

THE OREGON WEEKLY

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MONDAY, - - - - MARCH 10, 1902

Dr. Thomas Condon, Monday March 3rd was Dr. Condon's birthday. He was eighty years old. The measure of a lifetime is not its years, rather its experiences, but when a man has been ever active, each year proves a forcible multiplier which goes, with events, to make a much greater product. The product of our friend and teacher's life, ever since we have known him, cannot be adequately measured, and how much more difficult is the task when we contemplate all the years which mark the steps of his great and good pathway.

When we remember that Dr. Condon's life began before the world had heard of the Monroe Doctrine, when the United States had known but four presidents and but twenty-three states had been carved out of its immense territory, and as yet not a mile of railroad had been built in this country, then we begin to realize something of the history which his many years have spanned.

But it is not of the nation's growth or of Oregon's history, the latter of which he has helped to make from an early day—but it is his place and part in the University of Oregon that the student is apt to think most of, when he sees the friend of us all at his work in the class room.

To point out Thomas Condon's work and worth to the University is as unnecessary as it is impossible. Unnecessary because all students feel it, impossible because it has no limitation. He remains the only member of the school's first Faculty. He has known personally every man and woman graduate that has left the University since

the first class in '78. But his individual influence is not the only one which he has made or helped to make upon this school. Some members of the Condon family have played their parts in college affairs since the class of '78 of which Mrs. Ellen Condon McCornack, Dr. Condon's daughter was a member. Two sons and two daughters have since gone from these halls into broader fields of life's activity. One grandson finished with the class of 1901, Condon C. McCornack, and a member of the class of 1903 shares a like honor. These facts are but intimations of the relation of Dr. Condon to the University of Oregon, facts which we may couple to others in our memories.

Since the University of Oregon threw its halls open to the young men and women of the West—over twenty years ago—the Christian religion has, in its progress upward, disturbed the minds and hearts of many, until the students of our land have at times hardly known what stand to take.

Through all these years Oregon has known a man who has watched with a scientist's reverent mind the progress of all living things, and who has seen in the life of the Christian religion a strong, certain step toward a better and higher ground. He has never tried to change the views of the earnest who differed from him. His work has been for those who were not sure—and they have been many. For these he has had a message, and hundreds have thankfully received it. His religion is too broad and too deep to be put into words; it is written on the hillsides, in the valleys, and in the faces of men, but the text of his life lesson, which has been the goal of his efforts, is God's eternal truth.

Oregon's Orator. Friday evening, March 14, at Salem, Oregon's orator, J. A. Gamber, will meet contestants from seven other educational institutions throughout Willamette valley, to determine which one of the eight schools is superior in oratorical work. These contestants will represent McMinnville College, McMinnville; Willamette University, Salem; Pacific University, Forest Grove; Pacific College, Newberg; Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis; State Normal, Monmouth; Albany College, Albany, and University of Oregon, Eugene.

Oregon is hopeful as she sends her representative forth. The students have a right to expect the decision in favor of the University, but other schools have similar opinions concerning their respective orators. There is nothing dead

certain about the matter but this, Oregon will be represented by a man capable of upholding her standard. The decision with him is a matter of secondary consideration, and should be so with us all. When the contest is over, whatever way it goes, the University will not regret the work done in her behalf. Mr. Gamber will go into the contest conscious of the support of the students, confident that they consider him among the best representatives that they have ever sent out and determined to do his utmost for the University of Oregon.

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