

### The Contest.

After the afternoon convention adjourned, those who were in attendance had just time enough left before the evening contest to reach the Lansing opera house and many had to go without their suppers. The opera house began to fill up early, for those who came first could yell the longest and there is no disputing the fact that they took advantage of their position. Doane, with numerous three-cornered yellow flags with black triangles in center, was well represented and, from the west portion of the dress circle, sang her songs and yelled her yells until we thought their orator must surely win. Doane had some new songs which were enjoyed by the whole audience. On the east, in the parquet and dress circle, sat Cotner's representatives. They were also heard from semi-occasionally, but, since Mr. Bicknell was not with them, they were not quite as strong as they were in the convention. Through the central portion of the parquet and dress circle were seated the State University students. Scarlet and cream waved in banners and badges in all quarters of the section. The University yell and class yells were perpetrated quite often; and even that old chestnut, "I feel like," was attempted once. Ascending to the balcony, we find the students of Wesleyan University filling the front rows. My, but they are a noisy set! But then on an occasion like this, we expect every one to be noisy. The Wesleyan had flags and banners, and from their elevated position could produce quite an effect by waving them. The audience was a splendid representative of our educational institutions, and it is but fair to add that a more orderly and respectful audience never met in the Lansing opera house.

At 8:45; President Bicknell called the house to order. As he appeared before the audience, some greeted him with cheers others with hisses. His rulings in the convention occasioned the hisses.

The program entire was as follows:

Overture ..... Lansing Orchestra  
 Invocation ..... C F. Creighton  
 Chancellor of Wesleyan University.

Music..... "Schubert's Serenade"  
 Adelpian Quartette.  
 Oration . . . . . "The Work of the American Woman"  
 Miss Alice Gadd.  
 Music..... "Schlimmerlied" ..... Wehr  
 String Quartette.  
 Oration..... "Freedom and Thought"  
 A. Turner.  
 Vocal Solo..... Miss Maude E. Robinson  
 Oration..... "Patriotism and Brotherhood"  
 T. E. Wing.  
 Music..... Lansing Orchestra  
 Oration..... "A Case in Equity"  
 Frank W Dean.  
 Whistling Solo..... "The Nightengale"  
 D. N. Lehmer.  
 Decision of Judges.

We propose to dismiss the music in a few words. The Lansing orchestra may be heard nightly and needs no comment. The Adelpian Quartette rendered "Schubert's Serenade" in a pleasing manner. They were called back twice, and gave lively selections both times. The String Quartette played "Schlimmerlied" in a masterly manner and were loudly applauded. The vocal solo by Miss Maud E. Robinson was given with orchestra and piano accompaniment, and pleased the audience. When D. N. Lehmer walked onto the stage to whistle, he was given a rousing greeting and was forced to respond to a hearty encore. While the audience were waiting for the decision of the judges, the Adelpian Quartette was called for and rendered several selections, among which was the "Bill of Fare."

After the invocation by Chancellor Creighton, the orators took their places upon the stage. As they did so, they were greeted with great applause and much yelling of many yells. The president announced that the orators desired that there should be no yelling until after they had delivered their orations. The audience complied with the request and no applause was given except the clapping of hands until the last orator had ceased speaking. Miss Gadd, of Cotner, was the first orator; her subject was, "The Work of the American Woman." Miss Gadd was perfectly easy and graceful, both in position and gestures, throughout her oration. In her opening sentences, she spoke of the evolution of society. In the early development strength was needed most.