

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

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Now for the Ames game.

If signs prove true this morning will mark the beginning of real rooting in the University. The success of the preliminary organization offers much encouragement to those who are leading the project. Every student should be out to the chapel meeting this morning and to the game tomorrow.

THE WORLD'S STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION.

Just at this time when there is some extended agitation regarding the lack of organized effort for the systematic development of the religious life of students in colleges and universities, it is opportune to offset this mistaken and more or less harmful idea by an exposition of the aims and extent of the largest and most efficient in its results, of any student organization for any purpose whatever; viz, the World's Student Christian Federation.

Up to the time of its inception there had been no organized national efforts along religious lines in colleges, though very efficient work had been done in the colleges and universities of different countries by their national student Christian organizations. They had determined that if it were highly desirable to band together the various christian organizations of any one country in order to make them more helpful to each other in all their activities and to enable them to make an impress upon the national life, it would be most advantageous to unite in a great federation the national inter-collegiate movements of the whole world.

Accordingly the proper arrangements were made and in August 1895 there was held within the walls of the Ancient Swedish castle of Vadstena, on the shores of Lake Wettern, a gathering of students which is destined to occupy as important a place in the history of the Christian church as the famous haystack prayer meeting at Williams College. This conference in Scandinavia was composed of representatives of the five

great intercollegiate movements then in existence the American Intercollegiate Young Men's Christian Association, the British College Christian Union, the German Christian Student's Alliance, the Scandinavian University Christian movement and the Christian Movement in Mission Lands. It has since been entered by five others, the Inter-collegiate Young Men's Christian Association of India and Ceylon, the Australian Student Christian Union, the Student Christian Union of South Africa, the College Young Men's Christian Association of China and the Student Young Men's Christian Association Union of Japan. Committeemen have also been appointed for countries which have not yet been admitted to the Federation.

It is plain to be seen that the Federation is already world-wide in its purpose and extent. It is distinctively a student enterprise. It is not a merging or consolidation of old organizations, but a union of student movements, each of which preserves its independence and individuality.

The Federation has made possible a thorough investigation of the moral and religious condition of students of all lands; this investigation has revealed some of the greatest opportunities presented in this generation. It has been a new strength to student organizations in every country. When some larger vision or richer experience has been given to some movement more than to others, the federation affords an opportunity to make that experience helpful to the entire world. By its means the different national movements will act and react upon each other. Its unifying power is great. It is uniting in effort and in spirit as never before the students of the world. It is helping to unite the nations by stronger bonds than arbitration treaties, because it is training in Christ's way, the students who are to be the nations' leaders. This federation is striving to realize in the most practical manner: "There is one body and one spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all, and through all, and in all."

The following stirring testimony from the pen of the now deceased ex-president of the United States, General Benjamin Harrison, shows how potent is this great student movement in the eyes of the great seers of this age:

The World's Student Christian Federation and the Intercollegiate Christian Association are institutions that do not need to be buttressed by certificates or propped by arguments. It is not essential that we should have statistics of achievement. The greatness, the wisdom, and the usefulness of these societies and the appeal to the hearts of Christian men and women, are all unfolded when the names are spoken. We see the stalwart youths of our country, or of the old world, beating out the armor they are to wear and forging the swords they are to wield. The armor will be tough and strong and the swords bright and keen; and these eager young soldiers will read just boundaries. Recruiting must be active. The first blow establishes a fealty that is not easily detached. Give them leaders chosen from their own ranks and their own corps badge and out of this cadet corps will the great captains who will fight it out on the lines of truth until the world's rebellion against God has been put down and the vanquished are given an unstinted share in the heritage

of the victors

The churches have long realized the importance of religious instruction in the schools, as the many Christian colleges and academies attest. But now in many, perhaps in most of the great universities and colleges the students are dependent upon volunteer agencies for such instruction in the Word of God as they receive. There is no agency so efficient, none so free in its action, as the College Christian Association. It is within—it is not an intruder; it unites all, of every name.

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