

The National Amateur.

OFFICIAL ORGAN NATIONAL AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION.

VOL. I.

TIFFIN, OHIO, DECEMBER 1, 1878.

NO. 2.

Through the kindness of Delavan W. Gee in furnishing manuscripts, we are enabled to present to the readers of the NATIONAL AMATEUR the speech delivered by Mr. J. Winslow Snyder at the last convention of the association.

MR. SNYDER'S ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN of the National Amateur Press Association: You are all acquainted with the circumstances which have prevented our President from presiding over the deliberations of this convention, and which have suddenly devolved that duty upon me. I might consider it a special and peculiar honor that has fated me to preside at the first three conventions of the N. A. P. A., if not for the thought that grim Fate sends responsibilities rather than honors — and this a responsibility that may only be borne by me when supported by the aid and sympathy of every gentleman present.

There is no subject more pertinent to the occasion, and no inquiry more opportune than the question, — WILL AMATEUR JOURNALISM LIVE?

We were asking this two years ago when the cry was abroad through the land that Amateur Journalism was degenerating; we were asking it two months ago when a threatened rupture between Eastern and Western amateurs imperilled the life of the National Amateur Press Association; we are asking it to-day, when a more stringent enforcement of the postal law has driven certain journals into the dominion of outer darkness.

The history and nature of our institution answer, in my judgment, this question affirmatively. Ten years ago Amateur Journalism came into being, and surely every cause that produced and has thus far sustained it, still lives. Then boys' presses suddenly became cheap, but to-day they are cheaper; then the enterprise and enthusiasm of the American boy discovered itself in a marvelous way, but of a truth the American boy can never want enterprise or enthusiasm; then certain youths became possessed of a moderate journalistic experience, but to-day we have the experience of a ten years' history

made accessible to the new recruits through exchanges and conventions. What then is the logical conclusion to which we are driven? Like causes produce like effects. those causes must live, and the thought bursts upon us, that those motive powers which brought Amateur Journalism into being, and which through ten years have maintained its life, give sure prophecy and promise that our institution will *continue* to exist, through ten more years, thro' a hundred — aye! as far as I can reason — *forever*.

“But no,” one says, “this is merely the sensation of the hour, the excitement will shortly end.” Be not deceived, through judging the experience of an institution by a personal experience. You have been an amateur through four or six years, and perhaps you realize that the force of the old love has spent itself. “But put yourself in his place.” In yonder town an enterprising youth is just entering the ranks, and does he not enter under all those circumstances which made your *debut* a memorable event in life? When first he beholds an amateur paper, think you not that he feels his veins to tingle with all the enthusiasm which ever moved yours? When first his eye beholds the fount of new, bright type, must not the same joy mantle his cheek that once flushed yours? and when for the first time he finds an article of his in print how *can* it be otherwise than that pride and happiness shall drive the blood in mad pulsations as yours was once moved? If he be a youth, ~~with~~ your tastes and hopes, of your ~~enthusiastic~~ temperment and surrounded by the very circumstances that surrounded you, it follows as the day the night that all your enthusiasm and all your devotion and all the ardor of your first love, he must share. No, my friend, Amateur Journalism is not the sensation of an hour. Your interest must, of course, in due season find another center, but as one worshiper leaves the altar another approaches: the flame that perpetually renews itself can never die out.

“But,” answers another, “Amateur Journalism at best is merely child's play.” I deny it, but if it were, that

is no proof that our institution is short lived. Do children's plays exist only a season? Will the game of tag ever die out? No one has any right to suppose so. Indeed, Sir William Black has not found it below the dignity of his great work upon Britain's laws to note that nowhere are the customs of a people more accurately or longer preserved than in the plays of children, where frequently dialogues in such play have not been altered in a word thro' hundreds of years of continual use. Suppose Amateur Journalism is a play, will it ever *therefore* “play out”?

