ALUMNI YALE WEEKLY

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YALE LOSES IN DEBATE.

Superior Form and Style of Princeton Men Wins.

Yale met Princeton in an intercollegiate debate in the College Street Hall Friday evening, May 7, and suffered then the first defeat since the recent debating "boom." The debate was the best from the "boom" began here. The audience, which was quite large, showed the start to the finish. The arguments were keen appreciation. Phelps, ex-minister to the debates, was the presiding officer, and appeared upon the platform, accompanied by the six speakers, soon after 8 o'clock. Without any delay he read the question: "Resolved, That the power of the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives is detrimental to the public interest," and announced that Yale was to defend the affirmative and Princeton the negative. He then introduced the first speaker.

From the nature of the question Yale had the burden of the proof on her side and faced the difficulty of demonstrating the value of a theoretical and untried system, while Princeton's position was to defend the present system and pick flaws in Yale's proposition. The two teams met fairly and squarely upon the main issues, and no misinterpretation of the question occurred.

THE YALE ARGUMENTS.

Edward H. Hume, '97, first took the floor, as a representative of Yale. The aim of his speech was to show the evils that follow from the combination of the powers of a party leader and of a moderator in one man. These functions, which reside in our Speaker, are elsewhere exercised separately. In the House, however, it was claimed that the functions of party leadership dominated the speaker's conduct as presiding officer, and lead to great unfairness in his power to decide questions of order and in his control of recognition.

The Yale argument, after the first Princeton speaker, was next taken up by Herbert W. Fisher, '98. He directed his attack against the Speaker's influence in abolishing debate. He claimed that by using his moderator's powers to gain his party's ends the Speaker had transformed the House from a deliberative body into a legislative machine. He argued further that the haste in passing majority measures, framed in the secrecy of committtees, and subject to no criticism, resulted in bad legislation. Sectional feeling is caused by the undue suppression of the minority, and the educational and informing power of the debate is lost.

Edward L. Smith, '97, summed up the chief Yale arguments that had so far been made; showed how the work of deliberation had been gradually forced out of the House into the Senate, any criticism of which would apply doubly to the House, and then set forth a proposition for a better system in the House. His object was to separate the functions of party leader and moderator. He proposed that the former be thrown upon a natural leader of the majority on the floor of the House and that the Speaker be made a strong and impartial moderator.

The Yale team work, in these first speeches, was especially strong and effective. The arguments were brought out with much clearness and in a logical sequence but lacked some in force. The speakers were none of them distinctively strong debaters. Their arguments, when once stated, were not clinched so as to leave no doubt as to their validity in the minds of the audience. Mr. Smith's presence was perhaps the best of the three. Mr. Hume was uncertain of himself once or twice and had a tendency to talk too fast. Mr. Fisher's arguments were spoken too fast, lacked in dignity, and were incisive and convincing. His manner of speaking lacking in force, his words were so

PRINCETON'S ANSWERS.

The negative argument was taken up by Howard H. Yocum, '98, of Princeton, who immediately followed Mr. Hume. He aimed to show that the powers of the Speaker had been a natural growth and that they were thoroughly consistent with, even necessary for, the successful conduct of business under our system of government. The Speaker must be not only a moderator, but also a leader. He must, therefore, have the power to offer political rewards and inflict political punishments. Otherwise his power would be nothing in American politics.

Princeton's debate was carried on by Nathaniel S. Reeves, '99, who argued that the Yale attack applied, not to the powers of the Speaker, but to the whole committee system of the House. He claimed that the experience of one hundred years had justified the powers of the Speaker, who was bound to give the minority a fair consideration and discharge his duties well, or else he would be punished at the end of his two years. His power of recognition was necessary in order to make a selection of the excess of unimportant bills that are brought up for consideration.

Robert F. Sterling, '97, closed Princeton's argument. He first picked to pieces Yale's proposition of a division of the functions of the Speaker, claiming that there would be friction between the two men and that the man in the chair, having control of the rules, would gradually absorb power in the same way that the Speaker has done it. He further claimed that the Speaker's influence was against the disintegrating tendencies of the committee system and that the country owed much to him for keeping the House to its alloted task and controlling the passage of good bills. He further asserted that the intelligent public opinion was the best remedy for the evils in the House and that the sober second thought of the nation upheld the organization of the House.

