

# The National Amateur.

OFFICIAL ORGAN NATIONAL AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION.

VOL. I.

TIFFIN, OHIO, MARCH 1, 1879.

NO. 3.

IN TWO PAPERS. — PAPER I.

## THE PHILOSOPHY OF AMATEUR JOURNALISM.

**W**ITH firm and continuous existence, the novelty known as the Amateur Press has seen but ten years. Its life cannot be well dated from Franklin, Condie or Hawthorne, — for though brilliant they are isolated — in fact, a good foundation cannot be found but an excellent corner stone was laid by the first establishment of a *Press Association*. In 1869, at New York, the first convention of the National Amateur Press Association was held. So let this be our *Hegira*, or point of reckoning. We exclaim, "What a glorious ten years for the youth of America!" True, radiantly true, but are not the coming ten to form a brighter decade? Much has been done, yet much has not been done, or is not yet ripe the doing. Let us philosophize a little.

The scheme of Amateur Journalism is now sufficiently developed to be mapped in three divisions. In the first are to be classed the great majority of beginners, boys from ten years to fifteen, who, as yet, take no particular interest in amateur papers, but, owning a press and a few types, are content to putter at job work. They are in the *primary* department of the great school — learning the rudiments. Few are there among our authors who have not gained their first ideas of composition, with an invaluable knowledge of punctuation, at the boy's type case. And halcyon are the days when, after fevered attacks on myriad dainty specimen books, the first package from the foundry is sent for and received. If there is a career afterwards, *that* dates it. Much is due to the Novelty printing press, invented by Benj. O. Woods, of Boston. Little thought of as it is now, it was a prize then, and the first and only boy's press made. Crowded out by handsomer, cheaper and far more efficient machines, both hand and self-inking, the old, noisy Novelty no longer has a place in the market. But

let us not forget the friend of our youth; it should be an emblem, crude as it is, of and for all Amateurdom.

To the second division belongs the novice, who having successfully combated the misfortunes of pi and melted rollers, emerges into the new and bewildering field of journalism and becomes a bona-fide editor. A decidedly boyish one, to be sure, yet only lacking experience, culture, to rank him with the best. In conducting his new plaything, — which soon becomes more than a toy — he strengthens his knowledge of typography, learns a little of business affairs and relations, a little from his amateur fraternity and more than a little of writing. He usually fixes a price on his journal, the average being 25 cents per annum, and generally clears enough for all pocket money. Where before he lavished bushels of laboriously printed calling cards upon his 'girl,' he now puts her name on his free list and perhaps sends her his exchanges. The average age of this aspiring genius is from fourteen to seventeen, and there he branches into a new and higher sphere.

This, then, the third and last division in the analysis, includes authors, poets, editors, and above all the essayist and critic. It is the training school for what lies so closely beyond, — the *professional press*. His rough edges polished, improved by contact with the bright lights of the amateur newspaper world, sharpened by his business associations and matured in mind, he is prepared to compose a different class of articles and dip his pen in a new channel. He has reached the highest circle to be gained in this mimic world of ours, and the only one of true love and enjoyment. The two other stages of progress are novel, are delightful, but only so because they are whirls of excitement. The calm, dignified sense of dawning manhood; that he can write worthy of criticism by his brother editors; that he can, in turn, exchange a note with them: that it is not mere trifling — "dallying in the rose-colored atmosphere," as the *Boston Globe* once expressed it, and that he is privileged to associate with

some of the brightest of American Youth who compose this novel, Nineteenth Century, ten year old scheme of literary education. C.C.C.

United We Stand.

**M**ANY times has the 'Dom been electrified by suggestions that it undertake the execution of certain giant schemes. It is moved that we be represented at Paris, or that we forthwith publish a mammoth weekly newspaper. Whether or not it would be wise to so employ our strength may be a question, but that the accomplishment of these enterprises or any other great ones demand strength is a "very" certainty. But strength only comes from union. "In union there is strength," and we are not told that it is anywhere else. Thus then are we forced to the conclusion that there must *first* be union among the amateurs of the United States, whether or not their next step will be to publish giant weeklies, startle World Expositions or take care of themselves.

