

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR.

VOL. I.

TIFFIN, OHIO, SEPTEMBER, 1878.

NO. 1.

THE THIRD CONVENTION

Of the National Amateur Press Association, held July 17th, 1878.

ABOUT 85 Amateur Editors and Publishers met in the Palmer House Wednesday Morning, July 17th, and at 10:30 o'clock were called to order by Vice President Snyder, of Virginia, in the absence of President Dingwall. In a few eloquent and happy remarks he explained the objects of the Association and the work to be accomplished at this meeting. The roll was then called and eighteen names responded to. Sixty seven new members were admitted.

The new constitution was partly read by Mr. Young, chairman of the Constitution Committee, and then the orator of the day, Stanton S. Mills, treated the assembly to a well studied speech of unusual excellence. The reading of the constitution was then concluded and a motion to lay it on the table until after the election of officers lost, so after a number of sensible amendments it was adopted. The Convention then adjourned till 2 o'clock.

At the opening of the afternoon session several letters of regret from various absent amateurs were read by the Secretary. An additional number of names were proposed for admittance, whereupon a discussion arose as to the rights of several persons to membership. Upon motion Messrs. Chase, Day and Clover were appointed a committee to receive and consider challenges of the rights of applicants to election. Four names were reported upon adversely, but by a vote were admitted. The election of officers was then in order, and W. T. Hall and G. W. Hancock of Chicago, J. P. Clossey of New York and Correl Kendall of Boston were nominated for President. Messrs. Day and Chase were appointed tellers, and ballots were taken, resulting as follow: First ballot, Hall 35, Clossey 19, Hancock 12, Kendall 7. Kendall's name was then dropped and the second ballot gave Hall 39, Clossey 22 and Hancock 10. The ballot for First Vice President was as follows, nominations having been made: Huss

38, Mills 17, Hancock 12. The balance of the officers, as given elsewhere, were elected with very little opposition. The convention then adjourned until the next morning.

At 7 o'clock the editors met in the private dining room of the Palmer and partook of a pleasant banquet, at which toasting and speech making were the order of the evening. Mr. Snyder of Virginia, gracefully officiated as toastmaster, and among others, proposed the following:

"The National Amateur Press Association — Ever the hope of amateurdom. May these hopes be realized."

"Amateur Journalism — May it live to entertain, instruct, enoble; to lift the standard of Juvenile Literature and to afford a school to Professional Journalism."

"Professional Journalism—May amateur journalism so progress that the sire will recognize and acknowledge the son."

"The Western A. P. A. — The National looks to it for support."

"To the memory of Wm. A. Fiske — May his name live surrounded by those same precious associations which have preserved the memories of Farrel and Barler."

"Our Host — The Garden City A. J. C. — They have given us a good time; may they find a reward laid up for them in the East."

These toasts as well as many healths to various prominent editors, were drunk in the true amateur beverage, cold water, and agreeably responded to by those of Mr. Snyder's selection.

Thursday morning the association was called to order by President Hall. Cincinnati, New York and Washington were nominated for the meeting place of the N. A. P. A. and the last named was chosen. The President appointed the various standing committees, and he was ordered to receive bids for printing the Constitution and Official Organ. The Secretary was directed to address a letter of condolence to the parents of the late Will A. Fisk, and one of thanks to the Palmer

House for courtesies. Then after adjusting a few minor matters, the Convention adjourned to meet in Washington, D. C., in July, 1879.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Chicago, August 15, 1878.

To the Members of the National Amateur Press Association:

GENTLEMEN: The members of our association who were present at the convention last July saw fit to elect me to the highest office in the ranks, and before entering fully upon the duties of my office, I wish to set forth a few of my proposed plans of action. The greatest help to me during my administration will be the admirable constitution drawn up by three prominent Brooklyn amateurs and adopted at the Chicago meeting. Our former presidents have labored under the disadvantage of temporary constitutions, but now that we have a document that will act as a bulwark to amateur journalism, we can better carry on our good work.

Little need be said in regard to the postal law which lately spread consternation in our ranks, as that obstacle has been removed, and we are again untrammelled. It now remains with the members of our association who attend the next convention at Washington, to show Messrs. Key, Marr, et al that we are not a crowd of children using amateur journalism as a plaything, but a body of young men whose mission it is to promulgate a scheme which will lead to a higher education of the youths of to-day.

I rejoice to see that one by one the professional boys papers are succumbing, and that of the horde of one year ago, but a paltry two or three remain to poison the mind of Young America. Let us continue our earnest endeavors to crush these intellect corrupters.

