants with a perfect storm of enthusiasm as they entered and took their places on the stage. After all had become quiet at last, Rev. Naftzger led in a short prayer.

The G Clef and Earlham Quartets furnished some splendid music, and were both forced to respond to a number of long and loud encores during the evening.

Bevan Binford, '98, was the first speaker, and delivered his oration, "Christ in History," in a style that showed genuine oratorical ability. He addressed an interested audience, and the only criticism that can be offered is that he lacked just a little force in his speaking. His oration appears in this number of THE EARLHAMITE.

The second oration on program, given by

George O. Ballenger, of '96, on the subject of "The Evolution of Reform," was one well treated. According to the decision of most of his audience, he had perhaps the greatest mastery over his subject matter of any speaker of the evening. Mr. Ballenger has shown a marked improvement over last year, on delivery in particular. Though awarded fourth rank by the decision of the judges, many think he deserved a much better place.

His oration began thus: "Human history presents a perpetual conflict between the individual and the community. Every step of progress has been either a development of the individual or an attempt to adjust society to his changing conditions. From this conflict arises the problem of the ages: the reconciliation of man and society."

He contrasted the strength of society and that of the reformer. The strength of the one "lies in establishment and in authority vested in institutions;" that of the other "lies in the potential force of an idea." This potential force, together with ceaseless activity, brings about reforms; the ideal itself must necessarily grow.

The study of past reforms "furnish both the ideals and the method" by which problems of to-day may be unfolded, and the opportunities of time to come revealed. This "ideal thus evolved is: '*E Pluribus Unum*,' or 'unity in diversity;' and the three working formulæ of reform are these:

"Liberty governed by law,  
Law dictated by justice,  
Justice tempered with love."

He cited nations which have succeeded, as well as those which have failed, from the observance or the rejection of these formulæ; which formulæ have been the chief working factors in civilization.

He made a strong appeal to his audience to use and apply these principles in the solution of present problems, to follow the worthy examples set by our ancestry, and to establish for posterity a worthy heritage.

"Civil and religious liberty have been attained;" but the demands for social and industrial reforms are imminent; these are treated in full; but the whole trouble lies in the fact that "principle is being daily sacrificed to personal interest." Principle is displaced for policy.



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"The gospel of the humble Nazarene seems to present the only possible solution of the difficult problems of the present. Then we must stand or fall on these three working formulæ of reform:

"Liberty governed by law;  
Law dictated by justice;  
Justice tempered with love."

He made a strong appeal to fellow students, to citizens and to Christians to follow the plain course of duty; to solve the questions which are even now threatening danger. "For the good of humanity, let us all so live and labor that the muse of history may credit to our generation the achievement of social and industrial reform, the grandest step of the ages toward the realization of that heaven-born motto: 'E Pluribus Unum.'"

Gertrude Simmons, '99, came next with the winning oration. Her delivery was pleasing, and her voice, though not strong, was clear and distinct.

Theodore Finley, '98, was fourth on the program, and introduced his subject by noticing the values placed upon human life at different times. The Spartans and Romans held life at a low price except where it was accompanied by great physical strength or endurance; and in contrast, in modern times, mental superiority has become the standard to the neglect of the physical. It becomes our duty to recognize the divinity of human life by giving more attention to the physical condition. Many lives are sacrificed by a disregard for good sanitary conditions; the large cities are examples especially, where bad drainage, combined with a large population, makes disease almost a certainty. To remedy this, the efforts of individual philanthropists and charitable organizations must be supplemented by aid from the government in the form of laws rigidly enforced to secure proper sanitary conditions; by an additional number of hospitals; and by more effective quarantine regulations. Immigration laws, also, should be passed to prevent the coming of those who are not healthy, upright, and fairly intelligent. To the nation regenerated by care at these points, an era of perpetual youth will come. Mr. Finley's presentation showed the results of careful practice and conscientious training, and besides

being a graceful speaker, he had a very polished delivery.

Elmer W. Stout, '96, held the attention of all by his energetic style of speaking. His voice is well suited for oratory, and commanded an interest in his subject, "Westward Bound Opulence." Some training in facial expression would be all that would be required to make his manner of delivery almost perfect. Mr. Stout's oration will be found in this number of the EARLHAMITE.

H. R. Anderson, '97, was the last speaker of the evening, on the subject, "The Ethical Spirit in Government." Civilization is the product of man's united effort, and not the outgrowth of any one individual effort. Civilization has been a continuous struggle, and competition is essential to its progress. Out of competition comes the ethical spirit in government. The first basis of government is individual responsibility.