But how shall we obtain union? By organizing. What kind of an organization? Why, plain enough, if we want in one union every honorable amateur in the United States it must be a National Organization. Ergo, we can only work out our deliverance by means of the National Amateur Press Association. All this follows as the day the night. It is true that all amateurs may not endorse the past course of the N.A.P.A., and they may even give us reasons why they themselves have not made it better and reformed it sooner, but all this has nothing to do with the fact that if great works demand great strength, and if great strength can only be found in real union, and if real union can alone spring from a National Organization, that the formation of the National Amateur Press Association involves the right principle and promises real benefits. Do you not admit this reasoning? If so it is your plain duty to join us, even though you may condemn our course and pity our condition. If an engine of strength is

doing a work of evil, do not annihilate the power, but turn it to the accomplishing of good. If power be wrong in itself destroy the engine, if organization be wrong in itself destroy the Association; but if you believe the *idea of union* to be the true idea, you thereby admit that the vine itself is sound and promising and that the only need is to prune the branches. If the fountain head of the stream is pure there is always reason to hope that the stream may be made a blessing. Join us and reform us; your works will shame us more than your words.

If we are to establish a great weekly newspaper or a classic monthly magazine, the National Amateur Press Association offers the most promising medium for the accomplishment of so giant an enterprise; if we are to startle the Romans at the World's Exposition of '80 by having the walls of the Coliseum, which once shook with the roar of the Numidian lion, re-echo in glad strains the hum of the printing press, the National Amateur Press Association offers the most available power for the work. In short, the N. A. P. A. *must*, as a matter of course, represent the united, living powers of the 'Dom, and what can be done it can do.

—J. WINSLOW SNYDER.

Various Matters.

**T**HERE is a great deal of misunderstanding among members of the association regarding the distribution of copies of the Constitution, and we take this opportunity of stating that *everybody*, members included, must pay ten cents for the document. So it was ruled at Chicago. Therefore those who have not received their book will know the reason. Copies may be obtained of the Corresponding Secretary, 919 Melon St., Phila.

Prize Awards is also a matter which is not generally understood among members, and we subjoin an extract from *The Stylus*, which explains the subject very well: "The Constitution provides that the titles of Poet Laureate, Historian Laureate, etc., shall be conferred upon those whose compositions printed in competition for the prizes, shall deserve them, in the eyes of the judges. It is also provided that prizes may be offered by local associations or private individuals, to those

who excel in a certain branch. Thus if an author competes for a prize offered for a serial, story or sketch, he must print his production in an amateur paper and send two copies to the Second Vice President, (Fred M. Cornell, 57 South Oxford St., Brooklyn.) Dept. A, three months before convention, stating for which prize or title he desires to compete. Poems, Essays and Histories of Amateur Journalism must be sent to the Third Vice President, Dept. B. (Frank M. Morris, 161 Pendleton Ave., Indianapolis) These officers in turn send the productions to the judges in their departments, these judges render their decisions and forward the same to the President, who announces them in convention." To this we might add that special prizes (as Mr. Alger's) are decided by the same judges and in the same manner and are in every way subject to the same rules as the title awards provided for in the Constitution. One composition can be entered for but one prize tho' an author can compete for as many as he desires. Competitors will please bear in mind that articles must be printed in an amateur paper and 2 copies of the paper be sent to the department *three months before convention*.

To date the following special prizes have been offered:

By Horatio Alger, Jr., Taine's "History of English Literature" for the best and Mathew's "Getting On In The World" for the second best essay, not to exceed in length three pages of the Atlantic Monthly, upon either, "The Orator and the Journalist, Their Influence Illustrated and Compared," or, "The Value of Great Men as Examples."

By Edward A. Oldham, a Soule's "Synonyms" for the best poem in imitation of Poe, and a Gill's "Life of Poe" for the best sketch or novelette written in Poe's style.

By Arthur J. Huss, Bartlett's "Dictionary of Familiar Quotations" for the best essay upon "Amateur Poets and Poetry."

By Frank L. Seaver, a Fields' "Yesterdays With Authors," or (as the winner may choose) a Bartlett's "Dictionary of Americanisms" for the best essay upon "Amateur Authors and Their Writings."

