

**THE DAILY NEBRASKAN**

Official Paper of the University of Nebraska

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Published every day during the college year.  
Subscription price, per semester, \$1.

Entered at the postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Convocation today will be strictly a patriotic affair, and every student should take time to go, even though he is not a regular attendant at the exercises. The program is distinctly pat to the part we can play in the war; it will formally introduce to student attention the second liberty loan. If you have so far dodged the moral obligation you are under to give what you can to the support of the war, you will be convinced after you have heard Dr. Fling's speech this morning. The liberty loan drive will reach every student in the University, happy should be he who goes to the meeting this morning and gets into the campaign at the start.

One of the regrettable things about the impression visiting teams get of Nebraska sportmanship is that students themselves are not responsible for the sentiment expressed by many spectators. They are not, however, wholly free from the stigma of being poor fans in that they tolerate these childish outbreaks. Students sat quietly by Saturday afternoon while some sarcastic bleacherites were repeating in an affected frenzy: "Iowa Fights! Iowa Fights!" The impression the Iowa team on the field got of Nebraska rooters from such kiddish acts as this was probably vivid and uncomplimentary. In the future such outbreaks should be squelched suddenly and decisively; it is not necessary that Nebraskans, who pride themselves on being good sportsmen as well as good football players, allow their reputation to be sullied by irresponsible onlookers.

**"THE GANG" AGREES**

After threatening for a while to develop into a bad mess, the fraternity question in the Lincoln High school has at last been settled, it appears, by an agreement reached by the board of education and the attorney for the fraternities yesterday. The agreement amounts to a promise upon the part of high school students to connect themselves in no way with a secret society while students. Their status in the secondary fraternity body after their relations with the Lincoln High school are severed by graduation or withdrawal is of course outside the province of the edict.

The students who sign this agreement will find later on, although they can hardly be expected to see it now, that the school board was acting not only in the best interests of the Lincoln High school, but of the fraternity men themselves. The fervid fealty of "the gang" to one another and to their secret troths looms big and all important to the eyes of the initiated ones, but several years of devoting this loyalty not to a clique but to the school itself will reveal the petty selfishness of the former. The signers of the fraternity agreement will certainly not be poorer men for the transfer of their affections and energies, and it is probable that a number of them will be the better for it.

University fraternity men, in the meantime, should not lose a single opportunity to impress upon every friend they have in high school the fact that they should be glad that the system has been abolished. The better letter of the University fraternity council law in regard to the banning of secondary secret-society men from membership in college fraternities is carried out, the easier it will be for the impulsive youth, before whose eyes the large white plumes dance dazingly, to see their way clear to cultivate the virtues of democracy instead of the narrowing influences of selfish exclusiveness.

**THE TAILORS' FORWARD MARCH**

A new spirit animates our tailors. Patriotism has bitten into them and

has generated a tremendous ambition. Heretofore we have owed much, in the case of our "smart" women, to the Place Vendome, while our "smart" men have been fashioned in Regent street. Our artificers of masculine garments at Yale and Harvard and Princeton have striven merely to reproduce the latest modes of Oxford and Cambridge.

Our tailors strive for higher things now. They have vowed that our officers shall be the "smartests" officers in the world. In London, in Paris, even (if fortune favors) in Berlin, they shall be remarkable and they shall be "right." Our flower of manhood is invading the capitals of the world—and clothes proclaim the man. American shoulders shall measure up to the shoulders (titled or democratic) of old Europe—in battles and in clothes. This is a proud moment in the sartorial history of America.

The young officer, eager to be outfitted and away, is, for the moment, taking his orders from the tailor. And the tailor tells him that he must have both a light uniform and a heavy one—price, say \$75 and \$80 respectively. The "right" sort of flannel shirt will cost him \$7.50. Boots, gaiters, haberdashery, Sam Brown belt, and trench overcoat conform to the same price scheme. If he felt that there was some discrepancy between what he must pay to be habited as the patriotic tailor desires, he would be falling in his duty as an officer and a gentleman; as one who would haggle about money when delenda est Carthago and he has the great opportunity of carrying his country's glory into the proudest of world capitals. Gone are the ante bellum, imitative days—the days of an America mercenary and unbecomingly.

Our tailors are doing their part in this war. And if we will but leave unhampered their anxious, aspiring loyalty, young America, caparisoned as no other, will march forth splendidly to its premier victory.

**THE "ONE-HOSS SHAY" A SATIRE**

"The Wonderful One-Hoss Shay," everybody is familiar with; a rollicking piece of foolery by Oliver Wendell Holmes. But "The Wonderful One-Hoss Shay" as a satire—the idea comes almost as a shock.

The re-reading of Barret Wendell's delightful "Literary History of America," published almost twenty years ago, recalled the fact that he had characterized Doctor Holmes' poem as "one of the most pitiless satires in our language." The satire is on Jonathan Edwards' system of theology, and once the fact is pointed out the application of the poem is readily seen.

Edwards was one of the greatest of American thinkers. His book on "The Freedom of the Will" is a wonderful piece of logic. Granted the premises, and his reasoning cannot be refuted. Like the reason's one-hoss shay, it is perfect in every part, a superb presentation of the Calvinistic theology of the Eighteenth Century. A hundred years later, however, it had few defenders and, in the opinion of Holmes, the liberal, was quite worn out.

