

# V. WEIR WINS FIRST

Hardy Accorded Second, and Romans Third in Contest.

## BEDLAM TURNED LOOSE.

Denison Bright With College Colors, and Deafened With College Yells.—Many Visitors in Spite of Rain.

Valentine A. Weir of Buena Vista College won first honors at the Inter-collegiate oratorical contest held here last night. C. D. Hardy of Denison Normal College won second place, and John Romans, also of Denison College won third.

Yesterday noon the special train arrived bringing nearly four hundred excursionists from Sac City and Storm Lake. They were met at the depot by hundreds of Denison people. Every carriage in town was in readiness to drive the ladies up town, but most of them preferred to walk up town with their delegations and accompanied by bands galore.

The visitors were taken to the opera house, where after music and yells, Mr. H. A. Cook presented them with the freedom of the city. Supper was served free at the city hall.

The opera house was crowded with a \$150 house, and the noise preceding the contest was simply deafening. Bands, tin horns, songs, yells and waving banners vied with each other to create confusion.

The musical numbers were most excellent but time and space forbid particular mention. After the invocation by Rev. E. E. Ilgen Fritz, Hon. J. P. Conner made a brief but hearty speech of welcome, which was responded to by Rev. L. N. Call in a speech chiefly characterized by its length.

The orators were greeted in turn by cheers and the college yell of the school they represented.

Miss Ada Whitted was the first

speaker representing Buena Vista. Her delivery was first-class—for a woman, we say this because as a rule a woman's voice is not built for oratory. She had great self possession and made a good impression.

John Romans with his oration on "Expansion" was second on the list. He did splendidly, surprising even his most ardent admirers. The judges gave him first place on delivery. It was a masterly effort and deserving the highest praise.

Miss Grace A. Harper of Sac City delivered the most thoughtful oration of the evening. The judges had given her first place in thought and composition and she deserved it by all odds. It was unfortunate that her delivery was not good, but no one can deny the brightness of her intellect, the delicacy of her thought or the beauty of her language. After all Sac City won the greatest victory.

Valentine A. Weir, destined to win first place, was next on the program. He had a good oration the text of which is given in full. His delivery was good but not extraordinary and he was easily surpassed by both Romans and Hardy.

The most inspiring oration of the evening was delivered by C. D. Hardy. His delivery was magnificent, he carried the audience with him to such an extent that spontaneous applause greeted his periods. This applause was very ill timed and we believe had something to do with his defeat for first place. For impassioned oratory and beauty of language we have seldom heard anything to surpass it. When he closed there was dead silence in the ranks of the other colleges, they felt that the contest had been won, and fairly won.

U. S. Parish of Sac City closed the program with an oration noticeable neither for its thought or its delivery.

After some waiting the marking of the judges was tabulated and the result announced. Even after the announcement was made the audience could not understand but that Hardy had won first place, and he was cheered accordingly.

The following tables show the markings. In thought and composition the ranks were as follows. Miss Harper 1st, Weir 2d, Hardy 3d, Miss Whitted 4th, Parish 5th, Romans 6th.

In delivery the ranks were Romans 1st, Hardy and Weir tie for 2d, Miss Whitted 3d, Parish 4th and Miss Harper 5th.

### NOTES.

The more we think about it the more faith we have in predestination.

The man who gave that Indian yell during Hardy's oration never wants to tell of it.

What makes more noise than three brass bands?—A college student.

What makes more noise than a college student?—A High school pupil.

Denison won 2nd and 3d and no one had reason to blush for our representatives.

The winner was first neither in thought and composition or in delivery. It is better to be good in all things than to excel only in one.

We congratulate Buena Vista College.

Hurrah for Miss Harper. Her's was the best literary production of the six.

Denison did things up brown, We hope it will prove an object lesson.

Markings of Judges.					
Thought & Com.		Delivery		Total Rank	
Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Miss Whitted	4	6	10	10	16
John Romans	3	6	9	9	15
Miss Harper	2	1	3	3	5
V. A. Weir	5	1	6	6	11
C. D. Hardy	5	1	6	6	11
U. S. Parish	3	5	8	8	11

One of the office force suggests that this is a "blue" day for the "red."—Next.

It is apparently settled that the new Northwestern town near Kiron will be located about a mile west of that place. It is indeed too bad that the location of Kiron should be changed and we trust the matter will be reconsidered.

## THE CONSTITUTION.

Winning Oration Delivered by Valentine A. Weir, of Buena Vista College.

