

March 16, 1896

THE ORATORICAL CONTEST.

About one hundred and twenty enthusiastic Earlhamites, waving cream and yellow ribbons and shouting the college yells with a vim, left last Friday morning for the 22nd annual oratorical contest.

The streets of Indianapolis during the day were full of students from the various colleges, all decked in their colors and all certain of the honors that would fall to them at the evening's contest.

At eight o'clock English's Opera House was packed with a crowd of students singing college songs, giving their college yells and exchanging doubtful compliments with their neighbors. DePauw had a delegation of 450 scattered over the house; Butler students were in three of the boxes and occupied the right of the orchestra circle; Hanover came the longest distance with 175 students; Franklin had about 150 delegates; Wabash nearly the same number, and Earlham's crowd of 200 occupied the left half of the orchestra circle.

Oratorical contests have been enthusiastic and noisy in the past, but the 22nd annual contest will surely go down in history as one of the most noisy and lively on record.

An incident occurred in the early part of the evening which is to be deplored, and in which Earlham was an active factor, but considering the cause of the disturbance, was perfectly excusable as far as Earlham was concerned. Butler occupied the upper tier of boxes and during the day had run wires across and suspended a large umbrella made in Butler colors from the ceiling, and which was continually raised and lowered over the heads of the other delegations. This was quite an idea of Butlers' and would have provoked nothing more than jeers from the various colleges, had Butler tried nothing else. But two wires connected the boxes, and before the contest began Butler introduced a new form of amusement with a number of transparencies hung on them of her own pattern.

The first one drawn out was "Butler on Top," and except for the hisses it caused was unimportant. DePauw, with her string of victories in oratorical contests, was represented as a man with the word "conceit," conspicuous. Earlham was

represented by an overdrawn caricature and "Humility" painted in large letters. For visiting colleges to quietly sit and see their institution and contestant caricatured by such an insulting method as Butler employed was something unheard of before, and with the yells and hisses on all sides was maddening.

In the midst of the confusion which the transparencies caused, the Butler boys left one of their boxes for a short time and a DePauw student entered and cut the string suspending Butler's large blue and white umbrella, which came sailing down near the Earlham delegation. The Earlham boys, with a rush, captured it and in a moment it was torn in shreds, but not before a crowd of Butler boys had arrived, and in the melee that followed two officers appeared and quiet was restored, but not before the umbrella was reduced to souvenirs for the Earlham delegation and the staff, which the officers kept in memory of the event.

Butler College doubtless has the material to make herself a healthy and progressive force in Indiana college oratory, and it is a pity she devoted her energy and ingenuity this year in attempting to belittle the visitors to her city and the contestants, especially when a lady was among the latter. If Butler expects to continue the same tactics that she employed this year, we can only hope for the benefit of future oratorical contests that her confederation in the University of Indianapolis will change her manner of procedure to something more respectable at least.

The program was late in beginning, and it was a quarter of nine when Dr. Sims of Indianapolis offered the invocation, and the first contestant appeared.

The first speaker of the evening was Mr. Ed. P. Bell of Wabash.

Mr. Bell spoke in a conversational, deliberate style, and seemed to be at ease on the stage. His gestures, however, were somewhat eccentric, and he weakened toward the close of his oration. The speaker's voice was pitched rather high, but he presented his thought in a clear, concise manner which enforced attention.

"Christianity Reasonable" was his theme. He said: "Ingersoll says the watchword of the church is, 'don't think.' This is untrue, for Christianity and the development of intellect have been syn-

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onymous. Some ultra-intellectual thinkers wish to do away with the intervention of Christ, and worship the abstract idea of God. "Why build on the shifting sands of the mind," when we have "the consummation of our ideal in the person of Christ?"

"Scientific men ridicule the efficacy of prayer, and say they do not understand the spiritual presence of God, but the occult phenomena of nature is no more to be explained than this, and we see its results in the works it has wrought."

In conclusion, Mr. Bell said: "This religion is pre-eminently reasonable." "It has no absurd abstractions, but 'it holds up to all the Key of Heaven.' The work of Jesus Christ did not end in Judea, nor at the Cross, but will go on forever."

Mr. Bell's oration was written in a masterly style, and many regretted that he did not receive third place.

The second speaker was Ed. W. Clark of Butler. He made a good appearance, and began with spirit, but soon became too monotonous, his oration degenerating into a mere recital of encyclopædic facts.

