

ent will admit the necessity of elocutionary training for our orators. The literary societies should take an interest this matter, and see that our representative to the next state contest receives the best training possible. If nothing better can be done, why cannot each of the four societies contribute ten or fifteen dollars to secure good training for our orator? The amount required of each society would be small and they could well afford to use it in this manner. If anybody has a better plan, we would be glad to hear it. At any rate, let us be prepared to do something. Let us enter the next contest to win, whether our orator is trained by those whose duty it is to do so or not.

§ SINCE the editor-in-chief of this paper has been severely attacked by the organ of the Wesleyan for his conduct in the inter-state convention, he desires to make a full statement of his actions in the convention during the day on which the delegates unanimously decided that Mr. Ferguson was almost a plagiarist. An alleged gentleman from Wesleyan who writes his own name as 'Mr.' L. M. Law makes the statement that at the convention he, 'Mr. Law', was met by 'John B. Fogarty' who informed him that the convention had decided to exclude the Wesleyan delegates. So far 'Mr.' Law is correct. But with a spirit that is highly becoming to such an oily tongued deceiver, to such a wilful imposter, he carefully suppresses a few 'cold facts' of which he cannot be ignorant. It was not the wish of 'John B. Fogarty' that any one should be excluded from the convention, much less the Wesleyans. Accordingly when the motion was made that the deliberations be held with closed doors he moved as an amendment that the officers of the state association should be allowed to remain. This amendment was seconded by another student of the State University. It was lost. Then the Nebraska men present alone voted against the original motion. It is needless to state in detail how complicated Nebraska affairs were. There were seven delegates from the state. Many of the other delegates had openly stated that they would not permit the seven to sit in the convention, that we should have but three. There were but three present, and these three were seated. Mr. Rockhold of the U. of N., Mr. Gregory of Gates and 'John B. Fogarty' honestly believed that the other delegates were excluded. This Mr. Gregory and 'John B. Fogarty' told the Doane men; this they told 'Mr.' Law. After having been urged by several of the delegates to do so 'John B. Fogarty' made the motion to consider Mr. Ferguson's case. By so doing he saved Nebraska from the disgrace of being represented by a 'cribbed' oration and Mr. Ferguson from the humiliation of being compelled on

the next day to 'eat crow', for it was the opinion of every one except of course 'Mr.' Law, that if Nebraska took anything but last place, her orator would be deprived of his honors. Accordingly 'Mr.' Law was given twenty minutes in which to find out whether his master would voluntarily surrender the laurels he had so basely won. If not, the convention would exclude him from the contest. Mr. Ferguson, overcome by anxiety and the excessive amount of toil necessarily expended in gleaning from honest men not only the conceptions but also many of the very words of his dazzling oration, was taken by a most, for himself, opportune attack of nervous prostration. Why does 'Mr.' Law, conceal these "cold facts." Let his guilty conscience answer. He is a fitting companion of the literary thief whom he tries to defend; proper 'trimmer' for the man who has brought disgrace upon the Christian ministry, for the man who has dishonored the Wesleyan University. But we are in possession of a few more 'cold facts' which may be interesting reading. These facts will be found in another column. We shall confine our remarks in this column to certain facts with which all the gentlemen of the inter-state contest convention are familiar. We have a few more of especial interest to Mr. Ferguson. The *Ecritean* in an article, which we believe may be correctly attributed to 'Mr.' Law, states that "The acquittal was hailed by Mr. Ferguson's friends with delight." This refers to the action of the state executive committee. Let us see what was this acquittal. "We, the executive committee of the Nebraska Collegiate Oratorical Association, having duly considered the evidence laid before us this 30th day of April, in regard to alleged plagiarism of Geo. O. Ferguson, do decide that although said Geo. O. Ferguson's oration is not entirely original, yet the evidence brought against him will not warrant us in excluding him from the inter-state contest May 1, 1890."

This is the "acquittal". This is the verdict which but for the influence of those who had no right there, would have been a unanimous verdict for Mr. Ferguson. So says the *Ecritean*. Verily this Ferguson is easily satisfied, for the decision plainly states that he is a plagiarist.

"We . . . do decide that although said Geo. O. Ferguson's oration is not strictly original . . ." says the decision. We never claimed anything more, and farther Ferguson admitted as much in his 'defense'. In fact there was no other course open to him, and had he been a man, he would, under the circumstances, have resigned his position as state orator. But he did not possess the manhood to follow such a course. Friends of Ferguson accuse 'John B. Fogarty' of being the whole cause of the trouble. It is