On the first day of every third month beginning September 1st, 1878, our official organ will be published and will be an established institution. The competitive sketches, poems, &c., that will be published in its columns previous to each convention, will lend a new impetus to our writers pens, and

we may look for something excellent. Our constitution will be ready about October 1st in printed form, and may be had of the Corresponding Secretary, J. F. Eberle, 919 Melon St., Philadelphia, on receipt of price, 10c. This should be in the hands of every amateur in the land.

All I ask during my term of office is the hearty support and co-operation of the amateurs of the United States, and I pledge myself to do all in my power and leave no stone unturned to further the cause of amateur journalism. I have all confidence in the ability and integrity of my brethern in office, and with encouragement from you, gentlemen, I hope to succeed in my undertaking.

Amateurism's obedient servant,
W. T. HALL.

PRESIDENT N. A. P. A.

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EARLY CAMPAIGNING.

"Knowing as the Society does that much of the quarreling and ill-feeling in amateurism is caused by political differences, it prohibits members from nominating officers in their papers, or circulating printed papers or tickets appertaining to the nomination of officers, more than one month in advance of the election. A violation of this law will be treated with severe fines, suspension or expulsion."—*Sect. 1, Art. 4 of the By Laws of the Amateur Editors' Lyceum.*

This is one of the laws the new society has laid down and intends to enforce. It has under its control about 25 papers, and next year these journals, instead of indulging in slanderous and bitter abuse of every candidate for office they oppose, will maintain silence, and on their part, no enmities and no ill-feelings will be engendered because of campaign slander.

As a member of the National Amateur Press Association I urge those not members of the Lyceum, and not in its control, to recognize the wisdom of this law and act accordingly. That an early campaign is injurious, is shown by the bitter one which has but lately closed. Begun nearly ten months before the election, it grew more and more exciting, and toward the close, there being a dearth of *arguments*, maliciously false statements that wrongfully injured many a candidates repu-

tation, were made by every party; and when the amateurs came together in convention, although they were friendly, they were enemies, some of them, treasuring up what had been said during the campaign and hoarding it away for future adjustments. It is indeed a lamentable state of affairs — that our institution, designed to improve us, should only be a mass of enmities, political intrigues and corruption.

Policy, if not principal, should debar us from entering the campaign thus early. The continual use of a candidate's name, his being constantly forced upon our notice with exaggerated eulogies, engenders a dislike of him, and although he may by so early entering the lists gain a large support, it is purely superficial and when the time comes to ballot — when the *votes* are actually cast — the early bird, notwithstanding the old proverb, loses the worm, and some sharper member carries off the prize.

That an office in our association is worth having because of the honor it brings, the writer admits, and he further maintains that it should be the ambition of every true amateur to so work and so conduct himself as to merit the conferring of honor by the society. But to fulfill the desires of this ambition it is not necessary to enter into a bitter campaign — to slash, to slander, to utter vituperous epithets against those opposed.

I argue from experience against early campaigning. Not only does it injure our cause, but I affirm that no amateur will succeed in his desires who forces himself upon the notice of the association ten months before election. A three months campaign of *arguments* would no doubt be beneficial and would be sufficient, and I earnestly request of the members of the National Association that they limit their campaigning to that time.

—Arthur J. Huss.

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OUR EX-SECRETARY.

At Long Branch, July 16th, 1877, James A. Fynes Jr., of Boston, Mass., was elected Recording Secretary of the N. A. P. A., and the documents pertaining that office were turned over to him by his predecessor, Wm. T. Hall. As a member of the Committee of Arrangements at the Chicago convention

Mr. Hall wrote Mr. Fynes several letters asking him to send on membership lists, minutes, etc., to Chicago, if he did not intend to be present himself. To these letters Mr. Fynes paid no attention and as a consequence the Secretary and his documents were absent from the convention. Since the convention, Mr. Hall as President of the association has requested Mr. F. to send the property in his hands to D. W. Gee, the present Secretary. At the time of writing the gentleman of Boston has not seen fit to do as requested, and it remains to be seen how long he will retain property which is not his own and which belongs to the N. A. P. A.

IN MEMORIAM.