The Edwards book was published in 1755, the year of the Lisbon earthquake and of Braddock's defeat. The poem says:

Seventeen hundred and fifty-five;  
Georgius Secundus was then alive—  
Snuffy old drone from the German  
hive;  
That was the year when Lisbon-town  
Saw the earth open and gulp her  
down,  
And Braddock's army was done so  
brown,  
Left without a scalp to its crown.  
It was on the terrible earthquake  
day  
That the deacon finished the one-  
hoss shay.

It will be recalled that the deacon decides the chaise is to be built in a perfectly logical way. In the building of chaises there is "always somewhere a weakest spot," and that is the reason the chaise "breaks down, but doesn't wear out." So the deacon, in the fashion of Jonathan Edwards, determines that there must be no vulnerable spot in the finished work. And Holmes expresses his admiration for the book as well as for the chaise when he says: "She was a wonder, and nothing less!" The poem follows the course of the chaise down through the next hundred years until it comes to 1855:

Little of all we value here  
Wakes on the morn of its hundredth  
year  
Without both feeling and looking  
queer.  
In fact, there's nothing that keeps  
its youth,  
So far as I know, but a tree and  
truth.

(This is a moral that runs at large;  
Take it; you're welcome—no extra  
charge.)  
First of November—the earthquake  
day;  
There are traces of age in the one-  
hoss shay,  
A general flavor of mild decay,  
But nothing local as one may say.  
By this time Unitarianism had made  
great headway among the intellectuals  
of New England, and Holmes felt that  
the system of Edwards had fallen to  
pieces. So the poem ends with the col-  
lapse of the wonderful one-hoss shay:

You see, of course, if you're not a dunce,

How it went to pieces all at once,  
All at once and nothing first.  
Just as bubbles do when they burst.  
End of the wonderful one-hoss shay.  
Logic is logic. That's all I say.

A letter to Mr. Wendell, who is professor of English in Harvard University, asking for the source of his clew to the satire, brings this reply:

I have no source of information. The fact that it is satire seemed to me so obvious when I wrote my "Literary History" that I was never more surprised than to find the fact questioned by certain critics. I never knew Doctor Holmes well, so I can't answer your question as to his intentions. I should suppose them, however, more cryptic than those of Voltaire, Swift or Aristophanes. When you get to that most puzzling of satirists, Rabelais, the case is different.

In view of the attitude of Holmes and the application of the poem to the Edwards theology there seems no reason to doubt the correctness of Professor Wendell's assumption.

**Writes Rag "Hungri-ly Devoured" at Snelling**

"Very many thanks for sending the "Rag." Received Monday's paper today. Within an hour it had been hungrily devoured by three former U. N. men and tomorrow I am going to take it over to one of the men who is in the hospital.

"This morning the second battery marched out one mile west of our barracks and proceeded to dig some very real gun emplacements such as used in France. To add to the realism we have a French officer, Captain Chefend, here to show us how. He wears the blue uniform so makes a very prominent figure among the khaki-clad officers and students. The work was not at all hard for me, but some of the fellows denied any former acquaintance with the shovel as numerous blisters amply testified.

"A new outfit of field guns came in this afternoon as we will probably be doing some mounted work next week. Every night at 6 o'clock, as we stand at "present arms" and the band plays The Star Spangled Banner, while Old Glory is slowly hauled down, my heart goes out with a silent prayer as I think of the God-given liberties which I have sworn to defend in the name of the Red, White and Blue.

"The University of Minnesota does not open until October 10 so the first football game will be played a week from Saturday. Of course it won't be like seeing old Nebraska play but then it will be real football. They play only four games at home but those will serve to pep up the regular routine of army life.

"The camp will probably be over about November 27 so hope to be in Lincoln for the Syracuse game. Tell any of the old bunch "Hello" for me." Sincerely,

ROBERT J. MATHEWS.

**Sigma Xi Holds First Meeting Saturday**

Sigma Xi held its first meeting of the year Saturday evening in the Red room of the city Y. M. C. A. A dinner was served, followed by a program and a brief business meeting. Thirty-five members were present. The evening's program consisted mainly of a series of short talks by members of the faculty.

Sigma Xi plans to hold a meeting every month this year. Scientific papers will be read at each meeting. The officers of the fraternity for this year are Prof. O. J. Ferguson, president; Prof. Geo. Borrowman, vice-president; Prof. G. E. Swezey, counsellor; Prof. H. H. Waite, corresponding secretary; Miss Margaret Hanna, recording secretary; Prof. N. A. Bengston, treasurer.

**Dean Heppner to Give Third Tea Thursday**

The third tea, for all University girls will be held Thursday afternoon from four until six, in Art hall. Dean Amanda Heppner is anxious that as many girls as possible attend these teas, which will be held every Thursday afternoon until Thanksgiving, because they promote a general feeling of friendliness, among the girls of the student body, and help them to become better acquainted with members of the faculty.

Faculty women of scientific courses will assist Dean Heppner.

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