

INDICATOR. 41

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ON SPEAKING EXTEMPORE.

BY PROF. M. H. RICHARDS.

My Dear Theologian:

I suppose that you are not only studying theology, but looking forward to the time when you will be a pastor. Have you ever thought of the fact that just as the word is the sword of the Spirit, so you must be able to defend your flock and yourself by all skill in every use of that word—*extemporaneously*, therefore, as well as premeditatedly? You are entering upon a calling in which pre-eminently you must always be ready to speak the proper thing at the proper time, often at a moment's notice. There are times and occasions also when a written discourse has a cold-blooded feeling about it, when words should seem to come straight from the heart. There are excellent persons also who have strong prejudices against written sermons, as well as many plain, unlearned folks who do not appreciate the elegancies of rhetoric, but do yield ear, purse and heart to a plain speech, that goes straight on with force and warmth. What are you doing about this matter? Are you learning to speak extemporaneously without making a fool and idiot of yourself? Have you any idea that it can be learned just as well as to write out your thoughts, and read them afterwards? You ought to know that oratory of all kinds is no spontaneous fruit of the earth; that he who will not work, shall not eat.

Perhaps you will allow me to give you a few hints on the subject:

1. Good extemporaneous speech requires a *well-trained, well-educated mind*. It is tapping a reservoir that has some head on it. It is pouring molten metal from a full, heavy ladle that fills up the finer work of the mould. You know how fluent you can be in a well-prepared recitation, and you know how modest you are when you don't know it. Get clear, full understanding of the leading topics of religion; get full, lucid insight into the statements of Scripture; accustom yourself to make practical application of these as you study; apply them to yourself as a double benefit. By doing this, you will always have subject matter ready for the only kind of extemporaneous speech you should use,—the unpremeditated wording, possibly unpremeditated immediate arrangement of long thought out conclusions and convictions.

2. *Have a clear, plain outline*. Avoid all complicated subdivisions at the start. Either on a bit of paper, or in your mind, have it clear as sunshine before you, that you will begin with such a thought for introduction, to be followed by first, secondly, thirdly, hardly fourthly, surely, then, "in conclusion." Cultivate analysis. Never write anything without first making out a skeleton, and then sticking to it. Analyze other people's speeches and essays, get recitations by their points, not by rote, memory, word for word. At last all subjects will naturally suggest their divisions to you in fair, normal, logical sequence. That will be an immense gain.

SCIENCE IN THE PULPIT.

BY REV. J. G. MORRIS, D. D., LL. D.

A young preacher once said to me: "Sir, we read and hear so much about science in the papers, in books, lectures, and conversation, that I should like to know whether you would advise me to make use of it in the pulpit?" "Most certainly," I replied, "but it all depends upon what you mean by science. True science has God for its author as well as inspired revelation, and it should, therefore, be employed in illustrating and enforcing revealed truth. But if by science you mean, learned disquisitions on the prehistoric man, the antiquity of the earth, the cosmogony of Moses, the duration of various geological periods, the philosophy of the nebular theory, the evolution of man from lower animals, the metaphysics of Spencer, or the theories of the palæontologists,—if this is what you mean by science, then, I say, let it alone in the pulpit. One reason is, you are not familiar with the subjects yourself, and you would make monstrous blunders. Another is your hearers would not understand you, and if any of them did, they would laugh at you for your pedantry and lose respect for you. The third is, they have gone to church to hear the gospel, and not the pratings of an unfledged, pretentious scientist; and, finally, you would desecrate your pulpit by a pompous display of your superficial learning, even if you had a smattering of these subjects."

I have heard of men, who in the pulpit have denounced Huxley, Darwin, Haeckel, Vogt, and others, who could not have told you who these men were, where they lived, what books they wrote or what they taught. I have heard of men loudly inveighing against Evolution who could not tell you the meaning of the word. One of our own men has been heard to speak in a discourse of the Pleiosaurus and Ichthyosarus and he did not know whether the sesquipedalian words indicated beast, bird, reptile, plant or even red herring. I have heard of another of our men, who exhausted twenty minutes of a sermon in giving to his extremely uncultured people an abstract of Spencer's book on Sociology.