Man, in his evolution, has struggled for two great principles; liberty and equality; but these principles are meaningless unless they are based on the spirit of ethics, for many nations have fallen from the failure to recognize this principle. They may struggle to the end of time to find a foundation on which to establish their national fabric, but so long as they sow false seeds of liberty, so long will humanity suffer.

The true basis of government, then, is in the moral standard of the masses, and so Christianity becomes the saving factor in civilization. In the course of progress there are times when society is thrown into confusion and disorder, and in our civilization there are many wrongs and obstacles to be suppressed and overcome, but the spirit of ethics is steadily growing, and its results will be lasting.

The Man of Galilee gave the words which lifted humanity from the depths of degradation to the heights of grandeur, breathing into man the spirit of ethics which makes it possible for nations to be perpetual and the reign of law and justice to begin.

Mr. Anderson's oration was full of an oratorical spirit, and was given with an earnestness of delivery and a force of conviction that held the audience completely, though he was the last speaker of the evening.

Following is the official score:



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CONTESTANTS.	JUDGES.												SUM OF GRADES.	SUM OF RANKS.	FINAL RANK.
	THOUGHT AND COMPOSITION.						DELIVERY.								
	Hill.		Kelley.		Rosenberger.		Foulke.		Cox.		Macy.				
	Grade.	Rank.	Grade.	Rank.	Grade.	Rank.	Grade.	Rank.	Grade.	Rank.	Grade.	Rank.			
Binford....	50	685	195	1	80	290	284	6					18	3	
Ballenger..	80	283	290	4	70	486	685	5	494	23			4		
Simmons....	85	170	687	5	90	192	188	2	512	16			1		
Finley.....	60	581	484	6	60	687	586	4			30		6		
Stout.....	65	382	393	2	75	388	489	1	492	16			2		
Anderson..	62	474	591	3	65	589	387	3	468	23			5		

## ORATORICAL NOTES.

Five of the six judges on the contests were Earlham graduates.

The decorations were beautiful and reflected great credit on the committee in charge.

Linton A. Cox, '88, was a judge on delivery and is a rising lawyer among the younger set in Indianapolis.

Caroline M. Hill, '87, has recently returned from a long stay in Europe, and at present is living in Chicago.

Absalom Rosenberger, '76, is president of Penn College, Iowa, and was one of the judges on thought and composition.

Robt. L. Kelley, '88, is principal of Central Academy, Plainfield, and is making that school one of the best academies of the State.

Among the visitors were Bert Pierson, Gurney Gilbert, Marie Gard, Joe Ratliff, Albert DeGreene, Mrs. Wright, of Fairmount, and Elmer White.

The class of '96 retired to the library after the contest and consoled themselves with oranges, and ate to the success of the college at State contest in March.

A. W. Macy, '77, was accompanied by his wife, who took a great interest in the contest, and has an important position in Chicago as the agent for the Macmillan Publishing Company.

The Sophomore class was at times a mass of waiving canes and colors. Their little mascot was an embodiment of action when he mounted the stage and was lost in the streamers of brown and gold that he so vigorously waived.

## DAY STUDENTS' RECEPTION.

Five years ago the few day-dodgers in school were rather pitied by the dorm. students, because they were so few and lonesome and seemed to get so little out of school besides their daily recitations and the long walk to and from town; but if the ghost of some departed dodger could have wandered back to earth and strayed into Lindley Hall on the evening of the 17th, he surely would hereafter carry his head with a triumphant toss and enjoy his trailing robes with more satisfaction than his ghostship knew was possible.

On the evening of the 17th the large number of day students in college gave a most enjoyable reception to the dorm. students and the Faculty in Lindley Hall.

The day students' parlor was tastefully decorated with palms and potted plants, and some of Prof. Bundy's best studies were on the walls.

President Mills' office was transformed from a business-like room to a beautiful parlor, with its handsome Persian rugs and many palms. An orchestra from the city furnished music during the evening in this room, and lemonade was served in the alcove.

The trustees' room was devoted to games, and the merry clicking of the crokinole boards was heard all evening.

Ices were served in Prof. Brown's recitation room, which was curtained with Turkish hangings. Chairs were arranged around the room, in the center of which stood a handsome banquet lamp entwined with smilax.

The evening was passed very pleasantly, and the day students' first reception was a decided success.

## Marriage.

Frank E. Moore, '79-'80, and Jennie Walker, were married at Marysville, Tenn., December 17, 1895.