But it is much more than a play, it is an institution and serves to develop and educate us. We enter it with all the ardor with which we engage in a diversion, yet with much of the earnestness that we follow a profession. And it is well that Amateur Journalism should be viewed in the future not so much as a “just-for-the-fun” pursuit but as a practical school to professional journalism. The minister, the lawyer, the physician, has his special institution of training, where a technical culture is given him, and why wonder if the enterprising youth who proposes to make journalism his profession should begin to view amateurdom as the little kingdom at the entrance of the greater. Let me prophecy that in the future Amateur Journalism will be much more generally considered as the best possible training school for the professional journalist. Learning him nothing theoretically, and not merely one part of the profession to the exclusion of the other branches, but teaching at the same time and in most practical lessons, a youth to be the printer, the author, the editor, the press-man and the publisher. As Amateur Journalism is thus viewed in its proper light and full usefulness, another surety is given that it must live.

In my remarks I have aimed to be led by logic to my conclusion, and not driven to it by the enthusiasm of the moment. I acknowledge that the cautious mind has reason to hesitate in following these steps, and to accept other conclusions if the history and nature of Our Institution furnish them. For the

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thought is *startling*, as we pause to grasp it in its full meaning — Amateur Journalism Is Immortal.

But with the thought comes the conviction that such a fact must mean much for us. Are we then the founders of an Institution that shall live in its influences forever? If so, who shall overestimate the responsibility thrown upon us? What does it signify to you and to me? That though the honor be great, the duty is greater, that the future has a lean upon the present, that if the branches of this tree are to grow and spread in usefulness and beauty, it is *our* part to see to the vigor of the trunk, and it devolves upon *us* to mould its tendencies through all the future.

But our time is precious, and I hasten my conclusion. Let us remember our duty, and heed not the cynic or doubter. If I may presume to parody the grandly heroic words of Webster, let me express the hope that when we, the founders and early defenders of Amateur Journalism, retire from the field, and hand to our followers the standard, there be found inscribed upon it no such despairing wail as "Amateur Journalism is degenerating;" or no old foggy's cry that "Amateurism is not what it used to be," but let there glow forth the better, braver words, dear to the hearts of all of us, "Amateur Journalism, upward and onward, now and forever!"

President's Message.

Gentlemen of the National Amateur Press Association:

During the three months which have intervened between the publication of this and the first number of the NATIONAL AMATEUR, considerable has been done by the officers of the association. The most important of these works has been the publication in neat pamphlet form of our Constitution and By-Laws, and perhaps a brief review of the requirements of the document will not be out of place here.

In the first place it allows a right of universal franchise by which every amateur residing in a state having an association and is a member of that association, can become a member of the N. A. P. A. and vote whether present at or absent from its conventions, thus giving all a voice in its affairs.

Another good point is its repudiation

of all persons in any way connected with the disreputable boys weeklies.

Its alternation in the seat of convention will serve to do away with a great deal of the sectional feeling heretofore so prevalent among us.

The conferring of titles, medals, etc., for the most excellent productions from amateur pens will serve to spur our authors and poets on to greater efforts, and the literary exercises provided for the conventions will enhance the interest and call forth a larger attendance.

Altogether the Constitution is a masterly production, and our association can never be too profuse in its thanks to the originators.

I am pleased to observe that the associations of New Jersey, the South Eastern States, and Boston are publishing official organs, and that the Iowa and Eastern A. P. A.'s have taken steps in the same direction. I cannot fail to see the benefit derived from this course, and earnestly urge all local associations to publish official papers.

With regret I notice that several papers are nominating officers for the N. A. P. A., and that suppositions and rumors concerning prospective candidates for different offices are already indulged in. This spirit of early campaigning I regard as very disrespectful to my brethren in office and myself. We are surely doing all in our power to advance the association and amateur journalism, and I cannot conceive why our successors should already be talked of and picked out. It would be better were these papers to aid us with their advice, instead of thinking only of the next election. A campaign is of course inevitable, and far be it from my intentions, or even desires to endeavor to suppress it. But a campaign of eight months will only injure us, as many sensible amateurs will testify. Therefore, looking only to the good of the cause, I particularly request those who have political aspirations to refrain from stating the fact until next March, at least, and I am confident that such a course will redound to their own as well as to the interests of amateur journalism.

Amateurism's Ob't Servant,
PRES. N. A. P. A. Wm. T. HALL.

Membership.