After the glowing eulogy of the late William A. Fiske, of Coldwater, Mich., pronounced by Mr. Mills at the Association's banquet, it would be impossible for us to say more. Mr. Fiske was connected with the Amateur World over five years, as one of its most useful servants and devoted supporters; he was twice President of the Empire State Amateur Press Association, once President of the Michigan A. P. A., and held various other positions of honor in those and different associations; as a pointed writer and energetic publisher, "Mynheer" is fresh in our memory. He was respected by all as an upright young man and by his amateur friends will be remembered as one of the three bright stars, who

* * "departing, left behind them, Footprints on the sands of Time."

The reception of the visiting amateurs at Chicago was badly managed — in fact there was no reception at all. Strangers to the city, they jumped from their trains into a mass of rushing humanity, expecting to be met by delegations, but such were no where to be seen, and the disappointed editors had to find their way to the Palmer as best they could. We hope this may not occur in Washington, and if the many editors in that city wish to go their old rivals of Chicago "one better," they should appoint reception committees for '79 who will be at their posts and do their duty upon the arrival of every train. And we trust the badges will be an improvement over those used at Chicago, too.

National Amateur.

OFFICIAL ORGAN N. A. P. A.

C. Clement Chase, : Lincoln, Neb.
EDITOR.

PUBLISHED AT TIFFIN, OHIO.

Subscription Price Per Annum, 15cts.

At the convention of the National Amateur Press Association held at Chicago, Illinois, the 17th of July, 1878, it was resolved to publish an Official Organ, the same to be issued quarterly and to be under the entire control of the appointed editor.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

PRESIDENT,

William T. Hall, : : : Chicago, Ill.

VICE PRESIDENTS,

Arthur J. Huss, Tiffin, Ohio, Fred M. Cornell, Brooklyn, Frank M. Morris, Indianapolis, Ind.

SECRETARIES,

Delavan W. Gee, Washington, (Recording), J. Fred Eberle, Philadelphia, (Corresponding).

TREASURER,

Willis H. Allen, : : : Springfield, Ill.

OFFICIAL EDITOR,

C. Clement Chase, : : : Omaha, Neb.

IN SALUTATION.

We shall endeavor to prove ourselves worthy of the honor of being the first editor of the National Amateur. The idea of publishing an official journal is novel and excellent, and is something which the amateur world has long needed and we hope will now support. We are sure that it will attract more than usual attention from the fact of it being published by the N. A. P. A., and being devoted exclusively to the journalism which that society represents. We invite short and pointed contributions from all the members of the association, and hope they will unite with us in building up this paper.

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THE CONVENTION.

We want to shake hands with you all in congratulation over the success of our National Association as particularly displayed in its late remarkable assembly. Ten years ago such a proposed gathering of boys would have been ridiculed as impossible. The idea that young fellows from all parts of the United States should have the independence to come together and when once convened to conduct themselves in a manner that would do credit to the late congress of Berlin, would have seemed before amateur papers sprung into existence, as too preposterous for

belief. Through the means of journalism, however, this idea has been put into full execution. On the afternoon of the 17th of July last, we saw as handsome a gathering of young men in the Club Room of the Palmer, as it would be possible to find in this country, and *could not be found outside of it*. Every face indicated intelligence, every eye sparkled with eager knowledge. There was not a sleepy-head among them, or not a delegate that did not look as if he knew what he was about. They realized the importance of the occasion, and unconsciously adapted themselves to the situation, as if they had been born with a Cushing in one hand and shouting "I Move!" These characteristics marked them to all observers as among the future statesmen and great men of this country. It is not probable that one third of those present will enter an editorial career when they choose a profession, but it is an undeniable fact that the experience and training given in mimic journalism will aid them materially in whatever they may attempt in after life.

Vive le Convention! — or better, *Vive l'Amateurdom!*

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DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

In another place we have made reference to the negligence of the ex-Secretary of the National Association, and now it seems that this same inactivity and disobliging conduct is to be carried out by Mr. Fynes' successor.

It is a self evident fact that none but the authorized official minutes of conventions should be published in an official organ, as one of the main objects of such an organ is to print a reliable account of all meetings of the association which it represents. With this object we dropped a postal to Delavan W. Gee, of Washington, then visiting in Cortlandville, N. Y., and asked him to lend us the minutes of the association for publication or to compile a report therefrom. Mr. Gee, evidently enjoying his visit and not wishing to be interrupted — as he had probably not written up the minutes — replied as follows:

Cortlandville, N. Y., Aug. 4th.
C. C. Chase, Esq.; Dear Sir:

Your postal card came duly to hand and in reply thereto I will respectfully state that the minutes of the late con-

vention of the N. A. P. A. are not for publication. You are the one to write the manuscript for the Official Organ, not I. However, if you are in doubt how a vote was decided, or whether a motion was lost or carried, I will, with pleasure, inform you.