A sermon was preached some time ago at one of our Synods, on "The Ocean," which was said to be immensely scientific (fortunately, I did not hear it). There was more science than gospel, more affectation than humility, more speculation than theology. I once knew one of our divines who often preached what was called "The Rose Sermon," which had in it more botany than piety, more school text-book knowledge than Bible, more about roots, germs, buds, leaves, and stems, than about Christ, gospel, faith, repentance, and good works. But the sermon admirably answered its purpose, and that was a gorgeous display.

Against such ostentation I would warn you, but I impressively advise you to employ science in illustrating God's word,—not by long harangues, but by short analogies. There is not one branch of science

which may not thus be made a handmaid to religion. I know a preacher in our Church who has a wonderful facility in making plain many a Scripture passage or religious position by adroitly throwing in a scrap of science, and it comes natural to him. I have heard him illustrate some points admirably by astronomy, and even chemistry, but it was short, pithy, crisp, sententious. There was no ostentation, but his familiarity with these and other branches supplied him with many beautiful and impressive illustrations.

You may introduce science into the pulpit in this sense and to this extent, but avoid all parade of learning. Your sensible people will soon measure the extent of your calibre, and any effort to go beyond that will only awaken their suspicions, and people have no respect for a man who pretends to be more than everybody knows him to be.

ORAL EXAMINATIONS.

A FACT.

A. is a hard student and very nervous. B. is bright, bold and lazy. A. spends his time amongst his books. B. gains his knowledge by the aid of his five senses. A. is capable of becoming a subtle theologian. B. would attract crowds as a popular preacher. A. has the possible power of a deep lawyer. B. could hoodwink a jury with a deftly turned speech. A. has the learning, the skill and the intellect to pull down and build up systems. B. could talk cleverly about those systems, whether down or up.

But there is this difference. A. is nervous. B. is not. A. loses confidence before a crowd. B. enjoys the crowd and gains confidence. It is unfortunate, perhaps. But God made them so.

A. and B. come up for examination in Greek. The examination is oral. A. has spent weeks and months over its preparation. B. has picked up, at odd moments, enough to carry him through. As A. is called up, he recollects, with a shudder, that he has neglected to prepare the last five lines. He receives his slip. He turns white, and sways in his chair. His lines are *the last five*. He knows enough Greek to translate them at sight. But his nervousness overcomes him. His hand shakes. He sees nothing but a sea of type. He gasps out an excuse, and hurries from the room. He has failed. And yet he is one of the finest Greek scholars in the class. On the whole of the other eleven hundred and ninety-five lines he would have passed a perfect examination. Because he failed on five lines,—the only five he did *not* know—he receives a zero. A zero for the toil of months!

B. is called up. He has been carrying on an illicit discussion with his neighbor upon the comparative merits of the American and English bicycle, and now rises, and, smilingly adjusting his glasses, walks to the stand in pretty much the same way that he will walk, a few hours hence, into the nearest restaurant for dinner. He receives *his* slip. His brows contract for a moment over the lines. You can see he is making them out. Occasionally he looks up to the ceiling for inspiration. He gives a last steady look at his passage, and then the smiling air comes back, and he listlessly turns the pages, for lack of something better to do, until the professor is ready for him.

"Now, then, Mr. B." B. makes a very fair show. What he does not know he makes up, and the make-up is often better than the knowledge. He has an easy passage. The constructions are of the

simplest, and the scanning gives no trouble. If B. had been a blockhead he would have done worse. If he had been a scholar, he would have done better. Being neither blockhead nor scholar, he fared well, and was passed.

Now, suppose this had been a written examination. Two hours would have been spent with each student, instead of five minutes. The object of an examination is, or should be, to discover *what one knows*. In two hours this can be ascertained; but in five minutes all that can be discovered is: *what one does not know*. In a written examination several questions are put; and the failure to answer one does not materially damage the result, as refuge can be taken in the others. In an oral examination in the classics *only one* trial is given. You are ordered to translate five lines of a play. You do so. You are congratulated upon your knowledge of the subject. You fail to do so. You may know all the rest; but on the strength of those five lines you are conditioned. Again, each man should have the same questions. It is manifestly unfair to give one an easy and another a difficult passage, as *must be done* at an oral examination.

