

NEWBERG GRAPHIC.

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FALSELY ACCUSED.

McMinnville College Plays the Easy Act. - Newberg's Graphic Charged with Plagiarism. - An Able Defense by Judge Williams.

The last two weeks have certainly been history making epochs in Oregon inter-collegiate circles, and especially so to two educational institutions, both of which are located in Yamhill county. In whatever light these institutions have previously been held by the public, the events of the past two weeks will largely determine their present and future standing as viewed by Oregon at large. Only two weeks ago this evening, Pacific College, with her peerless young Freshman orator, met and defeated at Corvallis all comers in the open field of oratory. In the next few days, maligned by ever jealous and insidious enemies, she has bravely and proudly met all charges, and triumphantly vindicated in the eyes of the public by the unprejudiced testimony of such a man as Hon. Geo. H. Williams, Attorney-General under President Grant, she now stands higher than ever before in the estimation of the people. On the other hand the students of McMinnville college, frenzied with childish jealousy, have, led by their president, stooped in the attempt to besmirch the name of our young orator, and bring disgrace on his family. In the eyes of a fair public, no justification exists for such cowardly conduct on the part of the students, except the somewhat doubtful one of their being misled and encouraged in it by a man whose responsible position is one supposed to call for a higher quality of manhood. As a result McMinnville College has placed upon her a lasting stigma infinitely worse than a dozen defeats.

Along the latter part of last week, rumors came floating down from the county seat, that encouraged and assisted by Pres. Boardman, the McMinnville students were preparing to protest Mr. Minchin's right to the gold medal by bringing against him the gross charge of plagiarism. There was not much credence put in the report however as it was commonly believed that the president of McMinnville College was too much of a man to be engaged in such shady work himself, and was too well aware of the dignity of his position to countenance it in his students. On Saturday morning however our citizens read the following bold charge which appeared in the Yamhill Reporter:

"Elwood Minchin, the young orator of Pacific College, thought possessing a gold medal, occupies a very unenviable position. It has been ascertained that his oration, which captured the judges at Corvallis, is a general paraphrase of Carlos Martyn's life of Phillips, some two hundred words being taken bodily from that work. This is no idle dream. The comparison has been made. There is a natural and unwritten law governing such contests which stamps plagiarism as an unpardonable offense. There is much speculation as to what the result of this discovery will be. The opinion is general that it should bar Minchin from the interstate contest, if indeed it does not place Pacific College beyond the pale of future participation in inter-collegiate contests. The attitude is honorable for that institution would seem to be that they gracefully 'acknowledge the corn,' and resign the honor. It may be said for Mr. Minchin that with a personal subject such as he chose, the temptation is very strong to use language other than his own, but yielding is sin. Writers and speakers generally get their ideas handed down, but most of them display the ability to edit them in their own verbiage. The power to express comes from possession of a knowledge of the subject matter treated. The knowledge acquired, the student should be able to frame his own thoughts concerning it, and not expect to fly with another's wings."

The writer of the above has informed the Graphic that he thought he was on safe ground as he got his information direct from Pres. Boardman. The mistake he made was in not making a further investigation before he published such a charge to the world, but since he admits that he was deceived and has agreed to set the matter right in the next issue of the Reporter no further comment is necessary here on this point. Soon after having read the Reporter article a representative of the Graphic in company with Prof. R. W. Kelsey drove out to the home of Mr. Minchin and made a careful examination of his oration in comparison with the book in question. Mr. Minchin turned to every page in the book from which passages had in any way been used and pointed them out. Upon completing the investigation and being fully convinced that a great wrong had been done the young man a meeting of his friends was immediately called and as a result of the conference, Jesse Edwards, B. C. Miles, Prof. Kelsey and W. C. Woodward drove over to McMinnville the next morning.

Mr. Eckman of the Reporter was found on giving Pres. Boardman as his authority for the statement published, he conducted the party over to the college, and called up Mr. Boardman, who took all his visitors into the college office. The object of the visit was soon stated, and with the oration and the book at hand, Prof. Kelsey and the president began investigation in the presence of Mr. Eckman. It was soon discovered upon how substantial grounds Mr. Boardman's complaints were based, as he went so far as to deny the right of Mr. Minchin to the use of quotations properly credited. He also accused our orator of trying to palm off a piece of poetry which was not enclosed in quotation marks as his own. Beyond this "poetic

Honors" Prof. Kelsey flatly defied the president to produce a single sentence copied verbatim, whose quotation marks were not used, with the result that nothing could be produced by that gentleman aside from a frequent show of unnecessary warmth. Mr. Eckman admitted that he had been led into error and seemed ready to make amends.