Persons desirous of joining the National Amateur Press Association sho'd

send their names to the First Vice President, who is chairman of the Committee on Credentials. If this committee decides favorably upon a name, it is placed before the association for consideration at its next annual convention. 10 black balls will reject an applicant. The requisites to membership are good character and a connection with amateur journalism. Persons who are puzzlers *only* or who are identified with the New York "Boys' Weeklies" are ineligible. An initiation fee of \$1.00 and annual dues of \$1.00 must be paid upon admittance.

Committees.

On account of the haste with which the contents of number 1 were written the names of the various committees and judges appointed by President Hall were omitted. They are as follows:

Reception Committee: Delavan W. Gee, J. Douglas Lee, Robert L. Sebastian, John Edson Briggs and James F. DuHamel.

Examining Committee: Delavan W. Gee, (Chairman) Chas. C. Heuman, Warren Moore, H. S. Livingston and Willis H. Allen.

Executive Committee: Charles H. Young, (Chairman) George Hancock, and Arthur J. Huss.

Judges of Awards: Class A, Correl Kendall and J. A. Fynes, Jr. Class B, Sam Clover and Donald McKenzie. The First Vice President appoints Geo. H. Fernald as the third member in A, and George W. Hancock in B.

The Committees will find their duties laid down in art. xxii of the Constitution.

Owing to the refusal of Mr. Fynes to forward the association documents in his possession, the present Treasurer is unable to notify persons who joined last year at Long Branch of their indebtedness. Such persons, however, by sending one dollar dues to Treas. Allen and stating that they were among those admitted, will have their names replaced on the membership lists and will be entitled to a regular copy of the official organ and a copy of the Constitution.

Seventy-six persons were present at the Chicago convention and each one paid Treasurer Allen a dollar. \$65 was expended for the banquet.

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OFFICIAL ORGAN N. A. P. A.

At the convention of the National Amateur Press Association held at Chicago, Illinois, the 17th of July, 1875, 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.

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.

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, Carbondale, Ill.
OFFICIAL EDITOR,
C. Clement Chase, Lincoln, Neb.

OUR BROTHERHOOD.

THE BEAUTY of friendship and its strength is nowhere more strongly marked than in our dear, beloved amateur brotherhood, from which has been noiselessly and naturally evolved "that sweetener of life, — mysterious cement of the soul." Better than secret societies, where oaths are binding; in peace better than war, where men become attached in camp-life or the march; superior to citizens' leagues; outranking college associations; *Our Society* is formed where in youth's bright dreams we meet to plan ambitiously the future, and through the best educational medium in the land — the amateur press — hear the names of those, the hands of whom we grasp on meeting with the familiarity of old acquaintance.

"Gay hope is ours, by fancy fed,
Wild wit, invention ever new,
And lively cheer of vigour born."

Flourished in boyhood, nourished in youth and cherished in manhood, our little journals will prove our passports to many a happy hour with congenial companions, when in strange cities of this monster nation we find ourselves unknown save in this fraternal bond. Doors are always open to a visiting brother, his company is always agreeable, for his conversation is of kindred thought; and delightful the moments when now we discuss the latest plans or brightest productions of our little world. Or afterward, as men, look back upon the halcyon days when, in learning a trade, (since, perhaps, of practical value) we clasped the links of a novel brotherhood, never to be bro-

ken. And the memory of honored companions in the cause, who sink into the arms of death ere chilled by the winter wind of sorrow, is revered with obituary and eulogy from sad pens, which make proud the hearts of mourning relatives. Foster this gift! Elevate its literature and look upon it as a godsend.

The Postage Trouble.

THE OFFICIAL Editor has had an interview with the Post-Master General under the most favorable circumstances, and which proved refreshingly satisfactory. We were introduced to this chivalric specimen of a Southern gentleman at a reception in Omaha, and received an invitation to go West with his party. Lucky stars! We were at the Union Pacific train on time with note book, cards and a concise petition relating to amateurdom's grievances, and started out in the elegantly furnished Directors' car of the road. When well on our way, we sat down with Mr. Key, Senator Saunders of Nebraska and Chief Mail Clerk Vandervoort, and discussed thoroughly the points in regard to the postal regulations affecting amateur newspapers, explaining (as did President Hall at Chicago) the uses and intentions of the 'dom, and then offered this subjoined letter, more as a memoranda for Mr. Key, than otherwise:

Hon. David M. Key, }
Post-Master Gen'l. } SIR:

A new regulation of the Post Office Department compelling a certain class of publications that had hitherto taken advantage of the three-cents-a-pound rate, to be prepaid at the rate of a cent for every two ounces or part thereof—has been understood by certain post-masters to include the class known as amateur newspapers, published by boys for amusement or instruction. I would state that the post-master of Cairo, Illinois, is an example, and the young men who publish papers there are seriously inconvenienced by his interpretation of the law.