Mr. Clark spoke on "Indiana; a Century of Progress." He recounted the hardships of our forefathers in the settling of the Indiana territory. The country developed but slowly and was admitted as a State in 1816. Indiana did her duty nobly during the War of the Rebellion, and the beautiful monument in her capital city commemorates the sacrifice of Indiana's sons. "Peace has its victories as well as war," and since 1865 Indiana has made a rapid development in commercial pursuits, in education, in political reform, in literature; and great names in each attest the glory of Indiana's sons. "After all," said Mr. Clark, "The highest test of a country is the character of its men, and the typical American is found, not in the East or South, but here, in grand and glorious Indiana!"

Mr. Clark's oration was written in a patriotic style, but contained too many localisms and too little originality.

The third speaker was M. J. Bowman, of Hanover, who won second place at the State contest of last year.

Mr. Bowman had an excellent voice, and was perfectly at home on the stage, but for some reason

he failed to use the power which he evidently had. He seemed to lose interest in his thought before he was through. "The New Divine Right" was the subject of Mr. Bowman's oration. His oration was so long that it will be very difficult to give an adequate outline in a limited space.

He said that we smile at the idea which mediæval royalty had of the divine right of kings; yet we believe in a divine right of democracy. The speaker then spoke of the old institutions which have come and gone. Absolutism, monarchy, anarchy; all have failed to establish their rights to govern men. Now comes a new sovereign, whom men call compromise. He comes to adjust and harmonize the ideas which are at variance. Evolution has developed man, the highest product of animal existence. It has likewise developed democracy, the highest type of institutional life. Democracy is imbued with a living spirit. This is the new divine right. Mr. Bowman's oration was beautifully written, but he attempted to cover too much ground, and his audience tired before he finished.

The next speaker was the winner, Mr. T. N. Ewing, of DePauw. Mr. Ewing showed that he was thoroughly master of his subject. He evidently spoke his thoughts and not merely his words. The art of his delivery seemed not thoroughly mastered, but he spoke with such intense earnestness that he won the thought of the audience.

Mr. Ewing spoke on "The Brotherhood of Man." His subject was well handled, and showed much careful thought. Christ announced a doctrine, new to the world. The doctrine of the equality of men. He appealed to the affection of the soul, and from Him sprung the idea of "The Universal Brotherhood." Fraternalism triumphed over all opposition, until it placed Christianity on the throne of the Cæsars. It spoke in Wycliff and Luther, and restored faith and conscience. Its work was yet incomplete, for Catholic and Protestant deluged the land with each other's blood. The Puritans first learned that Christianity is not a creed, but a life; and from them fraternalism took a new growth. Fraternalism guided Lincoln's pen to the Emancipation Proclamation; it emancipated women. It has established universities, and has struck at the root of our social evils.

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It has presided at the foundations of governments, and has guided them since. It is overthrowing creeds, and establishing a universal brotherhood of man. Mr. Ewing's thought was very forcibly presented, and he had good attention throughout.

The next speaker was Mr. M. W. Shuh, of Franklin.

Mr. Shuh spoke with great deliberation and forced pronunciation. His manner eclipsed his thought and did not hold the audience long. Mr. Shuh's thought was very much mixed; the element of logic seemed to be entirely wanting. A general spirit of optimism was about all that could be deduced from hearing him speak his oration. He was awarded sixth place. The audience was growing tired, and during the latter part of Mr. Shuh's oration there was considerable confusion, which quieted when Miss Simmons of Earlham, the last speaker of the evening, came forward.

At the first sentence spoken by Miss Simmons the audience was all attention. Her delivery was so well mastered that it was only a vehicle for her thought. She plead for her people with earnestness of soul and simplicity of purpose. Although her voice was soft and musical, every word was heard; and so directly did she put her sentiments of noble patriotism that there was increasing attention to the last. The tumultuous applause which burst from the audience as she closed, showed she had won their hearts.

GRADES.

Following were the grades, as decided by the judges:

	Thought and Composition Judges.			Delivery Judges.			Sum of Grades.
	Judge Cook.	Judge Baker.	Judge Barkerville.	Judge Wood.	Judge Ellison.	Judge Bynum.	
Bell	84	55	85	90	85	90	21
Clark	86	70	89	88	90	86	21
Bowman	78	50	87	89	87	88	24
Ewing	88	90	83	91	91	91	12
Shuh	75	40	80	87	83	87	34
Simmons	90	80	75	98	93	89	14

The successful contestant, Mr. Ewing, won a first, a second and a fourth grade on thought;

one first and two seconds on delivery. The Indianapolis *Journal* bears the responsibility of the following quotation: "Miss Simmons was given first place on thought by Prof. Cook, of Yale, and second place by Prof. Baker, of Harvard; Prof. Barkerville, of Vanderbilt, however, ranked her sixth on thought. This low grading, which was hardly deserved, is credited to the fact that Prof. Barkerville is a southern man, and Miss Simmons made reference to slavery as one of the blots on modern civilization. Miss Simmons was given two firsts on delivery."

