

tion was an injustice. It was not plain why five persons were selected from a delegation of eleven when the credentials of all were perfectly proper and legal. Motions, previous, privilege, etc., were made; appeals were taken; points of order were raised; and several points of disorder were indulged in, until the audience grew weary and departed in squads. After this work had gone on for some time and no vote had been taken, the air began to be clarified. It was getting late, and something had to be done. Cotner and Wesleyan, fearing that the state was working some scheme by which to get ahead of them, could not agree to support right in this case and sent the six delegates in question. The other five in the Doane delegation were opposed to the six on general principles and class differences. After waiting as long as possible and fearing that the game would be called on account of darkness, the State gave way, and agreed to let the five vote without the six, and the convention was organized. For reasons given above the six were thrown out; then the regular work of the convention began.

Officers were elected as follows: president, J. H. Bicknell; Cotner; vice-president, W. M. Morrow, Wesleyan; secretary and treasurer, Bertha B. Stull, Doane; delegates to inter-state convention, Eugene Brown, state university, and Mr. Essert, Wesleyan.

James Roberts was then allowed to bring before the convention a communication from Charles Winter. It was a plea for \$50 that the old constitution granted to be used "exclusively for training preparatory to the inter-state contest." Mr. Winter had only used between ten and fifteen dollars for training but thought the spirit of the constitution, if not the letter, would have given him the amount. The spirit of the convention thought fifteen dollars was enough and ordered such a sum to be paid him. Other questions were brought up until finally, about six o'clock, the convention, whose delegates were in the best of humor, adjourned to meet in one year at Cotner university.

It may be well to add here for the benefit of future credential committees that in an association, the constitution of which may be amended at any meeting of the convention, it is not establishing a dangerous precedent to admit a large delegation, for precedent does not take precedence of the constitution. If there are any dangerous tendencies there is a resort, an appeal to which is final, and that resort is the constitution.

#### THE CONTEST.

Shortly after 7 the opera house of Crete began to fill. By half past the house was full, about 550 being present. It was a happy, noisy, yelling, screeching, singing, hooting and horn blowing crowd. Scarcely one in the audience but added in some manner to the general enthusiasm. As usual the university was on hand with the greatest amount and largest selection of noises. One might take their choice from the clashing of cymbals and pounding of the drum to the screech of a feminine yell.

After one hour of such amusement the meeting was opened at 8:30 by the president, W. N. Cassell, of Doane. He said that at the meeting held in the afternoon it was decided not to interrupt speakers during the delivery of the orations by applause.

The first number on the program was a horn quartette, by Messrs. Hildreth, Stauffer, Morrow and Oberlies of the university band. They played well together, and obtained liberal applause.

Professor C. C. White, of Crete, then gave the address of welcome. It was short but good. He was glad to see the large delegation that had come down. Crete had but one college, and he hoped Lincoln would not take that away

from them. He also warned the judges against taking him for one of the orators.

The celebrated Adelpian quartette of Doane next gave a song, "The Three Fishers," by Goldbeck. They highly pleased the audience, receiving a well-merited encore to which they responded with a comical selection.

After this number the audience settled down in order to listen to the first orator of the evening. At the announcement by the president Miss Bertha Stull appeared. She was dressed entirely in white and presented a very attractive appearance. She delivered her oration in a quiet manner and with very few gestures. Her voice, however, was rather harsh and unsympathetic. She failed to respond to the various phases of her subject. The following is her oration in full:

#### A TYPICAL AMERICAN.

An old-fashioned mansion, surrounded by trees—stately elms and ruddy maples nodding and sighing in the wind, grace-fully flows waving their plummy branches to the birds,—here our greatest poet was born, lived, and died. Here as a child he played under the sturdy elms, gay as the butterflies he chased.

At the age of fifteen the boy entered Harvard college, where he displayed literary and poetic ability and read everything—except what was prescribed in the course. Upon receiving a reluctantly given diploma from his displeased alma mater, he turned to the study of law—that rocky shore on which so many poets have ship-wrecked.

The young lawyer opened an office, but it is not recorded that he ever had a case or wanted one. He preferred to wander in the fields, making friends with beast and bird and listening to the tales of love the leaves were whispering to the flowers. He published some poems. Few read them. Fewer still were discerning enough to see in them the poet, like no other poet.

Meanwhile strange things were happening in the world about him. The nation was shaken to its foundations by internal strife and dissension. On the one hand stood the south, arrogant, overbearing, imperiously demanding an increase of slave territory. Behind her a loathsome serpent—the slave power—reared its vile head, swaying to and fro. On the other hand stood the north, hesitating. The south insisted; the serpent's baleful eyes flashed fire; it drew back as if to strike; the north, cowering, cringing, yielded, and the serpent trailed its slimy length over Texas. Then as it lay across our fair field in all its multitudinous coils of bloated vileness, its head resting on our national capital, few indeed were brave enough to attack it. A handful of bold spirits, however, fought it with all the strength of outraged conscience, but upheld neither by church or by state, theirs seemed a losing fight. Suddenly they were joined by a youth, who with his powerful pen, inflicted through the scaly armor, gaping wounds which refused to heal. The boy had become a man, and as the world read the "Biglow Papers" the rivets that bound clanking chains upon the helpless slave began to loosen and the advancing spears of the glorious morning of universal freedom appeared on the eastern horizon. Lowell's scathing sarcasm and blinding ridicule woke the northern intellect from its lethargy and stung the northern conscience into activity. Men began to think as they had never thought before. The south, becoming more and more arrogant as the slave power increased, took up arms against the flag. The north, that had meekly borne all insults, was now forced to fight,—but for what? She hardly knew. Her congress was corrupt; her people were divided; her leaders were occupied with petty jealousies. All were united however, in the determination not to interfere with slavery, but in attempting to avoid its snaky