On the 25th day of May, 1787, there assembled in Old Independence Hall a body of men, the result of whose deliberations has done more to benefit humanity than any other event in secular history. They gave to the world a document that bore the seal of divine approval—a masterpiece of statesmanship which in the profundity of its thought and the broadness of its conception has never been equalled. Not only the destiny of thirteen struggling colonies, but the destiny of a hemisphere was developed in its folds. That document was the Constitution of the United States.

The powers of the Old World watched for the downfall of the new government, and predicted its dire destruction and ruin; but a century has passed and it stands as firmly fixed upon the principles of justice and equity as when those thirteen colonies were first united under it.

The American Republic is not a result of the Declaration of Independence. It is not a result of the sufferings at Valley Forge, nor of the crushing defeat of Cornwallis at Yorktown. History abounds in struggles for freedom that were just as illustrious as the American Revolution. From the earliest traditions of the human race, generation after generation has fought to overthrow tyranny and oppression, but it has most frequently happened that the tyrant was deposed only to make room for the despot. It was to gain liberty that the people helped Sulla to overthrow the Marian Party, but the record of his unjust reign is one of the many blots on the pages of Roman history. It was to regain their rights that the English puritans led Charles I to the executioner's block and made Cromwell "Lord Protector of the Commonwealth," but his rule was arbitrary and despotic, and the oppression of the people as severe as it had been under his predecessor.

The desire for freedom caused France to send Louis XVI beneath the guillotine, but the condition of the people, bad as it had been, was infinitely worse under the awful reign of terror which followed. Marat, Robespierre and Napoleon, each in his turn, in the name of liberty, caused the hot blood of France to flow like water, while the burden of debt and injustice constantly increased. Had not the colonies utilized the freedom which they had gained, by adopting the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, Valley Forge and Yorktown would be but monuments of American failure.

The United States owes its success, its progress, its very existence to the consummate wisdom and foresight of the statesmen, who from the experience of the world and from their own judgments moulded a form of government which, during a century of advanced thought and high civilization, has proved itself able to solve the most intricate complications that have arisen. It has offered the proposition that the common people are capable of ruling themselves, and it has demonstrated its practicality to the world. As a result of this declaration not a crowned head nor a tyrant's throne remains upon the western continent.

The Constitution had no precedent, but it became to a large extent the model of France, Mexico, Chili, and the Argentine Republic, and its principles are so infinitely comprehensive that, even amid the greatest culture, intelligence and advancement recorded in history, it stands absolutely unapproached.

Before the Constitution was adopted, the "Plan of Perpetual Union," as embodied in the Articles of Confederation, was the guiding principle of the United Colonies. This plan was approved by the Congress two years before the close of the Revolution, and it is not at all surprising that the colonies, struggling to throw off the yoke of bondage and oppression, and being familiar with the past history of the world, were slow to yield themselves to the power of a government which they feared might engulf them at any time. The southern colonies were attracted by climate and physical conditions for agricultural states, while the northern colonies were especially adapted to manufacturing and commerce. It seemed as though they could have no legislation in common. They believed that a strong central government could not exist without limiting the rights of the states, so diverse

were they in occupation, character, and even in their manners and customs. But their condition continued to grow worse. The public treasury was empty and Congress was powerless to collect the taxes which it had levied. Other nations would neither aid nor respect them. Commerce was ruined. Agriculture was largely abandoned. Jealousy and contention between the states increased until Washington, who through seven long years of desultory warfare had never lost heart in the cause of independence, at length declared that unless they were inseparably united, the blood which had been so freely offered upon the altar of liberty would have been sacrificed in vain.

The states then sent representatives to revise the the Articles of Confederation, but these were considered useless, and after four months of debate and discussion they offered the Constitution practically as we now have it. It was not an accident. It came in the regular order of development, filling the place assigned it by the Divine Ruler of the Universe. No other scheme evolved by the mind of man could so successfully meet every requirement of natural growth and prosperity.

One of its most remarkable features is the capability of adapting itself to every condition and circumstance. At the time of its origin, the railroad, the telegraph, and a thousand lesser inventions were not dreamed of. Its framers would be appalled could they but see the gigantic proportions of our commerce, and yet they wrote the clause which controls it, at a time when inter-state commerce was carried on by means of wagons and flat boats. Then the United States had a population of three million, and its area was bounded by the Atlantic ocean and the Alleghany mountains. Today it seventy-five millions of people scattered from the vast ice-fields of Alaska to the fragrant orange groves of tropical Florida.

Although this system of government was formulated at a time when its chief object was self-preservation, it is so broad in its scope that it has enabled this nation to become the greatest factor of the century in securing and preserving the rights and liberties of others. By repeated trials it has amply proved its superiority. Sectionalism in all its mighty force challenge it. Hayne, the eloquent champion of the doctrine of nullification, struck it a blow, that had it been made of baser metal, would have shattered it; but it stands today upon its pedestal of justice and, like a veritable statue of liberty, holds on high the emblem of freedom.

