

Criticisms of W. A.

To the Editor of YALE ALUMNI WEEKLY:

Sir: Regarding the communications in the number of May 26, criticising a brief note by me in the number dated May 12, permit me to say that the writers have misinterpreted my language and misjudged my feeling. This is not the first incident that has suggested a need of strengthening the Department of English by appointing a competent Professor of the art of reading justly.

I am not ready to believe that it has become improper and censurable for a Yale man who fought on the side of the Union to say in a Yale newspaper that the war with Spain is not more honorable than was the cause of the preservation of the Union; or to say that extortionate taxation is not a worse evil than chattel slavery; or to say that the policy of the Spaniard in Cuba will not suffer in a comparison of motives and consequences (I said nothing of methods) with the policy of the politicians of the Slave Power. This last phrase was carefully chosen to avoid seeming to reflect uncharitably upon the great body of the Southern people. Not believing that it is now, nor that it ever will be, a reasonable cause of offense to declare such opinions, there is no occasion to argue their wisdom or to apologize for uttering them. I do, however, disclaim any motive of personal malice.

I made no comparisons, or parallels, or contrasts, in respect of individuals. I did not mention Gen. Lee, nor the Lee ivy. That, by inference, I had it in mind when I suggested a fanciful, but possible, incident related to the present war, is neither here nor there, since I expressed neither approbation nor disapprobation of such happening. That my little parable caused perturbation in ingenuous breasts must be due to conditions for which I am not responsible. It is quite as proper, I am sure, for any Yale man to think that the planting of this ivy in disregard of kindly remonstrance was not in the best taste as for another to denounce such an opinion as narrow, illiberal and unpatriotic.

The notion that I am an irreconcilable and malignant sectionalist will be amusing wherever my words and acts are known. While the writers of these communications were in short clothes I was organizing Northern protests

against the interference of the army with the Louisiana Legislature. As an editor, and in other ways of service, I have consistently opposed all force-bill legislation and constantly advocated the restoration of the Southern people to full rights and responsibility as equal citizens of the reunited Republic. (See article "Two Years of President Hayes," *Atlantic Monthly*, August, 1879.)

Finally, let me commend to the consideration of my swift critics this remark of a great orator: "Because you have your prejudices shall there be no history written?"

WALTER ALLEN, '63.
New Haven, May 30, 1898.

John A. Porter Prize Essays.

The subjects given below have been announced for essays in competition for the John A. Porter prize, due on May 1st, 1899. Each essay must be signed by an assumed name and accompanied by a sealed envelope containing the full name and an assignment of copyright. Forms for assignment of copyright may be obtained by communicating with the John A. Porter Prize Committee, Drawer M, New Haven. Essays should also be sent to this address, as well as inquiries concerning the meaning of the subjects or on any other point. The subjects are as follows:

1. What is a Free Man in a Free State?
2. The Historical Antecedents and Causes of Populism.
3. Spanish Colonial Policy.
4. Sir Henry Bessemer and his Contribution to the Industrial Age.
5. An Anglo-American Alliance.
6. Evolutions from Radicalism to Conservatism in the History of American Political Parties.
7. The Ethics of Creed Subscription.
8. Authority in the Protestant Church of To-Day.
9. The Influence of Social and Economic Conditions on the Productivity of Genius.
10. The Decadent School of Modern French Literature.
11. The Historical Romance in Germany, with special reference to the Influence of Sir Walter Scott.
12. The Life of the English Country Gentleman at the middle of the Fifteenth Century.
13. The Results, thus far, of the Interstate Commerce Act.

The Judges for the Essays in competition for this year's prize are Professor Henry A. Beers, New Haven; Mr. Schuyler Merritt, Stamford; and Dr. Herbert A. Smith, New Haven.

Those who have sent in essays for competition this year, and have failed to enclose, with their essays, the assignment of copyright, are asked to send their names and addresses to Drawer M. Blank forms for assignment of copyright will then be sent to them, which they are requested to return at once.

Publishers' Notes.

The July number of *The Ladies' Home Journal* is to be called the President's number. It will have all kinds of new illustrations and new stories of President McKinley. The cover will be printed in national colors.

The Travelers' Insurance Co. has published a very elaborate set of maps with index, all in convenient form, which is called "The Travelers' War Atlas." It is not only very complete in its maps of the scenes of the present war, but it covers the rest of the world too.

Dunham Boat Club.

The Dunham Boat Club held its annual meeting recently, at which T. H. Spence, '99, was elected Captain, and Burns Henry Puser of the Club for the ensuing year.

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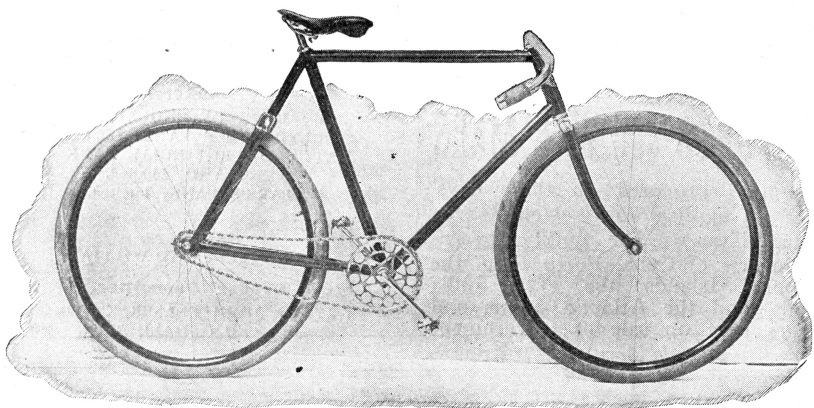
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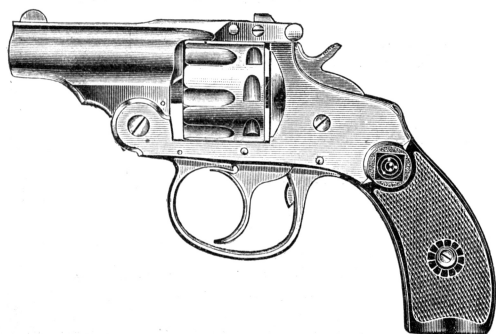
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