I would ask, in behalf of the Amateur Fraternity of the United States, that a regulation clearly establishing the right of amateur newspapers to the same rights and privileges as professional journals, be issued to post-masters, or some similar action be taken in the matter. Amateur Journalism, which

is doing so much for the education of American Youth, we think should be encouraged in every way.

Your humble serv't and petitioner,

C. CLEM CHASE,

Official Editor National and Western A. P. A.'s.

Mr. Key read this attentively, said "short and to the point," and promised an *official* answer upon his return to Washington. It will probably be in the shape of an order to post-masters. Mr. Thornburgh, Congressman from Tennessee, assured us that he would see the matter through. So we have strong friends to aid us, brother amateurs. And the ladies, too! What Post-Master General could resist the ladies of the party whom we afterwards met, and who promised to aid us with their prayers? Ah, it was delightful. Watch and wait.

A New Exodus.

PROMPT to the instincts of a noble amateur, Mr. Will L. Wright of Cairo, Ill., started a few months ago an "Amateur Journalists' Contribution" to the sufferers from the yellow fever scourge in the South, and solicited from the young printers and editors of the United States a sum to send there; we are sorry to state that the call was not responded to as it should have been, and so what money Mr. W. received he forwarded in the general relief fund of the U. S. So charitable a scheme should not have failed.

Mr. Wright is himself laboring under difficulties. He was obliged to leave his city once to escape the plague, and it will be remembered that he is the determined editor who publishes the *Egyptian Star*, paying a cent apiece on every number mailed through the Cairo office, and *two cents on every unstamped exchange he receives*, and that, too, after the postage has been prepaid at some other office! That south-western part of Illinois is rightly named Egypt, and may that Post-master Pharaoh be plagued, until a new Moses leads our suffering friend (w)right out of the house of bondage.

Fifteen cents, a shilling and three pence, a dime and a nickle, or five three cent stamps sent to Treasurer W. H. Allen, Carbondale, Ill., will secure this journal for a year. Everybody should subscribe.

THE NEWS

PRESS CONVENTIONS.

The Missouri A.P.A. held its organizing convention at St. Louis Oct. 12, and elected the following officers: President, Lewis W. Beaubien, Vice, C. T. Rogers, Secretary, J. L. Watson, Treasurer, W. Koch, Official Organ, *Western Boys*, Official Editor, A. H. Bohn. Hannibal was appointed for the next meeting place.

The St. Louis Amateur Editors and Authors Union was organized Sept. 13, J. L. Watson being elected President, W. Koch Secretary and Sam Meyer-son Official Editor.

The Ohio A.P.A. held its fifth regular convention at Hamilton, Aug. 21. Will M. Carter was elected Vice President, John M. Kramer Second Vice, S. R. Leiter Secretary, J. M. Finch Treasurer, Elwood Stewart Official Editor, *Composing Stick* Official Organ. Dayton was chosen as the next meeting place.

The Indiana A.P.A. meets Thanksgiving day, as does the New Jersey. The South Eastern convenes at Washington Dec. 27, the New England at Lowell Jan. 1st, the Connecticut at Hartford Dec. 31st, and the Granite State at Concord on the same day.

The Eastern association held a re-organizing convention at New York Nov. 5th. All the old officers were re-elected with the exception of the Vice President, J. C. Worthington, resigned. E. W. Frye was chosen. Washington was appointed as the next meeting place.

PAPERS.

Suspensions: Amateur Iowan, Eastern Star, Crisis, Little Critic, Our Boys and Girls, Bay State Enterprise, Planet, Thunderbolt, Southern Star, Budget, Ohio Spy, Our Western Youth, Sun, Crescent, Quaker City Gem.