Perhaps A. had no business to be nervous. Again I say, God made him so. How is a man to get along who chokes and stutters every time people look at him? Some men were not made to face crowds. The usefulness of some men is meant to be worked out in the study and the closet. If an oral examination is unfair for one man, for the sake of that one man the oral examination should be stopped.

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SEMINARY LIBRARY.

REV. W. G. LAITZIE, a staunch old friend of the Library, last month presented to us about seventy volumes. Among them are Hume's England, Milman's Gibbon's Rome, Hengstenberg's Christology, Eusebius, Luther as a Hymnist, Francke's Predigten, etc., etc., and also several rare works, e. g., Keach's Metaphors, 1682. This book, aside from its antiquarian value, contains much useful information, and is still republished from time to time.

Mr. L. has endeared himself to the students by this valuable accession to our library, and we can only hope that many more of our friends will follow his example.

DR. LUTHARDT has sent us, from Leipzig, his weekly Theologisches Literatur Blatt, beginning with January, 1882. This is a most valuable acquisition to our Reading Room; we hope that we shall continue to receive it.

MR. J. B. ZIMMELE of Bethlehem sends us the Moravian. With the March number commences the publication of Bishop De Schweinitz's History of the Unitas Fratrum.—The Augustana Observer, the new English paper of the Swedes, is also sent us. Externally, it is an image of the Indicator.

BOOKS RECEIVED.—From Dr. C. W. Schaeffer, a General Synod Hymnbook, finely bound. From Prof. Walther, Missouri, two pamphlets on The Doctrine concerning Election. From G. W. Childs, Ledger Almanac. From Bureau of Education, Education in France; Causes of Deafness among School Children.

BOOK DEALERS in the United States and in Germany will confer a great favor by sending us (see address on 4th page) catalogues, especially of second-hand, *antiquarisch* works.

THE THEORY OF PREACHING. Lectures on Homiletics. By AUSTIN PHELPS, D. D., late Bartlet Professor of Sacred Rhetoric in Andover Theological Seminary. New York: C. Scribner's Sons, 743 and 745 Broadway. 1881. 8vo., pp. xvi., 610. Price, \$2.50.

Dr. Phelps' work is an anatomy of Christian Rhetoric. Its whole aim is to dissect the Sermon and thus teach the sermonizer to construct a sermon. This singleness of aim distinguishes it from our great German homileticians, in two respects: 1. It casts overboard discussion concerning the material—the Scriptures, the Church, etc.—and confines itself strictly to *logical method*. "Homiletics, in its strict sphere," says Dr. Krauth, "relates more to the externals, *the form*, than to the essence of religious discourse." Not the what, but the how. This *How* is the Great Unknown with so many. Our need is "high thinking," severe logical training. To learn the secret of dissecting thought and of dividing your tangled mazes into strong, single, solid, telling ideas, make Dr. Phelps your anatomical text-book. 2. Unlike most German works on the subject, Dr. Phelps' book concentrates all on practical principles or rules. It is not the science of an art, but it is the "*theorie*" of an art. The German mind loves to dissect its subject scientifically, and must consider everything, from the hair of the head to the nail on the foot; but the American mind will throw science to the winds, if it can thereby gather strength for the practical emergencies of to-day. "One of these methods is the more apt for the purpose of liberal culture, the other is the more necessary in a professional Seminary."

As Lutherans in America, ours is the glorious opportunity of combining the rich heritage from the Father land with the intensely practical spirit of our Native Land. This spirit is characteristic of every page in Prof. Phelps' lectures. The results of his experience, as given in these forcible and attractive presentations, claim the attention of Seminary students and of pastors.

A COMMENTARY ON THE GOSPEL OF LUKE by F. GODET, Doctor and Professor of Theology, Neuchatel. Translated from the second French Edition. With preface and notes to the American Edition by JOHN HALL, D. D. 2nd Ed. New York; I. K. Funk and Co., 1881. Cloth, \$3.00, [with P. and H. Monthly.]

