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## To Stradivariou's' Violin.

At Easter time in fading sunlight dim,  
The violinist, sad, with bowed head,  
Sent soft and humble tunes to holy dead,  
Transforming the gloom of high cathedral grim  
Visions celestial as they came to him  
By violin tones thro' heavy air there spread:  
With angelic power the bow was led  
To roll the splendor in divinest hymn—  
O, Stradivariou's, so frail, so strong,  
Home of gladness, sorrow, tears and song,  
Oh, magic thing whence comes thy potent spell  
To soothe and calm the heart of pleasure's rife  
To find deep love, sweet joy and liberty  
Thy words—thy tones—the language of a life.

H. L.

## Denison an Easy Winner.

THREE FIRSTS ON MANUSCRIPT.—WON BY FIFTY  
THREE POINTS.—PROTESTS OVERCOME.

The 14th annual Nebraska Collegiate Oratorical Contest was held at Crete, Neb, last Friday evening, April 8th.

The University of Nebraska was again victorious in the oratorical contest, and J. D. Denison was an easy winner over able competitors from Doane, Grand Island and Bellevue colleges.

The marking of the judges ranked the speakers as follows: J. D. Denison, of the University first. He led by a total of fifty-three points having three firsts on manuscript. Miss Martha Johnson of Grand Island, second. Ellis of Doane, third; and Hannan of Bellevue, fourth.

The program was not begun until 8:45 on account of the afternoon convention running over time, because of the unusual amount of business to be transacted.

The president, R. C. Roper, in opening, made a few appropriate remarks, noting that the main contest had taken place during the afternoon. Inspiring music was provided by the Prof. of Music in Doane College and by Mr. W. H. Kerr, a son of the Chancellor of

Omaha College. College yells and partisan songs made the opera house quake at frequent intervals.

Mr. Emery W. Ellis of Doane, the first contestant, delivered a well written oration on "The Spirit of Brotherhood." His production showed careful thought and the expression was earnest and effective. But his delivery was somewhat mechanical.

Mr. Hannan of Bellevue gave a spirited oration "The Nation's Peril." He contended that the prevailing negligence of our citizens toward the ballot was the greatest danger of the Republic. Mr. Hannan threw himself into the spirit of his production and succeeded in carrying the audience with him.

Miss Martha Johnson, of Grand Island, was a general favorite because of her earnest and forcible delivery. She has a strong voice but not the best control of it. Her oration on "American Ideals" was a popular discussion of the influence of our government on other nations.

The last contestant, Mr. J. D. Denison, with his oration on "The Evolution of Government" captured the audience as well as the judges. The power of his delivery carried conviction with every sentence. The keynote of his theme was to emphasize the fact that Democracy is a golden mean between despotism and anarchy. The responsibility of man as an individual was clearly brought out. The fact that Mr. Denison received three firsts on manuscript shows that he had an easy lead over the other contestants.

While the markings of the judges were being summed up, Chancellor MacLean made a very appropriate and short address. He complimented all of the colleges represented in affiliating together in oratory. The increasing zeal for college athletics, debating and oratory is an indication of more genuine college spirit in all lines of college work. He contended that debating had taken a greater impetus this year partially through the effect

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