The form of the Princeton speakers was much superior to that of the Yale men and their manner of talking was more convincing, although their arguments may not have been any stronger in themselves. The close of Mr. Sterling's speech put a new attitude upon the debate, which had seemed at first to be Yale's.

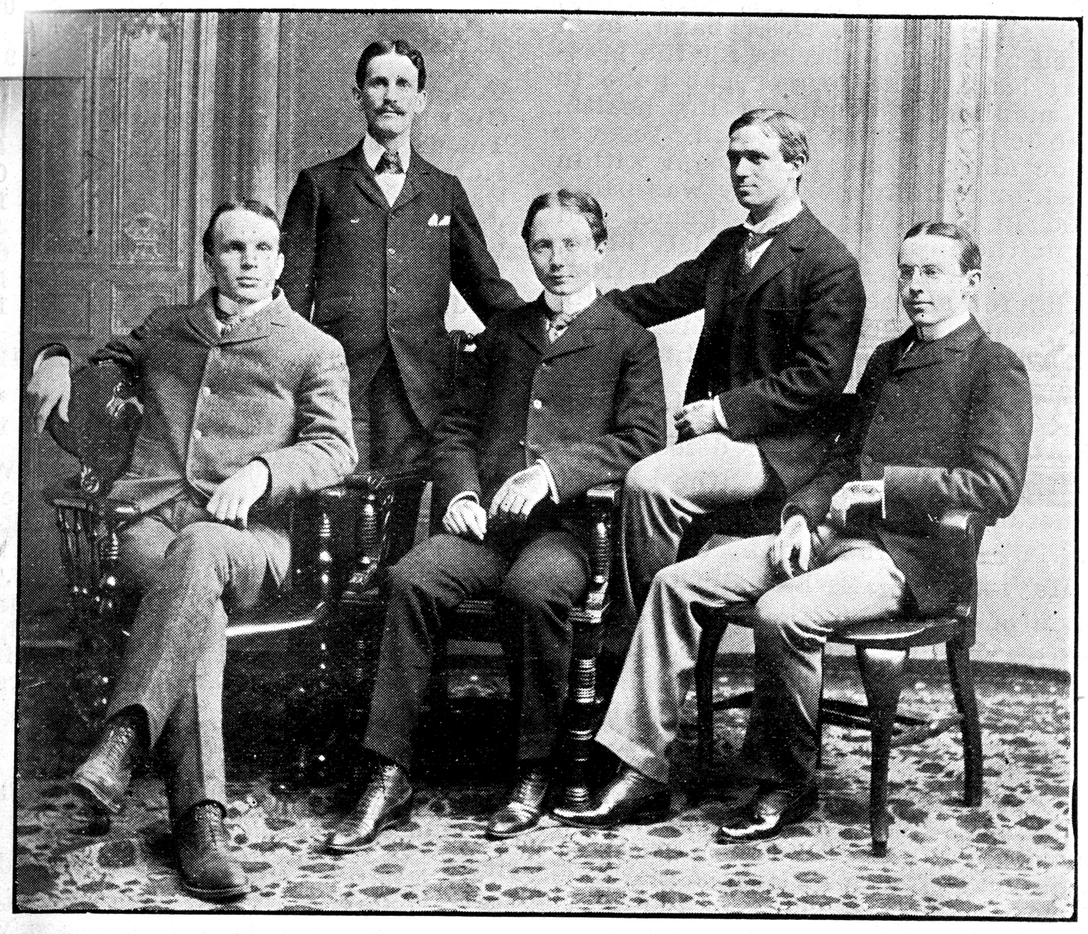
THE REBUTTALS.

In the rebuttals Yale weakened distinctly. Her debaters repeated largely what had already been said, and on some occasions they seemed to lose confidence and be uncertain of their arguments. Mr. Fisher's answers to the Princeton arguments, which took the form of denials rather than genuine arguments, were spoken too hurriedly to be effective. Mr. Smith was, on the other hand, too slow in his delivery and was choked off in his final attempt to show that the development of the Speaker's powers had been in the wrong direction, and that the present system was detrimental to the public interest inasmuch as it stood in the place of something better.