Without presuming to give a valuation of this work as such, we will notice a few features, which will recommend it to the attention of our students.

1. It is scholarly, scientific, critical,—acquainting the reader with the results of especially German criticism, and meeting negative criticism by critical investigation.
2. It is not so learned as to be unintelligible to a tolerably cultured reader.
3. It is characterized by soberness of judgment, forcing no proofs where they are not to be found, either in favor of positive or negative prepossessions.
4. It makes the sacred narrative speak for its own authenticity and the divine character of its subject.
5. Its perspicuity of arrangement, divisions and subdivisions being carefully noted, and results tersely summarized.
6. The author evinces the proper feelings of the sanctity of his subject.
7. The work does not give "homiletical hints." The historical narrative is presented in vivid continuity with the accompanying interpretation. The au-

thor's words are: "It has been written, not so much with a view of its being consulted, as read." V.

THE GOSPEL IN THE STARS, OR PRIMEVAL ASTRONOMY, by Dr. Seiss. Phila.: Claxton & Co., pp. 450. Presented by the Author.

This volume consists of a course of lectures delivered in the Church of the Holy Communion. During his studies on the Great Pyramid, the Author's attention was called to the possibility of some similar revelation being found in the stellar groupings. That possibility has now been laboriously examined, and this volume contains the results.

In these constellations the Doctor finds a pictorial representation of the various steps in the history of redemption. Several skeptical writers have used these same facts and the legends connected with the various constellations as an argument against Christianity, claiming that it is but a combination and re-statement of these old stories. Christian writers have been compelled to acknowledge the facts, but have endeavored to show that the conclusion does not follow. The argument is here turned and we have the work of inspired antediluvians marking out the heavens into divisions that have remained substantially the same ever since. It is wonderful how these "uncouth forms" cease to be arbitrary and meaningless, and the legends concerning them, with all their perversions and distortions, harmonize with each other, when they are connected with the story of Christ's redemptive work.

The reader will miss the Doctor's eloquent and forcible delivery, that showed to us who heard these lectures, the profound conviction he cherished of their truth. On the other hand, he will have more opportunity to enjoy the Author's fine style and will be better able to follow the argument of the work. K.

THE NEW TESTAMENT IN EIGHTY PICTURES, designed and drawn by JULIUS SCHNORR of Carolsfeld. Phila. I. Kohler, 911 Arch St. 1882. Price 60 cts.

The execution of this beautiful little volume is in every way worthy of the work of a master whose name is a sufficient guarantee for its excellence. From these illustrations a child can learn the facts of our Saviour's life long before it would be able to gather them from the pages of the New Testament. It would be well if we had more of such positively religious juvenile literature to take the place of the trashy books which occupy so much space upon the shelves of our Sunday School libraries. B.

CHRISTOPHORI HELVICI, V. C. THEATRUM HISTORICUM ET CHRONOLOGICUM, etc. Marburg, 1638. Presented by Louis I. Lehmayr, of New York.

This universal chronology, from Adam down to the middle of the seventeenth century, is packed with marvellous learning. It is extremely valuable for its comparative tables. Roman Consuls, Athenian Archons, Syrian, Macedonian, Egyptian kings, celebrated men and laws, the dates from Creation, the Olympiads, Founding of Rome, Era of Nabonasser, etc., etc. are placed side by side on the same page.

WUERTEMBERG. The Past and Present of Land and People, by THEODOR GRIESINGER. Presented by Mrs. M. M. Steiner.

This elegant volume, with its maps and many artistic full-page cuts, intends to rescue from oblivion every pretty spot, every imposing structure, every romantic tale or ancient myth, every impressive personality of Swabia, not by dry narrative, but by an interesting, picturesque description. We advise our German readers to give it a few leisure moments.

INDICATOR

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF THE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, AT PHILADELPHIA.

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HITHERTO the Indicator has been a private enterprise. Nearly all the students accorded their "moral support," but the responsibility, financial and editorial, was assumed by individuals. Just after the holidays, however, we determined that the time had come to broaden, deepen, and perpetuate the Indicator's basis by offering to give it over to the students as a Seminary paper. God had prospered us, the dangers that at one time threatened to engulf us had been safely overcome, friends and funds had been secured, at least for the balance of the year, and everything indicated a period of fair sailing for our little craft.