At the close of the conference this question was put to Mr. Boardman, "Has there been or will there be a protest filed by your local association," and his answer was "I do not know." When a dispatch from Albany appeared in Sunday's Oregonian saying that a protest had been filed by McMinnville with the executive committee of the state association, and that the committee had met on Friday night to consider it, the fact was called to mind that the president of McMinnville College had stated in the presence of five men that he did not know whether a protest had been filed or not. This seemed so singular that a representative of the Graphic who was in McMinnville on last Tuesday called at the college and held a short interview with the president and secretary of the local association, J. R. McKillop and E. A. Smith respectively, in the presence of J. E. Wallace. The young men stated that they mailed their protest to the committee about the middle of the week, that the president of the college had been consulted in the matter, and that he knew the protest had been sent. The question was put two or three times and very positive answers were each time given in the affirmative.

Pres. Boardman said on March 17 that he did not know whether a protest had been filed or not, while two of his students say he did know at least three days before this that it had been done. This is not a case of plagiarism. Public sentiment. For forty years the cry has been "Yamhill against the world," but it appears that a small circle at the county seat has made a revision and the cry now is McMinnville against Newberg. As for the results the future will tell. However the Graphic made the discovery last Tuesday that many of the citizens of McMinnville deplore the action of the college. A few of those consulted will be quoted.

Rev. Jos. Hoberg and wife: "We have noted that very competent judges passed on the orations and our home college should have submitted gracefully." J. J. Irvine: "We don't want to fight our neighbors. It is a grave mistake." Jas. McCain: "I'll warrant that if all the other orations were subjected to the public gaze, they would show up no better and probably not so well." Frank Fenton: "Our fellows have done well in the past in the way of awards, and now, especially since the medal comes to our county, they ought to have been satisfied."

At Snyder: "I have read the oration carefully and for the life of me I can't see where they have any grounds for a kick." Col. J. C. Cooper covers the whole ground in a well written article which appears elsewhere in this issue. One newspaper man said, "I see the injustice of this thing and I only wish I was in a position to say what I think of it."

At Portland. Many prominent men at Portland who were approached said, "Oh yes, we see it is the fellows who are defeated in the contest who are kicking." One prominent attorney formerly from this county said, "It is the same old McMinnville yowl." Mr. Minchin's friends were advised by prominent people in Portland to get written opinions from Hon. George H. Williams and attorney Earl C. Brounagh on the oration, which they have done. Judge Williams has probably delivered more orations than any other man on the Pacific Coast, and Mr. Brounagh ranks as one of the best attorneys in Portland. Here are written opinions from men who are eminently well qualified to judge in this matter. Read what they have to say.

All the other orations delivered at Corvallis have gone into hiding and Mr. Minchin's is the only one that is being disseminated. But nothing is being covered up by the young man or his friends. At their request the Oregonian on Tuesday published in parallel columns extracts from the oration and Phillips' book. This has given the public an opportunity to read and compare.

In this case there seems to have been some star chamber work done. So far Pacific College has not been able to secure a copy of the protest. The officers of the McMinnville local association were asked for a copy but they said they had none. On Wednesday Mr. Newby received a letter from the president of the state association saying the executive committee would meet in Salem on next Saturday to consider the contest case, this being the first official notice received here of all the row which has been kicked up. This gives little time for preparation but Minchin's accusers will be met with a warm reception. Hon. Geo. H. Williams. I have been requested to give my views as to whether or not Mr. Elwood S. Minchin was guilty of plagiarism in his oration upon Wendell Phillips, the Agitator. I have compared the oration with Mr. Martyn's book "Wendell Phillips, the Agitator" and do not find that Mr. Minchin has appropriated in its entirety any paragraph of the book not properly expressed in quotation marks. He has used many of the ideas and some of the words in the book, but it would be difficult, if not impossible, for any one writing upon Wendell Phillips to say anything in his praise that is not found in some form in Martyn's Book of more than 300 pages. Mr. Minchin could not possibly know anything about Wendell Phillips except what he learned from books and he can-

not justly be charged with plagiarism because to use what he so learned for the purposes of his oration. I am quite sure that if all the orations upon Washington and Lincoln were compared they would not only be found to resemble each other in their ideas but also in their forms of expression, because one current of thought is common to all who write as to those great men.

The charge of literary theft is a serious one and ought not to be made unless there are good and substantial grounds upon which to base the accusation. It is well to keep in mind the good words of Shakespeare: "Who steals my purse steals trash; 'tis something, nothing; 'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands; But he that filches from me my good name Robs me of that which neither heaven nor earth can give again."

I make this further remark that if the discredited parties or those interested for them in these inter-collegiate oratorical contests are to make a fuss and row over defeats and go into the newspapers to attack the successful orator or discuss the integrity and capacity of the judges such contests become ridiculous and no self-respecting gentleman will have anything to do with them. G. H. WILLIAMS, Attorney at Law, PORTLAND, Oregon, March 19, 1901.