New Papers: Boy of To-day, Metropolitan, Argosy, Hub Amateur, Editors Eye, Hartford Era, Portfolio, Spectator, Porcupine, Brilliant, Historian, Amateur Intimidator, Bohemian, Youths Banner, Palladium, Amateur Herald.

Changes: The Beacon has enlarged to eight pages, and the Amateur Blade has altered its name to Our Blade and enlarged to a sixteen page magazine. The Western Star has removed to Waterloo, Iowa, and LeBijou to Rodney,

Miss. Miss Delle E. Knapp has purchased the Fireside Gem from Shelp Bros.

The Imp, Amateur, Welcome Visitor and Aldine have re-appeared and Our Free Lance is promised after the first of January.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

Will K. Graff, formerly of Brooklyn has removed to Indianapolis, Ind.

Joseph P. Clossey recently so severely injured his right hand as to prohibit him from writing, and consequently, from issuing Our Free Lance.

Clarence G. Allen of *Crucible* fame, is employed on one of Washington's professional newspapers.

Samuel W. Lawrence, President of the New England A. J. A., is a typo in the large establishment of Rand, Avery & Co., Boston.

Geo. H. Wheeler, an amateur puzzler who was famous in 75-4-5 as "Italian Boy," recently died at his home in Findlay, O.

St. George Rathborne, better known as Harry St. Clair, has adopted writing as a profession, and grinds out Indian stories at an astonishing rate. While we must condemn the class of literature he produces, we congratulate him upon the success he has achieved financially.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. Ernest A. Stowe is writing a biography of the late Will A. Fiske. — The Iowa Boys are to have an association of their own, to be formed at Cedar Rapids Dec. 27. Misner, Jenkins and VanVechten are drafting a constitution which will be a wonder in its way. May they have a good attendance. — The much esteemed official organ of the Western Association, the Amateur Iowan, has, with the pertinacity characteristic to unfortunate journals which receive that honor, concluded to cease publication. — Will some of our journals ease up on that everlasting, monotonous cry of Fraud in regard to the Chicago conventions? As one of the committee which counted each vote, we assert now, once for all, there could not have been and *was not* the slightest irregularity, as the 3 committee-men were each of a different political faction, and every ballot was read by each separately and afterwards compared. There now! let this end the matter.

IN MEMORIAM

DIED: At his home in Greensburgh, Pa., on the 7th of September, 1878, of Consumption, Samuel L. C. Morris, aged 17 years.

DIED: At his home in Memphis, on the 25th of August, 1878, of Yellow Fever, Walter D. Oakley, aged 22 years.

DIED: At his home in Memphis, on the 13th of September, 1878, of Yellow Fever, W. H. Russell, aged 19 years.

Dead — how sad the thought. Called away at the very beginning of their lives — when their usefulness and enjoyment in this world was but begun.

A Letter from Horatio Alger.

The First Vice President takes pleasure in presenting the following to the notice of the fraternity:

New York, Nov. 5, 1878.

My dear Arthur:

I am glad to hear from you again, and to congratulate you on your election to the office of 1st Vice Pres. of association of Amateur Journalists. Your suggestion seems to be a good one. Many of our eminent writers have had their early ambitions kindled by literary prizes, and even the unsuccessful have been improved by competition. I shall be very happy to co operate with you in carrying out your idea. I authorize you to offer in my name a copy of Taine's "History of English Literature" for the best essay not to exceed in length three pages of the Atlantic Monthly, upon either of the following subjects—

The Orator and the Journalist. Their influence illustrated and compared.

The value of great men as examples.

For the second best essay on either of these subjects I offer Prof Mathew's book, "Getting on in the World."

I feel a very warm and earnest interest in boys and young men, and if by any word or aid of mine I may be able to encourage them to win honors in any field of effort, it will be very gratifying to me.

Your sincere friend,

Horatio Alger, Jr.

In addition to the above, the First Vice President will give a "Bartlett's Dictionary of Familiar Quotations" for the best Essay upon "Amateur Poets and Poetry." The rules governing the awarding of these prizes will be found in arts. xxiii and xxiv of the Constitution.

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