

LITERARY.

Among the modern American writers who are worthy of being classed as humorists of a high order belongs Thomas Bailey Aldrich. We say humorist advisedly, and referring rather to the tendency of his prose writings than to his poems. Indeed nothing can be more sombre than many of the latter. At times for melancholy and weirdness they would do justice to Poe, and we may even detect a trace of cynicism. Some one has said of Jerome K. Jerome that no one thing more conclusively proves him a humorist than his penchant for the morbid. Just why a vivid sense of humor should be allied with a liking for the morbid is rather hard to see, but we suppose it is one of nature's wise provisions for making things balance. There is nothing of this sort in Aldrich's stories unless it be in the "Queen of Sheba" where the heroine is introduced while in a condition of mental aberration, from which she afterwards recovers. But even here the tendency is counteracted by the otherwise cheerful setting of the story. The first part is decidedly unique, the latter part rather conventional, but with a good climax.

"The Story of a Bad Boy," who was not so very bad after all, is said to cover a period in the author's own youthful life. Aldrich writes like a man of the world, polished, elegant, refined. He knows books, and knows other countries beside his own. In everything he writes he shows his true literary instinct and training. His taste in selection of subjects and materials is excellent, and no less excellent his manner of presenting them. His style is wonderfully smooth, and is in the highest degree elegant, without ever being stilted. Everything he writes is gone over with the most painstaking care before being submitted to the public, and in this he shows that conscientious spirit so necessary in the cultivation of art for its own sake. In prose he excels in short stories, and most of his poems are sonnets, lyrics and quatrains. It would be impossible to close without mentioning "Marjorie Daw," probably the most famous thing Aldrich ever wrote. We sometimes hear of literary gems. "Marjorie Daw" is a representative gem. It is hard to see how it could be improved.

If you want to keep posted on the news of the Uni read THE NEBRASIAN.

LOCAL.

The Freshmen of the Delian society have arranged an especially fine program which will be rendered in chapel on Friday evening.

Skinner, in a course of experiments, is making a thorough test of the efficiency of the Wood dynamo, now used in lighting the campus.

Regular work in elocution has begun under Mrs. Manning. Classes are limited to twenty, and meet on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Mr. Adam McMullen was called home on Tuesday by a telegram announcing the death of his brother. It is not yet known when he will return.

The Delta Gamma fraternity will be at home to the students and friends of the University at Miss Joy Webster's home, 1345 N street, on Thursday evening, February 15, from 8 to 11:30 o'clock. No formal invitations will be issued, but all friends of Delta Gamma will be welcome.

Prof. L. Gronlund, a socialist of international reputation, and author of "Ca Ira," "Co-operative Commonwealth," etc., addressed the Political Science club in the chapel Wednesday evening on the economic aspects of socialism. It is expected also that he will deliver the second in his series of lectures on Saturday evening in chapel.

Union hall has just been newly decorated in tasty and elaborate designs by Stuve & Olnat, the celebrated German fresco painters. On last Friday evening the Unions held their 'opening musicale,' being the first meeting in the hall since Jan. 5. The musical program rendered was one of exceptional merit. The audience was large and appreciative, and many were obliged to leave because even standing room was not available.

At the meeting of the Camera club last Tuesday evening interesting talks were given by Prof. Nicholson, Mr. Senter and Mr. Cornell. Quite a large class is taking up photography this semester. It is hoped that this will lessen the amount of undignified behavior on the campus somewhat. The class gives fair warning that it is no respecter of persons, no one will be safe, from the Chancellor down to the preps. We may say especially the preps.

Miss Grey, Miss Ames, Miss Decker and Miss Gregory will assist Mrs. Lloyd at the Chemical Laboratory on Charter Day.

There will be receptions to the students and their friends at the society halls on Friday evening. Surely with all the opportunities offered it will be his own fault if every student doesn't celebrate.

At a meeting of the Delta Gamma fraternity Saturday, February 3, Miss Georgie Camp and Miss Sadie Burnham were introduced to the fraternity goat. The usual spread took place at Miss Mable Ricketts after the initiation.

The writer has had the privilege of listening—somewhat on the sly—to both the Mandolin club and the Glee club and feels proud of them. They have certainly done excellent work in preparing for their numbers on the Charter Day program.

The following can be construed to apply to first preps only: "My boy, you look weary and wan; You are working too hard with your Creek, To try, from constructions obscure, Some plausible meaning to seek."

"No, no," he wearily said, "The meaning I plainly can see. But I'm worn out trying to make The text and the pony agree."

The University Review protests against the persistent use by exchange editors, of worn out items.

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