

HARVARD LETTER.

Disappointment over the Debate—A Democratic Victory—The H's.

Cambridge, Dec. 4.—The outcome of the annual debate with Yale last evening came as a surprise and a disappointment to the students at Cambridge. Owing to the fact that the contest was held at New Haven, less interest was aroused than last year, when the meeting was in Sanders Theatre. But in the debating societies the result was eagerly anticipated. The activity of these societies seems to increase yearly and the successive defeats have been keenly felt. Many of the students had collected in front of the office of the *Crimson* to learn the result. The general verdict on the cause of the defeat seems to be that Harvard had the wrong side of the question. Little is heard in criticism of the men who represented the University.

The *Crimson*, in its editorial comment on the debate says: "The Harvard speakers, though they have failed to reassert superiority over Yale's steadily increasing strength in debating, have nevertheless done all that lay in their power to prepare themselves thoroughly and the College may feel confident that their effort was in no way discreditable."

At the same time that the intercollegiate debate was being held in New Haven, the Union and the Forum held the second of their inter-club debates of the year on the question, "Resolved, That the present system of no-license should be maintained in Cambridge." The Union supported the affirmative and was awarded the decision.

A DEMOCRATIC REFORM.

A movement to bring about a change in the method of electing Class Day officers in the Senior class was started some weeks ago, by W. S. Youngman, a graduate now studying in the Law School, and the proposed change was approved by the class at a special meeting called last Thursday evening. This meeting to elect the Class Day officers has been for many years the great contest of the undergraduate course. A place among the officers or on one of the committees is the greatest social distinction in the gift of the class. The honor is coveted as is a Senior Society at Yale. It has been the custom for the two leading societies, Hasty Pudding and Pi Eta, to make a slate each year, which was kept secret until the night of the elections, and which every member was pledged to support. Although these two societies comprise but a third of the members of a class, they have been able, with the aid of a considerable following of non-society men, to elect their candidates, except in rare instances. The lack of organization among the non-society members and the difficulty of bringing out their whole strength and uniting it on any one list of candidates, has proven fatal to successful opposition to the "slate."

The petition for a reform of the present system was signed by 130 men in a single afternoon, the signers including many who were prominent in the class. The essential features of the proposed reform are publicity of nominations and a vote by ballot under the Australian system at a convenient polling place to be kept open from nine till four o'clock on election day.

The meeting called to consider the proposed changes was largely attended. The societies bitterly opposed the innovation but were outvoted and the new plan adopted. The success of the reform will be watched with the keenest interest. It seems probable that the non-society faction will be able to elect its share of the ticket unless its members get to fighting among themselves.

THE FRENCH PLAY.

The initial presentation of the French Play "Athalie," under the auspices of the Circle Français, will be given next Monday evening in Sanders Theatre. The first musical dress rehearsal was given last evening, and was largely attended by representatives of the French departments of schools and colleges.

The preparations for this year's play have been on a much larger scale than formerly and the result is commensurate with the increased effort. Further comment on the play is deferred until after the public performances next week. All the seats for the three presentations have been sold. Invitations to be present at the initial performance next Monday evening have been accepted by many college presidents and officers. President Dwight was among those who were compelled by previous engagements to decline.

COL. OSBORN'S LETTER.

In yesterday's issue of the *Harvard Crimson* appeared a letter from Col. N. G. Osborn of New Haven, on the much discussed subject of the dropping of the Harvard "H's". After commenting on the seeming slight to Yale implied both by the act itself and the comment thereon in the editorial columns of the *Crimson*, he says:

"I seek simply to establish the point that, in view of all the facts, you have, not consciously perhaps, but without sufficient consideration, passed a certainly gratuitous, if not a actually an unfriendly, criticism upon a foeman worthy of your steel.

"I am sure you must agree with me, upon second thought, that this is an unfortunate way of cementing our relations, and if persisted in may encourage the repetition of history, which would be lamentable."

Replying editorially to the letter the *Crimson* says:

"The idea expressed by the writer, that both the action taken and the comment thereon were direct cuts at the dignity of Yale University, and intended to belittle the record of this year's Yale team, is so utterly foreign to the spirit in which the H's were removed and the editorials written, that we find it hard to believe that such a misconception can have obtained general foothold in New Haven. Nothing could be further from our intention than to condemn the team for failing to win. Without any reference whatever to the result of either game, or to either of the opposing teams, we voiced the opinion, right or wrong, of a great many Harvard men, including the players and the coaches, that in the first game the team did not play up to its ability, and that in the second game it did play up to its ability. The key-note to both criticisms lies in the comment on the Pennsylvania game quoted in the letter: 'They have done their best.'

"Now if an accident of phrase has really occasioned such a misapprehension at Yale, the *Crimson* and all Harvard men regret it sincerely, for never in the history of their intercourse has Harvard felt more kindly disposed toward her old rivals than at this time of reconciliation. Her attitude toward her own team is something which it is unreasonable for any outsider to question, but that it implies any criticism of her opponents, or disparages in any way the splendid record of the Yale team, is far from the truth. Harvard has not in the past been slow to admire manly qualities in any adversary, and it is a mistake to think that she grudges the tribute now."

J. WESTON ALLEN.

Part of Lake Whitney Closed.

The New Haven Water Company recently filed an application with the State Board of Health, to prohibit boating, skating and fishing at Lake Whitney, above the second bridge. This will not effect the lower part of the lake, which is more generally used for these purposes. It was necessary for the Water Company to take this action to prevent the water supply of New Haven from being polluted.

The State Legislature passed a bill last Spring which would, at the discretion of the Board of Health, prohibit the use of the lakes and ponds owned by the New Haven Water Company for boating, skating or fishing purposes.

The case will be heard Saturday, December 11th, and will undoubtedly be granted. The violation of the order, if passed by the State Board, will be punishable by a fine of \$25, payable to the Water Company.

Organ Recital.

Mr. H. B. Jepson, '93, organist of Battell Chapel, gave the second of his organ recitals in Battell Chapel Tuesday afternoon.

The following program was rendered:

L. Boellman—Prelude in E minor.
J. S. Bach—Toccatina and Fugue in D Minor.
Alexander Guilman—Lamentation.
Mendelssohn—Sonata, Number 3, in A major.

1. Con moto maestoso.

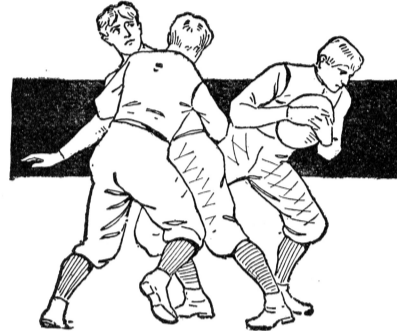
2. Andante tranquillo.

Samuel Rousseau—Elevation.
Maurice Lee—Gavotte Louise XV.
Richard Wagner—War March from Rienzi.

On next Tuesday another recital will be given, to which, as hitherto, the public are invited.

The Yale basket-ball team was defeated by the Waterbury Y. M. C. A. team by the score of 29 to 20, Saturday afternoon, Dec. 4th.

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"Scientific Monthly" Contents.

The second issue of the Scientific Monthly appeared last week, and contained the following articles:

"The First International Congress of Mathematicians," by Professor Pierpont; "A New Form of Cellulose," by E. L. Freeland, '98 S; "Steel Castings," by Robert D. Reynolds, '98 S; "Postal Savings Banks," by W. W. Knight, '99 S; "The Development of the South African Diamond Fields," by H. S. Canby, '99 S; "Sir Isaac Newton," by H. L. Davis, '99 S; and the usual notes and digests.

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