

They are both parasites. But evidently the New York paupers—a pauper is one who lives at the expense of others—are smarter than their Indianapolis brothers. Instead of living in hollow trees and begging from house to house, they have elegant mansions, diamonds, and servants; they give fashionable entertainments and help support charity organizations. In short they enjoy life almost as much as some people who work for a living. As it is safe to say that the tribe of Astor costs thousands where the tribe of Ishmael costs dollars, it would seem that the causes that produce this more expensive pauperism should receive some attention.

If the individuals composing these tribes should suddenly resolve to no longer live as parasites, but should try to make an honest living by honest labor, what would be the result? There are at the present time in the United States a million more men than there are available opportunities. If every pauper should suddenly become a seeker after employment, would not the supply of labor be still further increased and would not our workers find it proportionately harder to make a living.

This is the social problem. Economists must discover why it is that those things that are in themselves good should seem to cause such evil results. If a man obeys the highest and holiest impulses of his nature and relieves his footsore and hungry brother, he does a great wrong to the needy one and to society.

If the beggar regains some of his self respect and tries to live by honest labor, he makes the struggle for existence harder for those who are already overburdened without materially bettering his own condition.

THE INTER-STATE ORATORICAL CONTEST.

The sixteenth annual contest of the Inter-state Oratorical Association, held May 2, 1889, at Iowa College, Grinnell Iowa, was an oratorical feast of the highest order. Before May 2, every seat had been sold; and at 7:30 p.m., the time set, the church was crowded, not only with the fortunate possessors of seats, but with everybody who owned anything capable of supporting the human frame.

At 7:50 the noisy audience was silenced by the appearance of the president and eight orators on the platform and the sixteenth contest had begun. The ball was opened by the Iowa Conservatory orchestra with the Concert Polonaise which, in spite of the miserable gas which left the church almost in semi-darkness, was rendered with exemplary spirit and excellence. A prayer was then offered by President Gates, of Iowa College.

At 8:11 Mr. E. H. Hughes, of the Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio, walked upon the platform to speak on the "Philosophy of Inequality." His articulation was slow, clear and distinct. His gestures, of the slow, flowing kind were finished and graceful but were without life or spontaneity. As the subject indicates his production was essentially an essay. It was too effusive and relied too much on proof for effect. It contained too many facts, was too deep and philosophical and contained no direct address. The thought and composition were the best and the production would have made an excellent essay or magazine article. Mr. Hughes appearance was devoid of all personality and he moved his audience but little.

The second speaker was Mr. H. D. Dickenson, of University of Minnesota who spoke on "Bismark and German Unity." Mr. Dickinson's articulation was rather poor, hav-

ing a tendency to slide his r's and his accent showed considerable artificiality. He gave a little idea of reserved force but stood too far back and did not appeal to the audience. The style was oratorical in all qualities except direct address. It was too critical and inclined the audience to an examination of both sides of Bismark's character. The facts were well brought out but their application to the end in view was not sufficiently evident for a spoken production. The voice, gesture, position and movements were all artificial and lacked spontaneity and enthusiasm.

This was followed by Mr. O. R. Patrick, of Parsons College, Fairfield, Iowa, with "Luther Before the Diet of Worms." His delivery was elocutionary, not oratorical and relied too much on stage effect. The style of writing was forcible, rapid and precise but completely essayistic. The first three-fourths of his oration was pure description and narrative but if he could have done as he tried to do—apply the highly colored description and narrative to the making of a picture wherein Luther should have appeared in gigantic proportions—he would have taken high rank. He failed at the critical point; his pencil dropped from his hand; the effect of Luther's grandeur was lost by pathos.

This completed the first installment of orations and the second part was preceded by a baritone solo by Professor H. H. Joy, of Iowa College.

After an encore given to Professor Joy, Mr. A. V. House, of Doane College, Crete, Nebraska, appeared and spoke on "Home Rule for Ireland." Mr. House was one of the quick nervous speakers and his delivery was in many respects the best of the evening. His voice in volume and flexibility was certainly the best. His production was a true oration although too much attention was given to statistics and proof. He exceeded the previous speakers in emotional force and direct address. He gave nearly all his attention to the audience and but little to himself.

"Home Rule for Ireland" was followed by "Riot and Revolution," by Mr. J. A. Blaisdell, Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin. Mr. Blaisdell was extremely dramatic in gesture and position, but was remarkable for facial expression and power of appeal. His voice was unnatural and slow and he took his eyes from the audience too much. His style lacked concentration. The production was essayistic, profound and critical yet all profundity, thought and criticism, fine as they were, were ill applied and without evident point. There was much fine writing but it was without object, simply for effect. He had much eloquence, rhetorical force and philosophy but "What of it?" was the involuntary question of the hearer. Mr. Blaisdell's production abounded in expression, like "Canaan-ward," "storms of tears," etc.

The second installment of eloquence was closed with "Progress and its Agencies," by Mr. A. W. Brewster, of Washburn College, Topeka, Kansas. Mr. Brewster's appearance was the best of all and contained considerable personality. His articulation, though in the main clear and distinct, was sometimes unintelligible. The best thing about him was that he never took his eyes from the audience. His production was a pure essay. He turned over the pages of history, gleaning a little here and a little there and binding the whole together with a superabundance of fine writing. He failed to move the audience to either physical, intellectual or emotional activity. His oration was too much like Mr. Blaisdell's though better written and containing less claptrap.

After vocal music by the Iowa College ladies quartette the eloquence was continued by F. W. Wheeler, of the Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois, who spoke on "The Per-