Therefore a meeting of the students was called, and the Committee there appointed to investigate our affairs subsequently found everything favorable to the transfer. After much earnest thinking and many protracted meetings, a constitution for the future "Indicator Association" was drawn up and ratified. The Constitution says: "The object of the paper shall be to encourage a spirit of personal piety; to suggest methods for thorough scientific study; to suggest, discuss and inquire after practical methods and appliances for literary work; to serve as a library organ; to inform the Alumni and others of the condition and wants of the Seminary; and to serve as a bond of union between the educational institutions of the Lutheran Church and the friends of each." The Association annually elects four officers and an editorial committee of five, all of whom enter upon their duties at the opening of the last session. These together constitute an executive committee, which shall transact the minor business of the association. Disputed questions shall be referred to Dr. Krauth for final decision. Profits shall go to the Seminary library.

The next number will appear formally as a Seminary paper, under the management of the Committee to be elected in a few days.

We are deeply indebted to many professors, clergymen, laymen and students; but space limits us to two names, Dr. Krauth and Dr. Greenwalt.

"May the future be fuller of promise than the past of fulfilment."

THEO. E. SCHMAUK.

H. K. SHANOR.

F. W. BERNDT.

G. W. SANDT.

A. VOIGT.

IN MEMORIAM.

D. B. Markley was born near Fagleysville, Nov. 15, 1860. He was graduated with second honor from Ursinus College, in '79, and was in the Senior Class of the Seminary, at the time of his death. He died at his home, on the 13th of March. One week at the Seminary and four weeks at home, he battled with the disease which finally overcame him. After reason had left her throne, while he was tossing in anguish, at the word of his brother, "Daniel, pray," he would cross his hands on his breast, and for the time seem to forget his agony, while through his pale quivering lips his soul in "silent litany" answered back to God. His whole life forms a Christian creed. Even when delirious he would talk of the Seminary, of the Old Folks' Home in Germantown where he preached.

At one time he would say, "Mr. D., you'll preach for me at Germantown?"; at another, he would dream of being in the Missionary Society at the Seminary (of which he was Secretary), and would say, "Gentlemen, you'll excuse me from speaking this evening, for my body is so weak." There is no greater faithfulness than for one to be faithful amid the writhing of body and wreck of mind. He was faithful,—*faithful* is the word. His life at home, his record at College, at the Seminary, all the roll-books on which his name was ever written, when placed together spell *faithful!* and every heart that ever knew him echoes "*faithful!*"

"What I do ye know not now." As the few short years of drill were ending, he heard his name called, "Come up higher," and he answered "I come!" Thus he left the Church Militant, unconscious of the glory his short warfare had brought him. He fell, not like the old soldier covered with scars, but he fell all covered with glory.

The soldier answered to the roll-call of eternity. The sailor counted many hours for the stormy sea but at sunrise he sailed into the haven, "where the morn was shining clear." The student closed his books "to speak face to face." The preacher preached his last sermon, and heard the benediction in Heaven. How is "the beautiful rod" broken! G. B. H.

ITEMS.

Editorial.—We are willing to consider it a compliment to our little paper, that larger papers think what we print worthy of being copied. If an article is worth taking, it is worth giving credit for. *Verb. sap. sat.*

—Dr. Morris's article is none the less timely from the fact that it was applied for and received long before the discussion of a kindred subject at one of our recent Monday morning conferences.

—It is possible that our April number will not be issued much before May 1st. The Easter holidays and the new Editorial Committee may not be the only causes of delay. For, if the April number does not come out before May 1st, the May number can be delayed until June 1st for an account of the Examinations, Commencement, etc.