The manner of election, in that the important event will soon take place,

should be clearly understood by everybody. The manner, however, is well laid down in the Constitution and it is probably more a question of *who shall vote*. So we will state that (1) No person except a *member of the association* is entitled to a ballot; (2) those who joined the association at Long Branch are not entitled to vote unless they have remitted their dues, \$1, to Treasurer Allen, and (3) no member in any way indebted to the society is entitled to a vote.

Members of the association meet in their own state two months previous to the National Convention to cast their ballots, which shall be in the form:

NEBRASKA A. P. A.

For President of the National Amateur Press Association,

—WILLIAM T. HALL—

C. CLEMENT CHASE.

( Other officers in the same style )  
The officers of the state association shall count the ballot in the presence of the assembly and make memorandum giving the total number of votes cast and the number each candidate received. The votes shall with a certificate, signed by the officers of the state association, stating that the ballot inclosed is the one cast by the members of their society at such a time and such a place, be inclosed in an envelope and mailed to the Recording Secretary of the National. And the memorandum with a second certificate stating that the figures in said memorandum give the correct number of votes cast by their society for officers of the National, shall be mailed to the First Vice of the N.A.P.A. These votes shall be counted at the convention and the person having a majority shall be declared elected. All the minor officers and the place of meeting are chosen in the same manner.

In conclusion, no state association should refuse a vote, but should send in every one cast. The Examining Committee of the National will decide as to the validity of votes, and all invalid ones will be ruled out by them.

Will E. Nichols, of New Haven has just issued a cabinet photograph of the "Don's Leaders." Forty faces are shown. Price, 50 cents.

# THE NATIONAL AMATEUR.

## National Amateur.

OFFICIAL ORGAN N. A. P. A.

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.

This paper is printed quarterly and sent free to all members of the N. A. P. A. who have paid their dues. To others, for 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.

--Members of the association who are editors can aid the society considerably by advertising the Constitution, which is for sale at 10 cents a copy by the Cor. Secretary, J. Fred Eberle, 919 Melon St., Philadelphia.

—The time-honored custom of indulging in a banquet at the close of a Convention's labors is at least productive of much good feeling and happy expressions of brotherly regard, if not displaying the finest delicacies of the caterer. We do not appreciate such cold lunch spreads as the late NAPA supper at the Palmer. Could all the boys there have tasted the elegant and tempting dishes set before the members of the Western A. P. A. during their first meeting at Omaha! It was at the Grand Central Hotel — since destroyed by fire — and was a *banquet*, in truth. Served in a private parlor, giving seven different courses, with a procession of immaculately dressed darkies at the commencement of every one — allowing one waiter to every two boys. It was an affair ever to be remembered. May we live to see something like this at the Capital!

--In accordance with the already popular Constitution of the National, many states are forming or re-organizing their individual associations, and putting themselves in training for their summer semi-annuals, when the all and ever exciting balloting for "National" officers will take place. It pleases us to notice the establishment of official organs, which are productive of closer union in the clubs and of constant interest to amateurs throughout the country.

### A National Amateur Directory.

From *The Stylus*.

Apropos of Winslow's assertion in the last *National Amateur* that what can be done by the 'dom the National Amateur Press Association can do, the idea of having a National Directory published under the auspices of this our representative society, has suggested itself to us. That a finely gotten up Directory, above all things, shows Amateur Journalism to the public in a favorable light, is a fact which cannot be disputed. Yet notwithstanding this, such a volume has not been published since 1876. Innes Directory of that year being the last book of the kind issued. Nor can we blame the youthful publisher for "steering clear" of this kind of publications, as directories in these later days have been singularly unprofitable investments. But for all that, we believe a book could be published by the National in such a manner as to make it a paying institution. The splendid Annuals issued from '70 to '73 by Boston and Chicago companies, even tho' they furnished well executed portraits of prominent amateurs and were printed in the very best style paid handsome profits. And so did Frank Cropper's Amateur Journalist's Companion, that splendid book issued several years ago. The reason for failures in our present time is a lack of business tact and promptness in fulfilling promises. But this the association could easily overcome. — But to be brief, we propose —

That the National at its next Convention vote an appropriation for the purpose of publishing a Directory, such appropriation being sufficient to cover all legitimate expenses. Let the Convention *in toto* appoint three persons to compile this volume, these three persons to be under the direction of the *President of the association*. Give the President power to direct the mode of compilation and make it his duty to prepare the manuscripts for final publication. The Directory for 1879 shall be published January 1, 1880. This Directory, which shall bear on the title page the fact that it is published by the N.A.P.A., shall print a portrait and life of the President of the society and a history of the events which have occurred during the year for which it is dated, besides the usual lists of papers, etc. It shall have an edition of 300 copies, shall be sold for 25 cents a copy and shall be sent free to *no one* except the compilers.