Princeton made her attacks upon the Yale situation all the more incisive and destructive. Mr. Sterling in closing practically clinched the matter. He maintained that there was no middle course of government between the cab-

(Continued on eighth page.)

The Century Company's offer on the last page is worth reading.—Adv.



A. E. Fraser, '98, T. S. H. W. Fisher, '98.
C. L. Avery, Jr., '97, L.S. E. H. Hume, '97. E. L. Smith, '97.

YALE DEBATERS AGAINST PRINCETON.

[From a photograph by Pach.]

DIVINITY YEAR ENDING.

The Commencement Exercises—A '97 T. S. Issue of the Weekly.

The Rev. Dr. A. J. H. Behrends, of Brooklyn, will deliver the anniversary address before the Theological School on Sunday evening next.

The Commencement exercises will be held on Wednesday, May 19, in College Street Hall. The speaker will be Dr. Henry Van Dyke, of New York. Messrs. Rall, Knapp, Rice and Merrill of the Senior Class will deliver addresses.

Following these exercises, which will be held in the forenoon, will be the alumni dinner and the meeting of the alumni in the aftergoon in Marquand Chapel. The officers of the Alumni Association are: President, Dr. T. T. Munger, '55; Vice-President, Rev. D. M. James, '88; Secretary, Rev. H. A. Bridgman, '87; Treasurer, Dr. W. J. Mutch, '85.

The next issue of the Weekly will contain an exhaustive review of the year in the Divinity School, with something on the outlook for the next year. The article will be illustrated with a large halftone plate of the graduating class and the Faculty of the Divinity School. It will also contain sketches of the individual members of the graduating class.

Prize for Original Music.

William Woods Chandler, '96, of New Haven, a student in the Musical Department of Yale University, was recently awarded the prize for an original composition for the organ, offered by the Connecticut Music Teachers' Association. Mr. Chandler had among his competitors some of the best known and successful composers of the State, but the award of the judges was unanimous. The judges were Messrs. George Chadwick and Arthur Foote of Boston, and Prof. E. A. McDowell of New York, all representative American musicians. The composition is a theme and variations with a concluding fugue, worked out with much ingenuity. Mr. Chandler will play his composition at the Composers' concert of the Connecticut Music Teachers' Association, on Monday the 17th.

John A. Porter Prize Subjects.

The subjects for the John A. Porter University prize essays for 1898 are given below. The prize is of the value of $250, and was established in 1872 by the Kingsley Trust Association. Any person who has been pursuing a regular course for a degree in any department during the current college year, may compete for it. The subjects for 1898 are as follows:

1. The English Occupation of Egypt.
2. Tennyson as a Theologian.
3. The Radicalism of Euripides.
4. Student Life at a Medieval University.
5 A Russian Statesman — Prince Gortschakoff.
6. The Influence of Scenic Upon Dramatic Art.
7. The Power of the Federal Executive Respecting Foreign Relations.
8. The Scope of Sanitary Authority.
9. Absolutism in Municipal Government.
10. Plutocracy and Democracy.
11. The Relation of Right to Law.
12. Literature and the (American) Civil War.
13. The Future of Opera.
14. Social Selection: Types of character, Standards of Behavior, Fashions of Opinion, etc., Favored and Established by the Fluctuations of Predominant Notions in Literature, Conversation, etc.

Essays are due on May 1, 1898. Inquiries concerning subjects and other matters of the competition may be addressed to Drawer 8, New Haven.

Base Ball Umpires.

The managers of the Yale, Harvard and Princeton baseball nines have agreed to put all selections for umpires in their championship games in the hands of the President of the National League. He will appoint them from the league staff, and their identity will be unknown till they come on the field.

The first half-rater race was held Saturday afternoon at Morris Cove. The Yehl, sailed by B. Clark, '98, won in 2 hours 6 minutes, the course being six miles in length.