The pyramids, those massive wonders of the world, have reared aloft their majestic forms above the drifting sands of the African desert for forty centuries, silent witnesses of to the skill and ability of their builders. But when the wasting fingers of Time shall touch these, and they shall moulder and crumble into dust, the principles of justice, right, and truth which are embodied in the Constitution shall still exist; and the blessings which it has rendered to humanity will remain an everlasting monument to the wisdom and greatness of the American people.

## GARRISON AND SLAVERY.

Oration Winning Second Place Delivered by C. D. Hardy of Denison Normal College.

The Revolutionary war had ended. The roar of the cannon before Yorktown had died away in the distance. A new order of state affairs was brought about; a constitution and a new government formed. Liberty and equality had been made paramount to all else. Great and momentous questions had been decided, no more "taxation without representation," no longer would an eastern king rule a western hemisphere. Peace reigned supreme, and again the wheels of national life rolled smoothly on.

But like the beautiful calm, that precedes a mighty conflict of the elements, this peace was again to be broken—the life and prosperity of the Republic be threatened with destruction.

Scarcely had the colonists' fair dream of establishing a republic in America been rea-

lized, when cries of pain and torture were heard from the suffering slaves of the Southland, announcing that this government was firmly held in the scaly folds of the slave power. Such men as Franklin and Hamilton doubted the justice of this. Yet, it was not until the nation had greatly increased in the number of states and population, that the gigantic wrongs of this institution came to light. It was then, that the north became hostile to it, and the south began to defend it.

In congress, brilliant speeches and wonderful eloquence rang out for and against it. The orator of the south stood up and strongly defended his position. Aye, he even went so far as to assert, that it was ordained by Almighty God, that the black-race should be held in servitude. He gloried in his bartering for human flesh. But even while he spoke, his words were echoed back to him by the moan and wail of his suffering slaves, as they toiled under almost unbearable burdens; beneath a burning southern sun, and though faint and weary from exhaustion and starvation, they were forced on by the brutal kick or the powerful cut of the overseer's lash, until at last the physical wreck could go no longer, and yielded up its soul to him who gave it. Such were the conditions. Reformers saw them, yet dared not speak their convictions. Statesmen beheld, as reflected from a mirror the injustice of this institution, yet were silent. They feared opposition to it would bring disunion. They preferred rather to have union with wrong than disunion with righteousness. A leader was needed; one who could stand the laughs and jeers of a haughty people; one who would come boldly forward and denounce all that was wrong, whatever might be the cost. Would he come and could he stand the billows of indignation, that would be hurled against him? A nation stood in suspense and waited.

To meet every wrong, God raises up a great and noble man. The one, chosen to meet the wrongs of slavery, came not from among the wealthy; came not from the college halls; came not from the ranks of the wise and learned; but born amid scenes of poverty he came in the person of that humble, yet illustrious, grand, majestic, sublime, and noble son of New England, William Lloyd Garrison.

As Americans, we are thrilled by deeds of heroism, achieved through the agency of American citizens. We look with pride at the courage of Washington and his starving troops at Valley Forge. We glory in the grand work of Grant at Vicksburg; of Sherman on his march to the sea; of Sheridan on his twenty mile ride; of Custer and his comrades at the Big Horn; or the grand deeds of those heroic boys before Santiago. It is a noble thing to risk all, even life and future prospects, for home and country. It is an act worthy of the greatest honor. But to fight for justice and liberty; to strive to lift a weaker race out of the bonds of human slavery and degradation, approaches the Divine. It is the noblest of all noble work—the life work of Garrison.

Measured as a man with invincible courage and fidelity to purpose, he is preeminent. He stands like a gigantic Egyptian pyramid alone in its supremacy. The city of Boston was the scene of many trials and hardships for Garrison. There it was, that he faced the opposition of an indignant people. There it was, that he founded the Liberator, which for twenty years threw the thunderbolts of justice at the slave trade, and stood as the beacon-light of liberty. Do we for a moment doubt the man's courage? Do we hesitate to believe him as heroic as he was self-sacrificing? Notice with me, for a moment, the difficulties under which this paper was founded. On his side were poverty and hardship, opposing it were wealth and power. On one side stood one man alone and his opinions, on the other a scoffing multitude. The solid south stood up as one man, and hurled its fiery darts of malignity at that one poor head. Her brilliant orators were profuse in their denunciations of him and his course. They called him fanatic. They pronounced him traitor, a deceiver, a renegade. But amid it all, he stood calm and composed. He had studied well his opponents, his subject, and his duty.

