

## ORATORICAL CONTEST.

FOURTH ANNUAL CHASE AND WHEELER CONTEST IN ORATORY  
OF THE PALLADIAN SOCIETY.

The chapel was filled to the overflowing last Saturday evening, Jan. 29th, on the occasion of the Palladian contest in oratory. With a class composed of members who had not posed as orators in former contests, it was not a repetition of last year's performance, and was fully, if not more, than up, on the whole, to the standard set by the contests of the two previous years. Pres. Howe called the meeting to order and announced it as fitting, as the two founders of the contest were present, that one of them should preside and accordingly called Mr. D. H. Wheeler to the chair.

Mr. Wheeler, after a few remarks, asked Mr. Chase to speak on behalf of those who offered the prize. After expressing his satisfaction of the conduct of the contests heretofore held, he impressed upon all the importance of the almost lost art, oratory, and urged the society to more systematic work in the oratorical line. The program, proper, was opened by the most beautiful overture, "Merry Wives of Windsor," by Misses Aughey and Pershing.

J. A. BARRETT

presented with rare force and energy the importance to civilization of "The Battle of Chalons." While the gestures could be improved, his earnestness and clearness carried conviction.

ORIENT FIFER

next displayed the beauty of the character and the potency of the influence of "John Marshall." Mr. Fifer's delivery was marred by too much impulsiveness, but his beauty of expression was remarkable. Messrs. Fox and Saxby next rendered a violin and piano duet, "The Moon and I," and in response to an encore, the "Traumerei."

E. A. MANLEY

argued on "Land Nationalization." Mr. Manley lost himself several times, and seemed to lack spirit, though his production ranked very high.

MISS MINNIE BOYER

next entered a "Plea for Charity" with becoming grace and gentleness. Her production was clearly and forcibly written. The "Message" was then sung by H. J. W. Seemark, after which

F. A. STUFF

presented "Robert Burns." With wonderful ease and freedom in delivery, he perhaps overdid it, while his inflection, partaking too much of the sameness, overbalanced his easy grace.

FRANK TAYLOR

gave an able disquisition on "Popular License." His enunciation was good, but his manner too stiff.

W. H. WAGNER

next painted the beauties of "Michael Angelo" in a deliberate and forcible manner. Clearness of thought and clearness of expression were well marked. Messrs. Schofield and Inglis gave a trombone and clarinet duet and the marks of the judges—Prof. Barber, Howard and Sherman—were canvassed by the committee. While we were unable to gather the sentiment of the audience as to the justness of the decision, we are inclined to believe with the judges that Mr. J. A. Barrett, with a true orator's earnestness, and an oration clear and convincing, deserved the first prize and W. H. Wagner the second.

STATE AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETIES.

The annual meeting of the State Agricultural Society, held in the Chemical lecture room, beginning Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 19th, was the most largely attended of any in the history of that body. After the transaction of the regular routine business, the secretary, Hon. R. W. Furnas, read a very exhaustive report and President Barker delivered his opening address. Dr. J. Gerth Jr. read a very able paper upon "Glanders and Farcy." This paper was technical and highly interesting, possessing a great deal of scientific value. Wednesday morning a paper was read by Prof. C. E. Bessey upon the grasses and foliage of Nebraska, for which he was tendered a vote of thanks. Mr. Wing read a very able paper upon "Agricultural experiment stations." The afternoon and the major part of the remainder of the session was devoted to making preparations for the state fair.

Wednesday afternoon the State Horticultural society convened in the botanical rooms. President Masters delivered an able and instructive address in which he recognized the aid of the University in investigating the diseases common among our trees and shrubs. Prof. Bessey read a paper upon "The plan of work in the department of Horticulture in the Industrial College of the U. of N." The fruit interest of the state was discussed Thursday and Mr. Peter Young read a paper which was unusually interesting and important.

Not the least among the features of this session was the magnificent display of fruit. Tables were arranged along both sides of the botanical laboratory and were filled with plates of apples which were all neatly marked. Upon the whole the meetings were a marked success and the interest manifested was unusually great.

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