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EUGENE THE VICTOR.

An Immense Gathering at State Oratorical Contest.

Last Friday was a big day in McMinnville in respect to the number of well dressed students in town and the centralization of a great quantity of ribbons of a variety of colors. The Baptist church, now the largest auditorium in the city, was filled to near its greatest capacity, which would indicate an attendance of about 800, to hear the seventh annual intercollegiate oratorical contest. Sherman Wallace, of this city, the retiring president, presided at the contest. Dr. Grannis opened the program with an earnest prayer. A piano duet followed by Misses Satie Snyder and Mand Hobbs. O. A. Garland of Willamette university spoke first, on the subject "For an Anglo-American Alliance." He thought such an alliance now would determine the course of civilization for a thousand years to come, and the mission of these countries will not be fulfilled until the people of the orient are reached, and Russian opposition in China is forestalled by a better civilization. The most weighty reason for an alliance was the guarantee it would be for a lasting peace. Garland spoke well, and it was easy to detect the training of President Hawley in his manner. Many were heard to pronounce this speech the best, and deserving of the decision. Woodson L. Patterson of Corvallis rose after the echoes of "Boom a laka! Boom a laka! Rah! Rah! Rah! Old Willamette, Ha! Ha! Ha!" had died away, and told how literature had struggled as the handmaid of civilization. He started with rather a poor voice, which improved as he proceeded. Much of his speech was ancient history, but before he finished it proved to be a quite well-rounded production. In point of gestures he rather excelled all competitors. His reward as he sat down was "Zip bum bee! Zip bum bee! O. A., O. A., O. A. C.!" "Let Me Love Thee," a soprano solo, was sung by Miss Jennie Snyder. "Mac, Rah! Rah! Rah! Zip boom, oh boom McMinnville!" announced that it was Mr. Blood's turn to speak on "May War Be Justified?" He thought it might be, for the cause of liberty and for the relief of the oppressed, and cited scripture to prove that Christ did not always teach non-resistance. Mr. Blood's emphasis and intonation plainly showed the impress of President Boardman, while his gestures were characterized as novel by a disinterested visiting student. A strange coincidence was observed when Mr. Blood referred to the battle of Marathon. Both orators

before him had made a similar reference, and it looked as if Marathon was going to be overworked. "Zip boom, oh boom, Ha! Ha! O. S. N. S. boom Ha! Ha!" introduced Miss Estella C. Noll, of Monmouth state normal, and a graduate of McMinnville college. Her subject was "Education, The Eye of the Law." She reviewed comparative history of Germany and France, and showed that the country was strong in battle wherever its educational system was systematized and compulsory. Right conduct was the great essential to the proper performance of duty, and education teaches respect for and knowledge of the law. The oration was a good one and well delivered, but really there is slim chance for a lady in an oratorical contest, so long as the awarding committee is composed entirely of men. They do not allow for the difference in natural qualities of voice or strength of gesture, which few women ever possess in equal degree with the men. The writer believes it would be a good idea and nearer just to have the young ladies hold separate contests from the various colleges, and if not in oratory, in elocution, in which line they can excel their brothers. George Thompson Pratt of Albany college spoke on "Toussaint L'Overture," the San Domingo great man who was born a slave, and after 46 years of servitude drilled and equipped an army and drove slavery and ignorance from the island, and left 50,000 graves of French soldiers as evidence of his ability as a warrior. It was a bit of unfamiliar history brought closer to many. There was nodding and closed eyes in many parts of the audience as Pratt began, but the pathos of the jail scene, coupled with the speaker's honest face, brought everybody to attention as he closed with a splendid climax. Miss Katherine Glen sang "Angus McDonald," and it was the only vocal selection in which the words could be at all clearly heard in the middle of the lecture room. Perfect enunciation should be given by singers in the Baptist church when crowded, if they wish to be understood, hereafter. "Rah! Rah! Rah!—Rah! Rah! Rah!—Rah! Rah! Rah! Oregon!" preceded the oration of Homer D. Angell, of the state university, on the subject, "Our Spanish War; Justice, Motive and Effects." This subject was guessed as the winner before the contest. It was handled in a popular way, that of a just war with humanitarian motives and far-reaching effects, and probably for this reason as much as any other, carried the weight of the decision with the judges. It was clear that Angell was a German, when he began. He was very deliber-

ate, even to slowness, and made but three or four gestures with his left hand, the right hand being a wooden one and gloved. Those who knew Prof. Glen, formerly of McMinnville college, knew that he had been Angell's drillmaster. The speaker made triple reference to "Hobson Roosevelt and Dewey" in an order rather perverse in the light of history. R. A. Crichton, of Portland university, spoke on "The Anglo-Saxon Alliance." Of course he was for it, and for it strong. He spoke rapidly and gestured much, and might be properly denominated a "soaring" orator. Miss Gertrude Lamb of Pacific college responded to "Hi! Hi! He! Hi! Hi! He! Pacific college, Newberg, Hi! Hi! He!" This was but one of the five calls possessed by this little college, and in this respect at least she seemed to excel the whole lot. Miss Lamb's subject was "The Destiny of Our Race." She spoke fast and glibly, and had a tendency to dwell on departing syllables. The destiny of the Anglo-Saxon race was of course supremacy now and forever, and Miss Lamb's treatment of it was highly creditably. This completed the orations, and after two vocal selections, the decision of the judges was awaited. During the interval the college representatives vied with each other in sending up their college yell, until a confusion and bedlam not unlike a pack of hungry wolves about the carcass of a dead buffalo, prevailed. It looked like a mistake, and one that would make Dr. Blackburn turn pale, but when the writer suggested to a student from abroad that it didn't seem the proper thing in a place dedicated to sacred uses, he was met with the retort, "I suppose it's a public building," and decided that perhaps he hadn't been brought down to modern usages. Two sets of judges graded the orations. On composition, Dr. Van Scoy, of Montana Wesleyan university, Helena; President Penrose, Whitman college, Walla Walla; President Anderson, Drain normal school. On delivery, Rev. Ray Palmer, John T. Whalley, Portland; President McClelland, Pacific university. The grading gave second place to Mr. Blood of McMinnville. The medal is of gold, and is valued at \$25. It is the best ever given by the association. A business meeting of the various delegations occurred at 4 p. m. Organization for the coming year was effected as follows: President, J. F. Meindle, state normal school, Monmouth; secretary, Miss Winifred March, Pacific university; treasurer, Otto Pickett, Pacific college.

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