

Roper and Denison the Winners.

MUCH ENTHUSIASM—A GOOD CONTEST.

The ninth annual oratorical contest of the local association occurred last Friday evening. No one can now say that oratory in the university of Nebraska is dead. It is not. Scarcely a seat in the lower part of the chapel was unoccupied. Old time enthusiasm was there. For half an hour before the contest college songs and yells kept the old chapel ringing.

It was nearly half past eight when President Graham called order and announced that the first number was music by the Ideal Mandolin Club. Response was made to an encore.

R. C. Roper now stepped forward as the first contestant. He had a look of firmness and genuine sincerity. His subject was, "The Author Hero of the Revolution." The production was an able effort to show that Thomas Paine has been done an injustice by critics and the public generally. The speaker thought it all due to the fact that Tom Paine was candid and outspoken. No effort was made to justify Paine's religious views. It was simply a plea that his religious liberality should not keep us from giving him credit for being what he is, the author hero of the revolution. Mr. Roper employed few gestures. He lacked animation. But his directness, clearness and earnestness made his hearers feel that he was sincere in every word he uttered.

Miss Esther Smoyer followed Mr. Roper. Her subject was, "Hier Steh Ich." It was an impressive eulogy of Martin Luther the firm, unrelenting, persevering German reformer. The subject was treated in a striking literary manner. Miss Smoyer was animated, her stage appearance graceful.

A. L. Deal was the next contestant. He chose for his subject the "Practical Truth of Theosophy." The treatment of the subject showed careful thought and preparation. Mr. Deal suffered from rather an imperfect delivery.

After a vocal solo by Miss Barnaby, Mr. C. O. Brown spoke on, "John Adams." The production showed historical research and power of discrimination. Mr. Brown's delivery was somewhat unimpressive.

G. E. Hager was the next speaker. His oration was a plea for "Municipal Reform." Mr. Hager strongly denounced the corruption found in our city politics closing with a plea for all the better citizens to unite in the interest of good municipal government. Mr. Hager's stage appearance was the best, his delivery forceful.

J. D. Denison, the last orator, chose for his subject, "A Triumphant Democracy." His oration was a complete analysis of the progress of public opinion or more exactly a eulogy of modern democracy. To say it was an able effort is not to do it justice. The true qualities of the orator was evident in his thought, climax, stage appearance and gestures.

He was a favorite with the audience from the first. When he closed his Delian and law friends were confident.

After several selections by the Ideal Mandolin Club, President Graham came forward and announced that the judges had awarded Mr. Roper first prize and Mr. Denison second. The first prize is \$50 and the honor of representing the university in the State contest. The second is \$25 and chairmanship of the delegation to the state convention.

Judges on manuscript were: Prof. H. K. Wolfe, Prof. L. A. Sherman and Will O. Jones; delivery: Prof. J. T. Lees, Judge A. W. Field and H. H. Wilson. Mr. Denison led, on grades by per cents. But Mr. Roper led, on grades according to rank, by two-thirds of one rank and hence was declared the winner.

P. B. D. C. vs Wesleyan.

The joint debate between the Palladian boys debating club and the Everett literary society of Wesleyan university occurs tomorrow evening. The debate will be held in the Wesleyan chapel. S. B. Sloan, J. E. Pearson and C. E. Matson will represent the P. B. D. C. They have the negative of the question, "Resolved, that denominational colleges and universities are contributing more toward civilization than similar state institutions." A delegation of Palladians will accompany the debaters with a full supply of songs and yells.

Union Alumni Program.

Piano Solo Selected	Harry Briggs
Greetings from Absent Alumni	
Vocal Solo "The Quaker"	Grace Reynolds
"Incidents of German Life"	H. A. Senter, '93
Piano Solo Selected	Harry Briggs
Story "Mandy"	Anna Frey, '96
"Why we go to Germany to Study"	H. C. Peterson, '89
Violin Solo Selected	Walter Christansen

On Saturday night the D. B. D. C. will discuss the question Resolved: that the amendment to the constitution of the U. S. enfranchising the negro should not have been adopted. Leaders, affirmative, E. R. Vanderslice, C. H. Warner; negative, R. B. Payne, R. Simpson.

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