

*Our Crack Debaters.*

BAKER, GREEN, DENNISON.

The final debate drew a large audience last Friday night. The forensic part of the program was so long as to be tedious despite the unusual excellence of the arguments. The program opened with a piano solo by Miss Nellie Cave. After the judges retired the audience was favored with a vocal solo by Miss Maud Dearing and a whistling solo by Prof. Lehmer. Mr. Maguire opened the debate on the question: Resolved, That the law enacting power of Great Britain is superior to that of the United States. His speech gave evidence of wide reading rather than careful thought. His matter was not very well co-ordinated and a slight hesitancy somewhat marred his delivery.

G. W. Green followed in a speech which had evidently been carefully thought out in all its details. He criticised his opponent for taking a superficial view of the differences between the law making power of the two countries.

The British or cabinet system is one in which the House of Commons, which unites in itself both legislative and executive power, is supreme. Our own or the legislative system is one in which power is distributed between the House of Representatives, the Senate and the President. The House acts as a check upon the Senate, the Senate as a check upon the House, and the President as a check upon both. Our national policy can be changed only after mature deliberation. England's changes with every breeze of public opinion. The British system causes instability of government. England's law and constitution are "at the mercy of every wave of popular passion." Every temporary majority in the nation either overturns the ministry or plunges the country into a general election—The English system fails to provide

sufficient checks upon socialistic tendencies. It causes a dangerous concentration of power. The only reason why the House of Commons has not abused its power is that until recently suffrage has been limited. The system weakens the administrative departments. The ministers are leaders of the House and are compelled to neglect administrative affairs.

Our system produces stability. It does not delay measures endorsed by public opinion but prevents those that would result from transitory excitement. It furnishes better representation to the minority. All departments are not here, as in England, in the hands of the party that happened at the time to be in the majority. The minority is not oppressed by the majority. The legislator is taught to feel his personal responsibility, which begets personal capacity and produces many great men instead of a few. Our system produces a more democratic and more conservative government. Our system is strong where the English system is weak, and those points which secure stability of government, safety against dangerous concentration of power and a thorough and business-like administration of public affairs are the points on which the welfare and happiness of every people depend.

Mr. Dennison's manner was so different from Mr. Green's that he was not well received at first, but he soon secured the attention of the audience and held it easily. He said democratic government has three essentials: power to act, action in accord with public opinion, and responsibility to the people. These are secured in the cabinet system. Civil liberty does not consist in mere negation; freedom is not obtained by denying power to government. The American committee system divides power. No part of the system is strong and effective; the