

STATE ORATORICAL CONTEST.

T. E. WING WINS FIRST.—DEAN, OF DOANE, SECOND.

At last we are the winners and no mistake. Wing won for us easily and we have a chance to show our colors in the interstate contest this year at Columbus, Ohio. The contest was a good one throughout, but the oratorical convention which preceded the contest was nothing short of a disgrace. The convention and contest described in their order were as follows :

Delegates to the State Oratorical convention met in Cotner University chapel at 2 o'clock p. m., March 10, 1893. Rev. J. H. Bicknell of Cotner University, and president of the State association, presided at the meeting. We mentioned in the beginning that the convention was a disgrace. We wish to emphasize that fact here and say it was a disgrace to any institution of learning claiming the right to be called a University. It was a disgrace because disorder, pandemonium and almost riot reigned throughout the convention. Those having credentials, although it had not been determined whether these credentials were legally made out or not, talked one at a time and all at a time ; they more than talked, they yelled, they waved their arms and stamped their feet, and why did they do all this? Because one person, the chairman, a minister of the gospel, saw fit to lay aside his religion, to lay aside justice to ignore right and to decide points of order and parliamentary law according to J. H. Bicknell instead of according to "Robert's Rules of Order," which book is supposed to govern the Oratorical association. Were the delegates who upheld just rulings and fair play to blame for endeavoring to defeat the arbitrariness of the chairman? Were they to blame for the disgrace brought upon an assembly which ought to be a dignified one? Certainly they were not. Who then is to blame, someone must be! We believe, and do not hesitate to say, that the whole blame falls upon Mr.

J. H. Bicknell, the chairman of the convention. A *man*, when given a responsible position, is supposed to use his power with justice to all. When he abuses his position, and makes use of it to defeat the very purposes for which he is placed there, he ceases to be a man and becomes a tool, as Mr. Bicknell did in the convention last Friday. He failed to set the example that ought to be set by one claiming to belong to an institution of higher education, and set an example that might be pardoned in a person utterly devoid of education, and was incapable of forming an intelligent judgment. We do not wish to continue this any further, but will submit the facts in order that Mr. Bicknell may be judged in a right light by any fair minded person. After the association came to order, Harmon of Cotner moved that a committee on credentials be selected consisting of Messrs. Oeschger of Cotner; Maxwell of Wesleyan, and Tallmadge of the State. The motion was then amended to constitute the chairman of each delegation, viz: of Cotner, Wesleyan, Doane and the State, this committee on credentials. The question was on the amendment and the squabbling began. Points were made that it was customary to have the chairmen of the delegations act as the committee, then the question came up as to who should vote. Chair held that all claiming to have credentials could vote. Cotner and the State were represented by but one delegation each. When Wesleyan and Doane were called each seemed to have two delegations. Wesleyan had five delegates, of which three were for everything and two were against. Doane had ten, of which six were against everything and four for. Since the president was for everything he could not allow the six in Doane's delegation to be against him, as that might defeat his plans, so he delegated to the Secretary, Miss Bertha Stuhl of Doane, the power