This is no slight fancy, intended to die as soon as it is born. We shall at the Washington convention present the plan in a suitable shape for adoption, and shall work to have it put under way. In the meantime, we ask for the criticisms of the Critic's League and of every amateur editor.

### President's Message.

GENTLEMEN OF THE NATIONAL AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION:—

Another three months have rolled quickly by, and I find it again time to pen a message to our association. These three months have not been instrumental in bringing forward anything startling in the ranks, but we find ourself once more in the old way, running with routine regularity.

I deem it time to appoint a definite date for our next Convention, and set Wednesday, July 16th, as the day. This I hope will find favor in the eyes of all amateurs interested.

I have also made the following appointments: Orator, J. Winslow Snyder; Essayist, Will W. Winslow, and Poet, Frank M. Morris.

I am now forcibly reminded of the fraternity in a very pleasant manner, by the large picture taken at the Chicago Convention. It has more than met my expectations and is a masterpiece of photography, containing as it does the likenesses of forty-six well known amateurs.

Again I would call the attention of all aspirants for the Laureateship and other honors to have their articles printed in some amateur paper as soon as possible and send two marked copies to the officers in charge of the departments, as per Constitution. The Second and Third Vice Presidents will receive no articles after April 15, and will index them and send copies to the Judges of Awards before May 16.

From the present time until June 15 I will receive bids for printing the Official Organ during the year 1879-80.

According to the Constitution all State Associations whose members belong to the N.A.P.A., are required to convene in their own state during the month of May and cast their ballots for our officers, and in this *all* the requirements of our Constitution *must* be complied with. No person not a member of the N.A.P.A. is allowed to vote and no person in arrears for dues shall be considered an active member.

The Washington convention will no doubt be a great event in the history of Amateur Journalism, and I hope the spirit of harmony now pervading the ranks will continue and help to make it so.

W.T.HALL.

# THE NATIONAL AMATEUR.

## THE NEWS

### PRESS CONVENTIONS.

Iowa A. J. A. was formed at Cedar Rapids Dec. 27, electing F. L. Misner President, Louis Schliep and Ed Shaw Vice Presidents, J. A. Cook Secretary, C. N. Jenkins Treasurer, R. Van Vechten Official Editor. The next meeting will be held at Washington. The association will publish its own organ, the *Hawkeye Amateur*.

The New England A. J. A. held its third semi annual convention at Lowell Jan. 1. C. E. Stone was elected President, L. E. Tilden, J. H. Burgess and R. Metcalf, Vice Presidents, George Fernald Secretary, and Wm. E. Nichols Treasurer. Providence is the next meeting place.

The New York A. P. A. was organized at Brooklyn Nov. 30. Chas. H. Young was elected President, W. Boyesen and W. F. Babcock Vice Presidents, J. H. Miller and Will T. Scofield, Secretaries, Henry Kahrs, Treas. Next meeting at Albany in May.

The Indiana A. P. A. met at Indianapolis Nov. 29. Frank M. Morris was elected President, D. P. Thomas First Vice President, R. H. Muse Secretary, F. C. Fisbeck, Treasurer, *Welcome Visitor*, Official Organ.

The Connecticut A. P. A. held its third annual convention at Hartford, Dec. 31, and elected Will E. Nichols President, S. T. DeLee and Harry Hayden Vice Presidents, A. N. Daniels secretary, Park Lockrow, Treasurer, *Autumn*, Official Organ and G. A. Vroom, editor. Meeting place, New Haven.

The Columbia A. P. A. was formed Jan. 15 at Washington, electing J. W. Garner president, Richard Topham vice president, James DuHamel secretary, W. Topham treasurer, J. Ran Tucker sergeant at arms, *Youths Advocate*, Official Organ.

The South Eastern A. P. A. met at Washington Dec. 27, electing James DuHamel president, T. F. Hiseberger C. H. Richardson and D. W. Gee vice presidents, J. W. Garner and C. R. Waller, Secretaries, H. F. Seving, treasurer and R. Topham official editor.