Mr. Jesse Edwards and Prof. R. W. Kelsey, Newberg, Oregon. Gentlemen: - In reference to our conversation of today I beg to say that I have carefully read the oration by Mr. Elwood S. Minchin on "Wendell Phillips," and also the article in the "Oregonian" of today, showing extracts from the oration, and in parallel columns extracts from Martyn's "Wendell Phillips, the Agitator," and I must say that, in my opinion, if this is the strongest evidence that can be adduced to support the charge of plagiarism, brought against Mr. Minchin, the accusation is not sustained. I would infer from reading the parallel passages that Mr. Minchin's thought upon the subject has been influenced by careful study of Martyn's work or some work of similar character. But is this not legitimate? If not, I confess I am at a loss to understand what purpose looks of this kind see to serve. If we are not to profit by the work of those who have preserved their thoughts for us upon the printed page, then their labor has been vain and we are none the richer for their efforts.

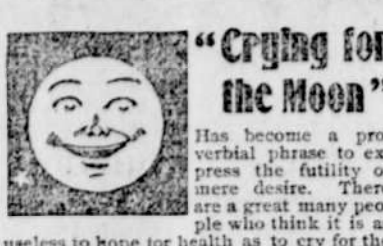
It seems to me that it comes in bad grace from Minchin's late rivals or their friends to carry this matter into newspaper controversy. If the charges cannot be fully sustained a great wrong will have been done the person thus attacked, and it is a matter of common observation that those who rush into print with such controversies are never in great haste to remedy the evil they have wrought. In the same form I deem it a great injustice, too, to the judges who have passed upon these orations, that their decisions should be appealed from to the court of public opinion which has not been, and cannot be, fully informed in relation to the matter. If the decision of the judges is not to be accepted by those who voluntarily submitted themselves to the jurisdiction of such judges, then such contests become a farce. Yours sincerely, EARL C. BROUNAGH, McMINNVILLE, OR.

EDITOR GRAPHIC: - You ask me to give you an impartial opinion of the merits of the oration of Elwood S. Minchin, awarded the gold medal at the late inter-collegiate contest, and now disputed by McMinnville and some of the other state colleges, on the ground that the oration is a plagiarism on Carlos Martyn's, "Wendell Phillips, the Agitator." Plagiarism formerly meant kidnapping or man-stealing, later being used for stealing or borrowing the phrases or ideas of another without proper credit. In the parallel published in the Oregonian of the 19th inst, the Newberg committee admits of twelve quotations from Martyn but claim the manuscripts used by Minchin and submitted to the committee on awards gave due credit by quotation marks.

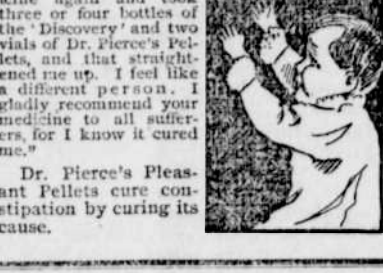
The McMinnville committee publish a leaflet entitled, "An Interesting Parallel," in which they claim sixteen quotations were made by Minchin, of phrases and ideas from Martyn. They do not say whether due credit is given by quotation marks or not. They claim however that the stanza used by Minchin at the close of his oration was used without credit or quotation marks. In the Memorial Addresses on the Life and Character of a deceased Senator or Representative by his living colleagues in Congress, quotations are often made from the poets and no thought of credit is entertained or quotation marks appear on the printed page. They presume that their hearers and the reading public are sufficiently familiar with current literature to know that they are not trying to palm off their literary genius as original. On the life and character of John A. Logan many of the most distinguished men of the time delivered addresses in Congress, such as Wm. M. Everts, of New York, McKinley, of Ohio, Culom, of Illinois, and twenty others, which were published in a book of 220 pages. At least thirty quotations are made from the poets and no quotation marks appear and in very few instances is the author of the lines even mentioned.

He who writes of the past must get his information from books or tradition. Therefore the phrases and ideas built from books partake more or less of the original, hence are more reliable, but as an instance of "borrowed ideas," will some one read T. Buchanan Reel's, Closing Scene, which the Westminster Review says is unquestionably the finest American poem ever written, and then read that matchless poem, Gray's Elegy. Either ideas are borrowed here or the ecstasy of the muses produces very similar inspiration in the minds of the authors.

