

Edward Blake: College Student.

By Charles M. Sheldon.

Author of "In His Steps," "Malcom Kirk," "The Crucifixion of Philip Strong," "Robert Hardy's Seven Days," etc. Copyright, 1910, in U. S. A., by Advance Publishing Co., Chicago.

CHAPTER VIII.

Wilson began his speech slowly and was evidently cool and determined. He had been in college two years longer than Edward and had had more training as a speaker. He had as a sophomore won the second prize for the best declamation in the annual contest and was considered the best all around speaker in the society that was rival to the one in which Edward had his membership.

The arguments of Wilson were in brief that the United States was justified in carrying on the war in the Philippines, because the natives were the first to provoke the outbreak, because they were in reality rebels in that the islands belonged to the United States by purchase and the authority of our government was being defied; that to withdraw our troops would mean a condition of anarchy and result in more cruelty and loss of life than would result from the war; that in short the war was necessary before the United States could assert its control, inasmuch as the Tagalos did not represent the Philippines as a race, but were only a small part of all the inhabitants, the majority of whom were willing to become subject to our authority. He closed with an appeal to all loyal Americans to uphold the flag and do all in their power to support the government in its efforts to end the war speedily and inaugurate a reign of peace and justice in the islands that had for so long a time been the victim of greed and priestcraft.

As Wilson closed very strongly, he received tremendous applause, that broke out again and again. The president rose to introduce Edward, but the applause continued, and he sat down again. The girls who were friends of Wilson's society waved their flags, while the girls who sided with Blake held theirs down over the seats. For five minutes the shouting and demonstration continued. Then the president went forward and introduced Edward for the negative, and the chapel suddenly became as still as it had been before.

Edward felt his knees tremble as he went forward, and his tongue was dry and his hands cold. For a second or two he was horrified to find that he could not remember the very first sentences of his speech. He actually made a beginning, a paragraph or two, when he stopped, and he was very deliberate in what he said. He was not quite sure, but he felt that he was not doing as well as he had hoped to do. He felt that if any of the college people noticed anything strange.

Then he gathered himself together, and went on, doing his best, and gaining added interest in the argument as it developed.

He took the ground that war between nations is never justified, except when every other measure has been exhausted. He claimed that every measure had not been exhausted in the present war in the Philippines. He cited in support of his argument several instances from the seat of the war itself. He also called attention to several instances where more serious international disputes had been settled by arbitration. He then went on to quote quite largely from one of the members of the supreme court of the United States, who had come out in a speech against the war and had opposed the policy of colonial expansion. "This eminent jurist has said: 'Again, a necessity of colonial possessions is an increase in our regular army, and the first increase proposed is from 30,000 to 100,000 men. It is a strange commentary that, at the close of the nineteenth century, the head of the most arbitrary government in the civilized world, the czar of the Russias, is inviting the nations of the world to a decrease in their arms, while this, the freest land, is proposing an increase in its. Yet such seems to be the imperative need if we enter upon the system of colonial expansion. We have lived and prospered for 123 years with a handful of regular troops. We have preserved peace at home, and have been respected abroad. Government by consent of the governed has little need of the soldier. So the world has come to believe, and so it is. Are we ready to forfeit this high position? Do we not endanger the very foundation principles of this government

when we make the glare of the bugles and the tramp of the armed battalion the music which is heard on every side and the inspiration which attracts the ambition of our youth? 'It,' continued Edward, as he finished the quotation, 'we begin to war on a nation for conquest, what future do we anticipate for our country? To quote again from the same source, from this distinguished member of our highest court whose motives certainly cannot be impugned as selfish or partisan: 'My friends, two visions rise before me: One of a nation, growing in population, riches and strength, reaching out the strong hand to bring within its dominion weaker and distant races and lands; holding them by force for the rapid wealth they may bring—with perhaps the occasional glory, success and sacrifice of war; a wondrously luxurious life into which the fortunate few shall enter; an accumulation of magnificence which, for a term, will charm and dazzle, and then the shadow of the awful question whether human nature has changed, and the old law, that his-

tory repeats itself, has lost its force; whether the ascending splendor of imperial power is to be followed by the descending gloom of luxury, decay and ruin. The other of a nation, where the spirit of the Pilgrim and the Huguenot remains the living and controlling force, devoting its energies to the development of the inexhaustible resources of its great continental territory; solving the problem of universal personal and political liberty, of a government by the consent of the governed, where no king, no class and no race rules, but each individual has equal voice and power in the control of all, where wealth comes only as the compensation for honest toil of hand or brain, where public service is private duty; a nation whose supreme value to the world lies not in its power but in its unflinching loyalty to the high ideals of its youth, its forever lifting its strong hand, not to govern, but only to protect the weak; and thus the bright shining which brightens more and more into the faceless eternal day.

"Brethren, Ebal and Gerizim are before us. Might and right stand on either side, with their great appeals. 'Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide in the strife of truth with falsehood for the good or evil side; Carolean seems the great Avenger; history's pages but record One death grapple in the fairness 'twixt the tyrant and the word, Truth forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne, Yet that scaffold sways the future, and behind the dim unknown, Standeth God within the shadow keeping watch above his own. 'We see dimly in the present what is small and what is great, Slow of faith how weak an arm may turn the bon helm of fate, But the soul is still oracular, and amid the market's din, List the ominous stern whisper from the Delphic cave within: They enslave their children's children who make compromise with sin. 'Paraphrasing in part the invocation of the opening of the supreme court, God save the United States of America and keep them from the road so often traveled by nations, of increasing territory, accumulating dominion, rapidly and easily acquired wealth, luxurious splendor, a growing separation between the poor and the rich, presaging decay and death, and may we always hear the solemn prayer of Abraham Lincoln borne upward to heaven from the consecrated field of Gettysburg upon the mighty volume of patriotic incense which ever rises from that sacred spot, that government of and by and for the people may never perish from the earth. 'It was very still while Edward was presenting this part of his argument, for the quotation was from an address so recent that it was not generally known and so far as Edward knew it, had not been printed in any of the Raynor papers. One of the judges listened with a marked expression of surprise, as if he could hardly believe that a judge of the supreme court of the United States could be the author of the sentiments ascribed to him in the address. Address by Hon. David Brewer, associate justice of the supreme court of the United States, before the Liberal club, Buffalo, Feb. 13, 1890.