—A tender spot in the INDICATOR has been its pride of accuracy,—even to the minutest particulars. It is so studded with facts and names and theological technicalities, English, German and Latin, that especial care is needed to prevent mistakes. The proof is always read from six to nine times—by the reader of our publishing house, twice; by the foreman of the composing room; by our own proof-reader; by the author of the article, and by the editor two or three times. When therefore, in spite of every precaution, inaccuracies creep in, it is very annoying, not only to the writers of an article, but also to the editors. Last month Dr. Spaeth was made to say *agitur ut agitur*. When he was a little boy, he would have been whipped for putting the Indicative after *ut*. Our last proof-sheet, just before going to press, witnesses to *ut agatur*, and yet, in some mysterious way, *a* became *i*.

—Missionary Artman has kindly sent us a copy of the constitution of the "Young Men's Society of St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Rajahmundry." "The object of the Society shall be to encourage good feeling and friendly intercourse among the young men, and to unite them for purposes of self-improvement and usefulness to their fellow-men." The Society has an English and a Telugu Secretary. The dues are "at least one anna (2½ cents) per month."

—At the coming INDICATOR election, attempts to introduce political practices,—wire-pulling, formation of cliques, etc. should be immediately frowned down. When the control of positions becomes the most important thing about the INDICATOR, its days of usefulness will have been numbered. The end will be a sacrifice to the means; the Jesuit will rule. That we are American citizens is truth, but that we are Christian theological students is overshadowing truth.

—Events are transpiring within the field of Home Missions of which some of us have but a faint conception. The German Immigrant is coming! He has come by thousands; but next spring whole vil-

lages expect to migrate to our land. Where shall these people get pastors? Our Seminary cannot furnish them. We all know that the few students able to preach German are yearly decreasing, and even these few prefer to get an English congregation, if they can. The Home Mission Committee has appealed to Germany, and Germany has begun to send us aid.

—It may be the last opportunity to disclose, without officious intermeddling, to future manipulators our standards for weighing and measuring materials, and toning them into harmony with the "genius" of the INDICATOR: *Character*: Not to advocate, much less to vindicate, but simply to indicate. *Style*: Pack the thoughts. Charge each word with energy. Let each line sparkle and thrill with healthful life. *Choice of matter*: Seminary and college interests. But this statement is to be interpreted by the subscription books. The INDICATOR speaks with Seminary students, college students, college professors, the most gifted clergymen in the Pennsylvania Ministerium, and many of them in the West and South; but also with the cultured and living laymen in our church; with young men in India and older ones in Germany. A scrap for each.

Seminary.—Easter vacation begins March 30th

—Smith, Drumheller and Hemsath of the Alumni visited the Seminary.

—The Medical Commencements are almost over.

—God speed!

—Rev. G. C. F. Haas, '80, has been elected pastor of St. Mark's German Lutheran Congregation, New York. Prof. Uhler, '81, has been elected to a professorship in Gustavus Adolphus College.

—The Alumni Album shows as yet very many blank places; these spaces ought to be filled with faces.

—The mother of MacCready died in India last January. The sad news was communicated to him on the 6th of March. It was not long before that he received news of his sister's death. We tender our sincere sympathy.

—On Friday evening, March 3d, a gathering of the students was held at Dr. Spaeth's residence, upon his invitation. The talks of the Doctor on subjects pertaining to Hymnology and Liturgics deserved a better attendance than eight out of the whole number. These meetings Dr. Spaeth will continue to hold regularly on the first and third Fridays of every month.

—The Supper given on the 24th *ult.* to the Seniors by Dr. and Mrs. Schaeffer is reported to have been "immense." The Seniors say it was enjoyable and enjoyed, and would suggest but one improvement, an equal number of young ladies. The latter hint comes from those who are "not married—but would like to be."

—Herr Combe, the new student from Germany, arrived on March 1st. He hails from Tübingen, where he has been studying Philosophy and Philology. The first interview between the new-comer and Dr. Krauth was amusing. "Do you speak English?" Shake of the head. Silence. "Do you understand English?" Shake of the head. "Well, then, I must give you up as (what the Americans call) a hard case."

—A certain committee (not of the students) that met in the Seminary library left as a token of remembrance—a cigar stump and ashes on the book shelves.

—February 26th and 28th, meetings of the students were held in regard to taking pictures of the Seminary. Mr. Manz displayed considerable force of character in maintaining order in the somewhat spirited discussions.