Yours, Fraternally,

DEHAVAN W. GEE.

Secretary National A. P. A.

We had not the least written account of the convention in our possession, for we had not expected to be compelled to write the minutes, and so could not ask the honorable Secretary even about the decision of votes, which we knew nothing of. We did not think it our business, and as the time approached when it would be necessary to send in the copy, we indited the following:

Omaha, August 10, 1878.

Delavan W. Gee, Esq.:

My Dear Sir: Yours of the 4th surprised me not a little. President Hall informed me that the Secretary and Treasurer would send in their reports for publication, and said he had written you in that respect.

I took no minutes of the convention and have none, and it would be nothing more than fraternal courtesy to assist me by lending me the official minutes from which to compile mine, or print entire.

All my copy is ready except the most important matter of all, the authorized and only official report of the last convention proceedings, which should be signed by the President and Secretary. Now, am I to be balked thus early in my duties by being obliged to omit the very thing for which the National Amateur is published, or publish an unauthorized report, or will you take the trouble (which Hall explains is your duty) to forward the minutes so that I can have them by the 15th? If not, I may be obliged to make an explanation in the columns of the "Amateur" which will not reflect creditably on the new Secretary.

Yours fraternally, and officially,

Clem Chase.

In answer, we received an imperative postal card saying, "The Secretary's minutes *are not for publication*; the constitution states that the official editor is to edit the official organ."

This brought us to the conclusion that the newly elected Secretary was sadly ignorant of either duty or cour-

tesy, or incorrigibly lazy, and did not care to bother himself into writing this hot weather. So, as we could not wait longer, we compiled from our exchanges, the Chicago papers and our memory the insufficient report given in this number, being sorry that we can give no better, yet knowing that excuses are not necessary. It is to be regretted that the Association is so unfortunate in its choice of Secretaries.

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PROFESSIONAL vs. AMATEUR.

The bull-headed reporters whom the Chicago daily papers sent to write up our late meetings, treated their undergraduate brethren of the press to a series of mean, small reports, as only Chicago "bohemians" could have written. Wherever the associations have met before they have received lengthy notices from the journals of the place, written in a complimentary and encouraging style. The only fault of the Times was its brevity; it was the Tribune which gave the most offence by its wrongful assertions and undignified treatment of the subject. Ladies and gentlemen who had read the papers have told us that they thought no one would be influenced to believe amateurism a babyish affair, although the Tribune did attempt to convey that impression.

We publish below a few of the notices accorded the amateurs by the Chicago Press.

The Evening Journal as a supplement to its report says: "These young journalists, who have been in this city since last Monday, form quite an extensive body. The State, Western, and National Amateur Press Associations include about 400 members, whose ages range from 16 to 22 years. In the U. S. there are about four hundred amateur papers published, and in Chicago fifteen. Some of these papers are really interesting, and reflect great credit on the young gentleman who conduct them. Quite a number are small concerns, published just for fun. The articles and other reading matter are written and contributed by the publishers and "kids" throughout the country. The composition and press work is also done by "kids." The average circulation of these 400 papers is about 200, and the average subscription rates are 25 cents a year. The publishers,

as a general thing, are sons of wealthy parents, who do the work for amusement more than for anything else. A few of the papers are published by young fellows employed in printing offices, who are thus enabled to get their work done cheap. These editors are all good looking, well educated, gentlemanly and fun loving young fellows and have a high old time at their conventions."

The *Tribune* of Friday morning says: "The National Amateur Journalists' Association held their last meeting yesterday morning in the Palmer House. The boys felt good over the banquet of the previous evening, and transacted business on short time. . . . Yesterday afternoon they played a game of ball at the White Stocking Park — a game of five innings between picked nines, the Eastern and Western, resulting in a victory for the latter by a score of 21 to eighteen. Last evening quite a number of the party took a trip on the City of Duluth. The hour of eleven was to be celebrated by the amateur quill-drivers with a grand pillow-fight. Boys will be boys."

