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Jonas H. Lien, '97

Born of white midnights of the frozen seas,
Of skyward peaks, unchangeable atmosphere,
He came, the child of Ella, with the clear
Broad brow, the soul calm cadenced to the breeze
That on the heights flings loftier snows than these.
He came with quiet face that knows no fear,
Looking forever on the faces here
Turned toward him for the light that shall not cease.
Not voicelessly, with empty hands, he lies
Beyond the circle of the northern star
On island sands. With calm, far-seeing eyes
And clear young voice, he shall for aye make war
Where freedom strives, and with each Easter night
Stand forth, transfigured, with the sons of light.

March 31, 1899.

KATHARINE MELICK.



Jonas H. Lien.

Jonas H. Lien is dead. While on active duty along the line, in a brave charge at the head of a company of the First South Dakota Volunteers, Adjutant and First Lieutenant Jonas H. Lien was hit by a Mauser bullet and fell dead from his horse. This was the awful news that brought so much sorrow to so many students and professors in our University and actually forced not a few to tears.

We all knew Lien. We all knew him to admire him. We knew him as a man, as a natural leader of men. We knew him as a deep, scholarly student, a student of whom it has been said: "He was the brightest man in the University." We knew him as a loyal member of the Union Literary Society. We knew him as an earnest, and forceful debater and speaker, a speaker who first convinced himself and then convinced others that he was right, a speaker whose every look

of those keen eyes showed earnestness, whose every act brought conviction, and whose every word brought argument and persuasion to make that conviction effective. We knew him as a man of the best judgment, the deepest convictions, the keenest mind, a most companionable friend of the truest stamp, the strongest character—Jonas Lien, the little giant from South Dakota. As good as he was brilliant, as sincere as able, as honest as shrewd, as democratic as profound, Jonas was a recognized man of great promise.

Jonas Lien was born in Brookings, S. D., Dec. 12th, 1874. His father died while he was a small child, and was brought to manhood under the care of his brother, B. H. Lien, now mayor of Sioux Falls, S. D. Lien attended the South Dakota Agricultural College prior to coming here in 1895. The heated campaign of 1896 found him stumping South Dakota for Bryan, part of the time speaking from the same platform with Senator Pettigrew. He spoke in nearly every county east of the Missouri, and was commonly known as the "boy orator of the Sioux". Soon after election he again resumed his work at the University, when he was made managing editor of the Hesperian. January 1st, he left the University again to accept the position of chief clerk in the lower house of the South Dakota legislature. After adjournment of the legislature, he became city editor of the daily Sioux Falls Press, where he remained until September, '97, when he again took up his work here at the University, graduating in the spring of 1898. He was at this time elected to Phi Beta Kappa. It is stated that he was not wholly in sympathy with this organization, and often expressed disapproval of its workings. He never learned of the honor given him until he reached the Philippines and then he declared in a letter to a friend, in referring to the matter, that he was now more convinced than ever of the injustice of the whole affair. Returning to his home in the spring of 1898, he again resumed news paper work until the call for volunteers. Feeling that it was more to his liking, he desired to enlist as a private and run his chances with the boys in the ranks. With difficulty he was finally persuaded to accept the commission of adjutant: Lien was desirous to see active duty so long as the war with Spain lasted, but when this war was over and another had begun of a different nature, he wanted the South Dakota regiment mustered out. In private letters to friends, he expressed strong objections to expansion and the policy of the administration toward the Philippines. However, these expressions were only private and received no official