The first issue of the Liberator bore these words for a motto—which at once startled the world, and raised him out of the realm of a coward into that of a daring foe. "I will be as harsh as truth and as uncompromising as justice. I am in earnest—I will not equivocate—I will not excuse—I will not retreat a single inch—And I will be heard." And he was heard. He was heard. Courage unfaltering. He sent his stinging words, as poisoned arrows, into the midst of the foe. Harsh those words may have been, but is beauty synonymous with tyranny? Could he, with moderate language, show to an err-

ing people the picture of a human race in bondage, bearing stinging lashes for the backs and chains for the limbs? It would be easier to stop the onward rush of the mighty Niagara with a wave of the hand, or to overcome the roar of a cannon with a flute-note, than to reveal, in moderate terms, the horrors of the slave power.

As the conflict between liberty and slavery continued, it became fiercer. Garrison carried the fight into the north. He attacked his fellowmen for casting votes, that would permit the existence of such a crime. He believed that, if ever slavery was crushed, the north must do it. He employed such close reasoning, such eloquence, such withering satire, that his statements could not be refuted. The citizens of Boston felt the personal stroke. They staggered under his stinging blows. They said, "We must silence him."

Shortly afterwards as he was attending an anti-slavery society meeting the doors were broken open by a mob. Garrison was seized and dragged into the street, that howling mass of humanity crying, "Down with the abolitionists; Down with the traitors!" To save his life the mayor was summoned and Garrison was thrust into jail. An innocent man imprisoned, and for what? Living in a free country, he had dared to speak his convictions; he had declared freedom before slavery. O Garrison! Standing there surrounded by the cold, dingy walls of a prison cell, didn't thou behold visions of a better and a brighter day? Didn't thou perceive, shining through the dark mists of the future visions of a mighty nation struggling in the iron fetters of civil war; a determined South contesting with a powerful North, to test whether that nation should permit the slave trade to exist within its boundaries? Or couldn't thou behold for thyself, the dawning of a day, when thy name should no longer be spoken of with hatred, but should be revered, not only by four million liberated slaves but by countless hosts on both an Eastern and a Western continent? Hopes like these must have thrilled his loyal breast and nerved him for future struggles. At least, he never ceased his noble work until the war was over and slavery crushed.

The old Romans used to recount the deeds of valor and daring of their illustrious departed, to inspire the living with a new impulse to virtue. So we bring the memory of Garrison. His pure life will be an inspiration to men, while time shall last. His devotion, his sacrifice to the cause of liberty will ever teach us to forget self and remember fellow-man. We trust him for his honesty; we honor him as a scholar; we admire him as a reformer, but we love him for his sympathy to the oppressed, for self-denial to his duty, and his rare courage to face opposition at the North and murderous threats at the South.

Garrison, like every great soul that responds to the call of duty in this life, found rest only in the grave. He had won much success in life, but at death he gained his greatest victory. Living a noble Christian, his died trusting in the wisdom of the Omnipotent God. The last moments of his earthly pilgrimage were spent at the home of his daughter. For weeks a powerful disease has been struggling with his wasted body. He felt those slender cords, which bound him to this earth-life, rapidly weakening. But he was prepared to go, his life-work was finished. That noble soul was weary, and it longed for eternal rest. As the end approached his family gathered about the bedside. What a pathetic scene. That form, once so powerful and energetic, now lies weak and emaciated. That voice, at one time so eloquent, is almost silenced. On the verge of Eternity, he calls those loved ones to his side. To each is given a feeble grasp of the hand, a loving kiss, and Garrison is no more. While his friends were weeping at his bedside; while thousands bowed their heads in reverence, his spirit left that mortal shell, and winged its flight across the Jordan, to its own eternal, great reward. Oh, troubled patriot! When the clouds grow dense and the way looks dark and dreary; when thy soul is faint and thy courage nearly gone, go thou to thy lonely domain, and there in the quiet of the hour, meditate on the life of this man, and see through what struggles, what opposition, and what trials he passed and yet came out unscathed and victorious.

You may think me partial to my hero, but in the future, when truth gets a hearing, when sectional hate has been laid aside, when the South vies with the North on questions of liberty and equality, all will be changed. The historian may choose Washington as that bright jewel in America's crown of heroes, which glittered, with all its radiant brightness, through the trying and bloody scenes of the Revolutionary war; and Webster as that great, grand, and most eloquent defender of the American constitution; but as his mind turns toward the history of the destruction of the slave power, he will be compelled to write, at the heading of the liberty's title page the name of her champion, her protector, her sustainer, and her greatest benefactor, William Lloyd Garrison.