But the handsomest compliment of all was paid by Brick Pomeroy, in his well known weekly:

"The amateur editors of the United States, or the editors of these sprightly, spicy, readable amateur newspapers, generally published by boys or young men, assembled to the number of about 100 in Chicago last week and conducted themselves in a manner that many associations of older editors would do well to emulate. They came from various parts of the country, regular and deserving Young America, held their convention, discussed subjects clearly and closely, adopted several excellent resolutions tending to add strength, dignity and patronage to the amateur press. . . . It is now twenty-four years since we started as an amateur editor, with a little paper, *The Sun*, at Corning, N. Y. We have grown out of the atmosphere of youth, but never can forget that once we were a poverty-scarred amateur editor, and never can have in our heart other than good wishes for the boys, the youths, the young men, the amateur editors, some of whom in the course of years will be the leading journalists of this country." The compliments and best wishes of the N. A. P. A. to "Brick."

NATIONAL AMATEUR.
PUBLISHED BY THE N. A. P. A.

This paper is printed quarterly, and sent free to all members of the N. A. P. A. who have paid their dues. To others, 15c a year, payable in advance.

While firmly presiding over the National convention, while gracefully introducing the toasts at the evening's banquet, and while mingling pleasantly with his fellow amateurs, Mr. J. Winslow Snyder was admired by all as a thorough student of Cushing, an eloquent and tasty speech-maker, and an agreeable gentleman socially. It has been his singular good fortune to have had the honor of occupying the presiding officers chair at three successive conventions; as chairman at the organization at Philadelphia during the Centennial, as President at Long Branch in '77, and again as Vice President, in Dingwall's absence, at Chicago. In each instance he did the chair honor, and added to his laurels as an unequalled amateur essayist, those of a thorough parliamentarian. We do hesitate to unofficially state that he is now acknowledged by all to be the leading spirit of the amateur press; and in recognition of the masterly efforts by which he elevated himself to this position, we proclaim him a prince among amateurs.

We cannot say too much in congratulation to Stanton S. Mills on the wonderful oratorical power which is his gift. The eloquent oration, on a topic pertinent to those present at the convention, was received by his delighted auditors with rounds of applause. Mr. Mills is not only master of the "Art Preservative," but a bright writer, and as was ably demonstrated, an interesting speaker.

In presenting Mr. Will T. Hall of Chicago with their highest office, the amateur editors of the United States have entrusted the reins to one with a "will and a way." He has already commenced the performance of the duties of his position with a vim characteristic of the gentleman. We predict a politic and energetic career in office.

Printed for the N. A. P. A. by Arthur J. Huss, Amateur Newspaper Printer, Tiffin, Ohio.

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR.

SUPPLEMENT.

YOUR ATTENTION

Is called to the fact that the National Amateur is mailed only to members of the N. A. P. A., who have paid their dues to July, 1878. The fees are 1.00 a year, and should be sent to the Treasurer, Willis H. Allen, Care "Register," Springfield, Ill. Upon receipt your name will be placed on the mail list. Those not members of the association are requested to subscribe, as the paper will prove interesting to all. It will have no exchanges, and hereafter no free copies will be sent out.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL

Hearing that Postmaster-General Key was to pay his respects to Chicago on Wednesday, August 28th, 1878, the writer resolved upon an interview with the great magnate on the subject of the Postal Law. Accordingly he donned his best apparel, repaired to the Grand Pacific Hotel, presented his card at the office and waited to be "shown up." After an uncomfortable delay, the darkey who had vanished with the pasteboard re-appeared, and informed him "dat de gemmen would see him in Palah B," whither he conducted him. Entering the parlor he was met by a kindly looking gentleman with grey hair, gold bowed spectacles and all that goes to make up the *tout ensemble* of a good natured old man of to-day. He invited the writer to a seat and opened the conversation himself.

"Well, young gentleman, I see by your card that you are President of the National Amateur Press Association."

The writer assured him that he held that position.

"Now, my young friend, let me ask you for detailed description of this institution you call 'Amateur Journalism.' My associate in office, Mr. Marr, has often spoken to me and shown me letters regarding you and your plans."

A brief and concise history of amateur journalism since the time of young Condie's memorable Portfolio, was given the General, and he evinced much interest in the recital and asked many questions.

"Now you came here for a purpose I suppose," said Mr. Key, "state it if you please, as I must make my preparations to leave this afternoon."

"Well, General, I came to see if our little journals are to be crowded out of existence by the enforcement of any clause of the Postal Law."

"No sir; so long as your papers are legitimate *newspapers* and not advertising sheets, and so long as your subscribers out-number your exchanges, you will not be molested."

Here the General arose and we took it as a gentle hint to bid him good day and thank him for his kindness. H.

ARTHUR J. HUSS,
AMATEUR NEWSPAPER PRINTER
TIFFIN, OHIO.

Estimates furnished for a 3c stamp.

This paper is a sample
of my work.