Mr. Clark, of Butler, was awarded third place. Earlham, having in the four years of her membership in the State Oratorical Association received one first, one second and one third, has no reason to be discouraged in the work. May the cream and yellow still wave triumphant in succeeding years!

During the evening splendid music was rendered by the I. U. male quartette and the Earlham "G Clef" club, all the selections being enthusiastically encored.

The following program was given by the Class of '97, on Saturday evening, March 7th, 1896.

PIANO SOLO.

"Legende"—*Bachmann*.....Amanda Moore.

ORATION.

Our Liberty, its Birth and Maintenance..Myrton Johnson.

ORATION.

Good Citizenship.....Edith Mendenhall.

SONG.

"Open Thy Casement"—*Grech*.....Bertha Johnson.

ORATION.

England's Financial Notions.....Arthur F. Chace.

ORATION.

Conditions of Progress.....Allen D. Hole.

QUARTETTE.

The Year of Jubilee.....
 { Bertha Johnson.
 { Minnie Roop.
 { Allen D. Hole.
 { Theodore G. Finley.

The Jubilee song written by A. D. Hole makes a class song well worth keeping.

Now is the day when the voice of the orator is heard in the land. A great many of our exchanges contain accounts of their local contests. If we may judge from their opinions, there will be a great many high ranks at the State contests.

AT THE COLLEGE.

Friday passed very quietly to those whose lot it was to remain at the college. Almost every one was met by the inquiring remark, "And so you didn't go to Indianapolis"; to which a half-apologetic "No," was the usual reply. At noon, the half-filled dining-room prompted the remark, that just now, the Earlhamites are probably eating their dinner at Indianapolis. When the evening study hour came, the bells seemed to sound a general call to the parlor, and studies were forgotten. At about eleven o'clock, the office began to be the place toward which the company gravitated, and between the frequent glances toward the telephone, speculations as to the progress of the program were indulged in. After perhaps fifty minutes of waiting, Professor Sackett was called to the telephone, and everybody told everybody else to be still, so the professor could hear; as everybody obeyed, there soon was a breathless silence. The effort was made to interpret the tones of Prof. Sackett's voice, but his noncommittal "Yes," and "Is that so?" told nothing; finally an "Oh," with a downward inflection was heard, and then somebody was sure something dreadful had happened to Earlham. But soon it was known that Earlham was "way up," and then the "Ko Ro, Ko Raw," "Rah Rah Quaker," and all the rest broke forth and filled Earlham Hall; and spreading outside, soon told everyone within yelling distance that the cream and yellow were still waving high. A company started in a few minutes to inform the professors living near of the result; and as soon as the round could be made, Professors Bundy, Morgan, W. N. Trueblood, Dennis, Hodgin, and Moore were acquainted with the good news. Then the corridors of Earlham Hall were thoroughly traversed again, lest anyone should have dared to go to bed, and remain in ignorance of the outcome. Next morning, as soon as the first street-car was in sight which could possibly be the carrier of a returned Earlhamite, an eager crowd started down the walk. A solitary individual alighted from the car. It could be discerned that he bore a singularly slender rod, bearing aloft a color never before known to be carried by an Earlhamite; but as the cream and yellow could also be distinguished,

the interested crowd started on a run to meet him. It was our brave Hester, and by means of signs, and showing his trophies, hasty words, and a morning paper, all were soon made acquainted with the general outline of affairs. Other detachments came in later, and everyone returning had interested listeners. All this, however, did not prevent arrangements being perfected for the reception of Miss Simmons. The front entrance to Earlham Hall was draped with the cream and yellow, and crowning all were the stars and stripes, while small flags appeared at the windows near by. Directly in the center, over the entrance way, hung an umbrella upside down, and from its lowest point was suspended another umbrella, smaller than the first. The color of these umbrellas was, however, not the same as the samples which various members of the Earlham delegation brought back from Indianapolis. The way leading up to the students' parlor was also decorated. Later, the parlor itself was tastefully fitted up to correspond with the decorations of the entrance.

Each returning company of the contest delegation had been greeted with the yells; and stay-at-homes and returned members together congregated in front of Earlham Hall to receive Miss Simmons. The carriage conveying her and Prof. E. P. Trueblood was brilliant with college colors, and mounted attendants rode alongside. As soon as they came within hearing distance, the air was filled with the cheers of welcome, continuing until the party was safely inside the college walls.