There was no attempt, at any point in his speech, to break out into applause, as there had been in the case of Wilson. Even when Edward closed his description of the horrors of war in general, by quoting Willis' story of the battle and the death of the native Filipino and her baby, there was not the slightest indication that he had any sympathy for the audience. It was only when he finally closed and walked back to his seat, that the applause broke out, and apparently it was then fully as hearty and prolonged as that which followed Wilson's peroration. In Wilson's rejoinder, he showed a slight hesitation, similar to that which had marked Edward's beginning. Those who knew what he had prepared, said afterward that he left out a large part of what he intended to say, and extemporized to a great extent. However that may be, he spoke with considerable force and again provoked loud applause. Edward closed the debate with a rebuttal that, in the opinion of a large part of the student body, was far stronger than his main argument and again divided the houses with Wilson, as far as applause was concerned. And now came the most trying moment of the evening to the young contestants. The judges retired to make their decision, and while they were out the glee club sang by request. When some one called for the old war song, "O Cuba, the land that ought to be free!" it seemed to some of the audience that the sentiment provoked by it was in the nature of a prophecy, anticipating the decision of the judges against Edward. There was no doubt that, owing to the enthusiasm for the war, Edward had the unpopular side

of the question. And yet, more than one woman in the audience that night, thinking of her own child safe and warm in its bed at home, felt her eyes dim at the memory of Willis' picture, as Edward had drawn it from his letter. If these women had been the judges, it is possible that the verdict would have been very quickly reached. The glee club sang half a dozen selections, and still the judges did not appear. The classes began to stamp their feet and shout their class yells. Wilson and Edward, who had remained on the platform, were uncomfortably nervous, although neither of them showed it.

At last the judges appeared, and one of them mounted the platform and came forward slowly. "Make it brief!" cried some one in the junior class. Some of the audience laughed, and others hissed, while the president sternly raised his arm to demand order.

"Mr. President," said the judge, with a good natured smile, "I have heard a college boy myself. I don't intend

to make a speech on this occasion. 'But you are,' sung out the voice that had interrupted the first time. 'That's all of it,' replied the chairman pleasantly. 'The judges award the prize in this contest to John W. Wilson.'

And then pandemonium broke loose among the students as the judge

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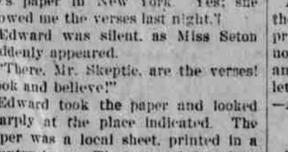
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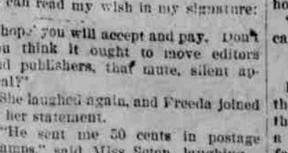
I forgot to tell you, Mr. Blake, that I promised to give up the Sunday study.



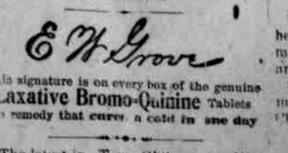
That's my article right there," she said, nevertheless she did not conceal her satisfaction at her first success, and Edward, among whose faults was not jealousy, was just as much pleased as she was.



He let him out. The king of Naples, in the plenitude of his absolutism, paid one day a visit to the Neapolitan prisons in order to see for himself what sort of men his criminals were and whether they really deserved the punishments they were undergoing.

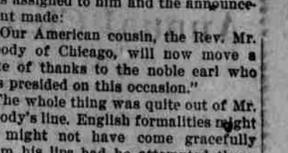


No Case. "You charge this man with impersonating an officer, do you?" "I do, your honor."

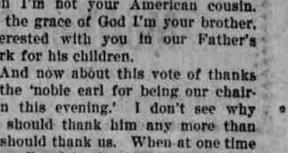


He Rose Rapidly. In speaking of the late Ballard Smith the Louisville Courier-Journal says that when he first sought a position in a newspaper office after graduating from Dartmouth college he entered the sanctum with an air of consciousness. He wore a silk shirt and a velvet jacket. He said he would like to be dramatic editor, but he was given a place on the local staff. In less than six months he was made city editor. After that his rise in journalism was rapid.

Probably. "That Baltimore woman who gave her pet monkey a first class funeral must have been greatly attached to the animal." "Yes, it probably gave her a regular monkey wrench to part with it."—Cleveland Plain Dealer

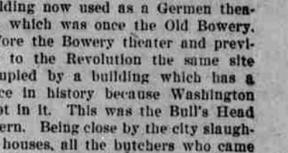


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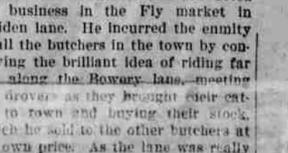


Ed. W. Grove

This signature is on every box of the genuine laxative Bromo-Quinine Tablets—a remedy that cures a cold in one day



The latest in Tam O'Shanter's—Miss Goldsmith.



According to the ancient Chinese writers, the chronology of that country goes back 2,297,000 years.