

### *The Oratorical Association.*

In order that all may know the exact condition of the University Oratorical association, I make the following explanation:

We still hold our membership in the Inter State Oratorical Association. This necessitates our membership in our state association, which we have held with more or less honor up to the present year and continue to hold though during the past year many propositions have been made looking toward our withdrawal.

Our state association is not in a very promising condition. Three colleges, Gates, Cotner and Wesleyan have withdrawn in the past two years, leaving Doane and the State University alone in the association. The exact reasons for their withdrawal are not known, but it is supposed that they found themselves inferior in the art of political combinations, if inferior in nothing else. Wesleyan was the only one which ever distinguished itself in the matter of oratory.

Thus far they have signified no intention of returning to the association.

Doane's spirit has never lagged. She has led both in talent and in financial support; she has taken four first prizes and more than her share of second honors in the ten contests which have been held, and has a Cicero or two in training for the next event. Her home association is free from debt and she stands ready to meet her share of the assessment made upon the State Association by the Inter-State, which by the way must be paid before we can again contest.

And what about the State University Association? Owing to the fact that the "barb-frat" scrap fell through the day before election last year, only a very few joined the association; and the treasury suffered. The thirty-four dollars balance of the year before had been very generously donated to the base-ball team. Lit-

tle or no interest was shown at the local contest and again disappointed the treasurer. In short we are behind about forty-five dollars.

An attempt was made last spring to form an association with Missouri, Kansas and Iowa with the idea of withdrawing from the State and Inter-State associations. The committee did what they could in the matter of correspondence, but the universities before mentioned neglected to take any decisive action and it has apparently been forgotten. Since then we have been urged by South Dakota to enter into a league of western states: Colorado, Kansas, California and the two Dakotas. The secretary has replied to them, stating that they need not depend on us for the present at least.

We are now ready to receive suggestions as to our future, providing we have any. It is almost impossible to get out a quorum no matter when the meeting may be called.

One thing is settled. We are not going to abandon our association forty-five dollars in debt. We have therefore decided to give a concert in the chapel, Friday evening, December 4th. The Ottumwa Male Quartette has been secured for that evening at considerable expense, and every student will be asked several times if necessary, to purchase seats. We can then talk of withdrawing from the association. If there are any who are preparing orations for the next contest, they would do well to report in order that some concerted action may be taken.

CLINTON M. BARR,  
Pres. of the Association.

Morse: My brother says he celebrated McKinley's election by husking 120 bushels of corn the next day.

Bystander: He must have kept his ears in the air pretty near all day then.