The quotations of Minchin are taken from a scope of nearly five hundred pages, while his address covers not more than three pages, hence it would partake more of a synopsis than a plagiarism. A plagiarism of that length would follow more the theme of a single chapter. Now, in behalf of McMinnville's right to kick. An old politician was sent to quell a disaffection in a certain precinct



"Crying for the Moon" Has become a proverbial phrase to express the futility of mere desire. There are a great many people who think it is not a stimulant, but strength giving medicine. They have tried many medicines and many doctors, but all in vain. A great many hopeless men and women have been cured by the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery; people with obstinate coughs, bleeding lungs, night sweats and other symptoms of disease which if neglected or unskillfully treated find a fatal termination in consumption. "Golden Medical Discovery" has a wonderful healing power. It increases the nutrition of the body, and so gives strength to throw off disease. It cleanses the blood from poisonous impurities and enriches it with the red corpuscles of health. It is not a stimulant, but strength giving medicine. It contains no alcohol, neither opium, cocaine, nor any other narcotic. Sometimes the extra profit paid by inferior medicines tempts the dealer to offer a substitute as "just as good" as "Discovery." If you are convinced that "Discovery" will cure you accept nothing else. "I was in poor health when I commenced taking Dr. Pierce's medicine," writes Mr. Elmer Sawyer, of Volney, Iowa. "I had a severe cough and hemorrhage of the lungs, but after using your medicine a while I commenced to gain in strength and flesh, and stopped coughing right away. Took about six bottles of the Golden Medical Discovery, then, and last spring I had Grippe, and it settled on my lungs, leaving me unable to get on my feet. I had a doctor, but he didn't seem to help me any; so I commenced your medicine again and took three or four bottles of this medicine, and that straightened me out. I feel like a different person. I am glad to recommend your medicine to all sufferers, for I know it cured me." Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets cure constipation by curing its cause.



caused by the failure of the precinct's candidate to secure the nomination at the previous convention. He told them they had a right to kick. "Why?" asked the precinct boss, in surprise. "Because you were beaten." "Yes but we were beaten by unfair means." "Fair or unfair," said the wily old politician, "it is right of the minority to kick." "It is all they have left and its their only comfort, and we don't propose to deny you that satisfaction." Newberg will please accept this explanation. Some things may have been said and done that were better left unsaid and undone, but the thinking public know the characteristics of College students and make due allowance for their zeal. We like it, too. If one of them would climb the gable end of hades and bite off the very nose of Lucifer himself, we might not think it judicious but we would applaud.

No serious harm will come of this controversy. It will come out all right if not carried too far. A victory for McMinnville by the humiliation or attempted humiliation of Newberg would be worse than the sorest defeat. Neither college can afford it. The county cannot afford it, nor can the state afford to go into an interstate contest with a divided allegiance. Much of this controversy is laid at the door of Mr. Eckman, associate editor of the Reporter. We are confident that Mr. Eckman wrote what he did, based on what he believed reliable information. I think he is one of the most careful, conscientious as well as able local editors in the state. I state this after years of intimate acquaintance.

I sincerely hope the cooler, better judgment of all will prevail and the controversy will stop. It must stop. I have helped too many students over rough places to say naught against any one. They all need help, and God bless them, I will do it again and again. They shall not go away from me or my library without the best I can give in work and encouragement. The Newberg boy is all right. His address was an able one and showed great work in preparation. Newberg shows the true spirit and it is the duty of the county and state to stand by them. J. C. COOPER.

The leading editorial in Monday's Oregonian says: "Considerable agitation is reported from Albany over the discovery that Elwood Minchin, who recently won the state oratorical contest on behalf of Pacific College, Newberg, had prepared himself for the oration on Wendell Phillips by reading, and that from at least one book he had taken ideas, and even words. While plagiarism, of course, is a crime of peculiar turpitude, the defeated college that hope now to take from young Minchin the honor they failed to win from him in open contest run great risk of making much ado about nothing. The amount of knowledge possessed by a 19-year-old boy on the subject of Wendell Phillips, or any of the subjects custom imposed for collegiate orations, cannot be extensive or profound, and if he has found books that help him and used their contents effectively, this fact itself is not enough to condemn him as unworthy to wear the coveted honor. Surely it is not expected that a youth of his tender years will bring history and economics any great amount of new thought or original investigation. There is very little original thinking in this pretentious world. Over and over again we are revolving the speculations of the ancients, the doubts they cherished, the hopes they cherished at, the dreams they dreamed. Over and over again we tell the stories of our low great men, point the same morals, sound the same alarm. There is little new, and if we have any well-defined need among those who pose as instructors of opinion today, it is that they would not be blind to the light that is come into the world, and cease promulgating things new and strange, which the next generation will be at pains to unweave and disprove. Minchin, we take it, did not find that those who had studied Wendell Phillips were altogether wrong, and may it be long until such originality becomes the measure of first prize.

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POPULAR PUBLICATIONS-POPULAR PRICES

Table listing various publications and their prices. Includes THE NEW-YORK WEEKLY TRIBUNE, North American Review, Harper's Magazine, etc.

Advertisement for Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic. For Malaria, Chills and Fever. THE BEST PRESCRIPTION IS Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic. The formula is plainly printed on every bottle - hence you know just what you are taking when you take Grove's. Imitators do not advertise their formula knowing that you would not buy their medicine if you knew what it contained.