### PAPERS.

*New Papers*: Satirist and Chief. Omaha, High School News, Keokuk, Ia, Sphinx's Spirit and Fynes' Fancy, Boston, Boys and Girls Own, Frederic, Md., Censor, LaCrosse, Wis., Dew Drop,

Lancaster, N. Y., Register, New York, Hawkeye Amateur, Cedar Rapids, Ia, Eclipse, Boston, Youth's Advocate, Washington, Star, Trenton, Mo., Amateur Journalist, St. Louis.

*Notable Suspensions*: Paris of America, Buffalo Amateur, Puzzler's Own, Young Aspirant, (Springfield) Ray.

*Enlargements*: Editor's Eye, Amateur Hoosier, National Gem, Aldine, Our Choice, Boys' Acme.

The Index, Telephone and Megaphone have decreased in size. Lowell Independent, Courier and New Ipswich Times have re-appeared. Post and Tribune has consolidated with the Dew Drop.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

Karl C. Velraf received one dollar a chapter for Irene and five dollars for every instalment of Two Fair Bedouins. — Caleb Cushing was an amateur editor. — Amateurs vary greatly in age. C. E. Stone is 22, Joe Clossey 21, A. J. Huss 17, Correl Kendall 21, Delavan Gee 19, the editor of the Fostoria Ohio Pearl is only 14, C. H. Young is 18, Alonzo Brown 24, Velraf about 26 and the editor of this paper 19. — James E. Elderdice, "Hermit," expects to realize enough from his productions before July to pay his expenses to the National convention. — *The Cleveland Leader* and *Herald* frequently dab each other "amateur editors," no doubt thinking this appellation signifies great contempt. — Cook Bros. are compiling a guide for Iowa.

### PERSONAL ITEMS.

Will Clemens, an amateur notorious a few years ago, is now publishing a Sunday paper at Akron, O.

George Hancock, the popular Chicago punster, has begun business as a commission merchant.

J. A. Fynes, Jr., secretary of the association in 1877, is a reporter for the Boston Daily Herald.

Ed S. Ebbert, editor of the old *Backeye Boy* of '73, is now general agent for an Insurance company at Cincinnati. George M. Huss, his colleague in the amateur publishing business, is employed in the western department of the Lancashire Insurance company, Chicago.

Clarence Mooar, well known in the times gone by as editor of the *Cut* and *Valley City Gem*, is now the proprietor of a large and prosperous printing establishment in Covington, Ky.

George H. Fernald is in a "slick" position — with an oil company.

Ned K. Knight, well known in Detroit society, fell and broke his wrist on Woodward Ave. last week. — *Andrews American Queen*. Ned will be remembered as the publisher of the *Venture*, several years back — and a very successful venture it was, too, the paper making several hundred dollars during its career.

Says the Canton, Ohio, *Repository* of February 7th:

We learn that our young friend Ned Locke, who is teaching in the Miller District, five miles south-west of the city, is also beginning his life work by preaching to the people among whom he is laboring, every alternate Sabbath. A gentleman who heard his first effort thinks that Ned will prove abundantly successful in his chosen profession of the christian ministry.

Locke will be remembered by amateurs of several years sojourn in the ranks, as the genial editor of *Our Arena*, published at Alliance, Ohio, in '73-4-5. Very popular among his amateur associates, we doubtless express their desires by wishing him a long and successful career in his chosen profession.

The columns of this organ were not designed for political discussions, nor was it intended that the occupant of the editorial chair should abuse his privileges for the promotion of any particular clique — so we cannot push our quill as vociferously as we wish, or say all our feelings call on us to say in reply to the article by Stowe, on the W. A. P. A. in the *Composing Stick*. But we can explain, as ex-President of that worthy society, that we took the authority into our own hands when presiding at its late meeting to close the discussion of the consolidation of the old and new associations, and refused to recognize the delegates from the former, because we were prejudiced by their rowdyish and insolent manner, cocking their feet on the elegantly upholstered chairs of the Palmer and spitting there filthy tobacco juice over the floor. At the time we were confident, and still are certain, that this repugnance was shared with us by our brother amateurs, or our gavel would not have dropped so unceremoniously