—The Middlemen have been preparing historical essays to be read in class. The professor approvingly suggested that they be sent to the Lutheran Church Review, but alas! we are minus the requisite S.T.D.

—Some of the students have been attending Mr. Freeman's historical lectures, held in Association Hall. Tickets were kindly presented by the Mercantile Library Association.

—Rev. Wischan, member of the Foreign Mission Committee, has added to the Museum of Indian Curiosities in the Seminary, a large number of interesting photographs from India,—Missionaries Schmidt, Carlson and Paulson, and the natives Paulus, Peter, the school-teacher Ratnam, the tract colporteur Jeremias, picturesque scenery along the Godavery, several old heathen temples, houses of the missionaries and natives, little school girls, and a grand Christmas party, after dinner, Christmas, 1872.

The Board of Foreign Missions has appointed a custodian of all the articles, and after they are catalogued, pastors will be permitted to take them out to show their congregations, upon a written grant from Dr. Spaeth, President of the Board.

Muhlenberg.—Small pox has practically disappeared from Allentown, and base-ball has taken its place. The latter is confined to the students and the campus; the former was a town institution.

—And now the aspiring student goes forth to various church literary associations, shows off grandly and then fizzles next morning at recitation. Sic transit gloria!

—The Lecture Course has well nigh closed. Rev. Kaehler, of Germantown, alone remains to be heard March 19th. Subject: Recreations. The lectures delivered have been characterized as follows: "Dr. Fry's was the most interesting, Professor Richards' the most entertaining, Rev. Haupt's the most learned, Dr. Morris' the funniest, and Dr. Schmucker's the most 'book'-ish." This certainly shows great diversity of ability and speaks well for our churchmen as lecturers.

—Class day will be held June 23d. Appointments: *Master of Ceremonies*, R. D. Roeder; *Salutatory*, L. J. Bickel; *Presentation of Insignia* by A. B. Hassler; *Prophet*, N. W. Reichard; *Oracle*, S. C.

Schmucker; *Poet*, Z. L. Miller; *Class Orator*, T. M. Yundt; *Rock Oration* by J. Lazarus; *Address to Lower Classmen*, W. H. Medlar; *Historian*, W. R. Grim; *Valedictorian*, J. Harry Zweizig.

—The Junior Class has sprouted a motto—"Vivere est Cogitare." The supposition is that their study of logic helped them to it.

—The Societies glory in having captured Charles Emory Smith, editor of the Philadelphia Press, for the annual address at Commencement.

—The third session begins April 13th at 11 o'clock.

Thiel.—A Young Ladies' Bible Class has been organized. Meetings, Sunday, 4 P. M. Prof. McKee, leader.

Norwegian Augustana Seminary, (Beloit, Ia.)—Miss Loeberg, of Chicago, will give instruction in vocal and instrumental music. An organ has been provided for our institution.

—Spring-fever is exciting apprehensions as its season approaches.

—Our Juniors are rivals of the Seniors of Muhlenberg, who go sleigh-riding on the railroad. They indulge in sleigh-rides on lumber-wagons through six inches of mud.

—Clear sky, snow, bad roads, western blizzards, constitute the weather indications. P. J. R.

Gustavus Adolphus, (St. Peter, Minn.)—Prof. Wahlstrom has been appointed collector of moneys for Library among the Swedes, and Prof. Bauman among the "Americans."

—We are progressing steadily, but steady progress is often accompanied by a dearth of newsy items.

Augustana, (Rock Island, Illinois.)—The Professors' families meet for mutual entertainment twice a month, on Thursday evenings after supper. The society is regularly organized under the name of "the Home Circle," and has written rules and regulations. All the members of "the Home Circle" shall meet one Sunday afternoon in the month as a Bible Class. The officers, elected for one year, are: Mrs. H. Reck, president, Mrs. C. P. Rydholm, treasurer, and Miss Esther Hasselquist, secretary. A syndicate of three, called "the committee on program," provides for the entertainment, music, singing, declamations, essays, &c. At every meeting one member of the committee retires and a new one is substituted. At present, both ladies and gentlemen are members of this committee.

—Butter is scarce. The boys have to eat molasses.

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