On Saturday evening a reception in Miss Simmons' honor was held in the students' parlor, at which many friends from the city, as well as students, were present. When the time for the program of the evening arrived, Prof. E. P. Trueblood announced music by Miss Llorá Worley as the first number. Following this Marcus Hadley gave an account of the umbrella "scrap," illustrated by a remnant which he had rescued at the time of the excitement. Wilfred Jessup told of the part the word "Humility" played at Indianapolis, and how it became the watchword of the Earlham delegation. Bevan Binford gave a very touching description of the "love-feast" participated in by DePauw and Earlham after the contest, to which Miss Ethel Parsons added supplementary remarks, as she with some other Earl-

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hamites left Indianapolis on the same train on which DePauw's delegation went home. Supt. Harkness was called on for his first impressions of his first contest. He first read a message of congratulation from Messrs. Brown, Peacock and Jay, now at the State University. He said further that he was very much pleased with his experience at the contest, and especially noted the difference shown by the different contestants in their speaking; he thought some lacked the true oratorical spirit; but on this point he had nothing but commendation for Earlham's representative.

Edgar Stranahan next told how the news was received at Earlham by those who remained at home. Timothy Nicholson, of the Board of Trustees, had occupied a seat with the Earlham delegation; he began by saying he saw a good deal and heard more; was very glad to be there; in some respects he thought the management of the occasion might be improved upon, especially the matter of the tardy opening of the exercises. He complimented the Earlham delegation upon the manner in which they greeted their orator when her time for speaking came, in that they gave no yells at that time but only brief applause. Martha Shoemaker called attention to the debt Earlham owed to the girls of the "G Clef" and to Mrs. Finley for the excellent manner in which the singing was done. A. E. Kelsey followed with a poem referring to incidents of the contest and closing with a very excellent and fitting tribute to Miss Simmons. Chas. E. Cosand gave a brief criticism of each of the orations of the contest, emphasising the excellent features which were present as well as pointing out some defects. He closed with words expressing the appreciation of the college for the work Miss Simmons has done. In a few well-chosen words Miss Simmons expressed her appreciation of all that had been done, and of the kindly feeling which had been shown.

Prof. E. P. Trueblood then read a telegram of congratulation from President Mills and wife; also congratulations from Mr. Jenkinson, of the *Palladium*. The audience joined in the yells used at the contest for Miss Simmons, the first being the Indian yell expressive of victory:

To ke sta! To ke sta!
To ka, Wiceгна!
O hi, Ti ka,
I—yo—tan!

After one stanza of the "Cream and Yellow" song, the program ended. Candy was supplied to all present from an inverted umbrella, carried by means of cream and yellow ribbons; and light refreshments were served in the Superintendent's parlor.

CHEERS FOR THE INDIAN MAIDEN.

[Indianapolis News.]

When it came the turn for Gertrude Simmons, the Sioux Indian girl, to speak for Earlham, there were cheers from her fellow-students, and a cane with college colors was waved overhead, but there was less boisterousness of outburst than that which greeted the preceding speakers. The applause showed a warm, but a delicate and respectful appreciation. The name of Miss Simmons had been cheered impartially by various colleges in the evening. The slight, dark-skinned girl, dressed in black, who sat at the end of the row of speakers, had been gazed upon with curiosity. It was noticed that her face showed in delicate but firm lines the cut of the Indian face. Her eyes and hair were black, the small, well-shaped hands at her side were of dark copper color.

Expectation created by curiosity turned all eyes which had been wandering and sleepy before, toward the Indian girl, and the attention attracted thus was held by her power as an orator in behalf of the Indian. Her voice was clear and sweet; her language was that of a cultivated young woman, and her pronunciation was without trace of a tongue unfamiliar with English. Her manner was real, womanly and refined. The effect of artificiality in a speaker, up merely on exhibition, was lost when she spoke, and the audience forgot that it was an oratorical contest, and remembered only that an Indian girl was speaking for her race.

When she finished there was a response of hearty and deep-felt applause which mounted to a cheer coming from every part of the house. The vote of the hearts of the hearers was given to her. It was noted that Judge Woods, one of the judges of delivery, used his handkerchief two or three times in a slight brushing movement about the eyes. When the speech was over he sat silent a moment, hastily went over his marks, and then turning to W. D. Bynum, said: "When it comes to oratory, I place the Indian girl far above the college boys every time."

The meeting of Phoenix, Feb. 21, was a very interesting one. Among the literary productions, the auto-biography given by Miss Anna Butler was especially deserving of mention. Some fine music was rendered by Misses Wright and Worley.