

The National Amateur.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NATIONAL AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION.

Vol. II.

Richmond, Va., December, 1879.

No. 2.

UNCLE SAM ON HIS EAR.

"Kind Editors, We've Important Information."

J. EDSON BRIGGS.

It has been not unfrequently remarked that "we rarely appreciate good health or prosperity till sickness or adversity overtakes us." While our quotation may be at fault as regards its accuracy, its application will be none the less *appropos*. We are led to preamble our article with this wise utterance because in casually glancing at the history of the amateur press, we cannot but realize how great the prosperity of the 'Dom is due to the hitherto untold benefits of the pound rates which Uncle Sam kindly extended to our miniature papers and the comparatively dull appreciation with which our amateurs have ever held these benefits. Not until we are suddenly deprived of these inestimable postal privileges and are brought to the bitter reality of what will be the future of the mimic press if the fatal blue stamp law is forced upon us each and all. Do we, then, fully comprehend the truth of the quotation which begins our article.

No doubt many of our readers, especially those who may be so fortunate or otherwise as to be the publisher of an amateur paper, will wonder why we are led to write upon this subject. Their wonder will soon vanish, however, when we inform those who are not already aware of the fact that Assistant Postmaster-General Marr has lately issued an official circular, which many of our contemporaries may consider a death-blow to amateur journalism.

Here it is :

"OFFICE FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL,
Washington, D. C., Sept. 30th, 1879.

"The Department is so overwhelmed with questions submitted by publishers of certain amateur papers asking for reasons which has actuated it in holding their publications inadmissible to the mails as second-class matter, that it deems it advisable to issue the following general circular as embodying its views upon this subject.

"It desires to state in a general way that amateur publications are accorded the same treatment as other publications offered for mailing, but the following specific reasons are given, as showing why so many publications of this class are excluded from the second-class rates of postage, to-wit:

"First, they are not issued from a known office of publication as defined by Section 156 of the Laws and Regulations, which is in terms 'a public office for the transaction of the business of the periodical where orders may be received for subscriptions and advertisements during the usual business hours.'

"Second, they are not originated and published for the dissemination of information of a public character or devoted to literature, the sciences, arts of some special industry, within the contemplation of the Act of March 3d, 1879. It regarded as one of the prerequisites of a second-class publication, that it contain matter of public interest in some one of the great departments of life. It must subserve some public use or merit some public demand. Amateur papers as a rule do neither the one nor the other.

"Third, They have no legitimate list of subscribers but are published for the purpose of exchanging with other publications of the same class.

"Many of them are published for gratuitous circulation, in order to obtain the benefit of the free country distribution, and not a few of them by persons system-

atically engaged in defrauding the public who assume the role of amateurs for the purpose of misleading the public as to the nefariousness of their practices.

"The Department finds no evidence of the latter in your case, but adjudges your publication as third-class matter because of the first three reasons stated.

Respectfully,

"JAMES H. MARR,

"Acting First Assist. Postmaster-General."

When we first read this red-lettered official document, we thought it was all up with the amateur press, and that the sooner we folded up our little tents and stole away the better it would be for us. We at once called upon the great Mogul who dwells in the handsome marble building known as the United States Postoffice, and soon made known our mission. Thereupon the above circular was politely handed us for perusal. This occupied but little time, and after a long conversation with the high dignitary we departed, uncertain as to whether we were comforted or crushed. Our space in the AMATEUR is far too limited to rehearse all that long harangue. Accordingly, we shall simply inform our contemporaries just what relations will henceforth exist between the Postoffice and the Amateur Press.

In the first place our amateur editors may rest assured that the onslaught upon our papers will by no means be quite so general as might be supposed from reading the circular. The first of the three reasons embraced therein is the one which our editors most frequently violate. In order that their papers may obtain pound rates, they must comply with this regulation to the full letter of the law. In other words, every paper must state in its publisher's notice that "such or such a place is the business office," naming the number and street. It will be well to examine the publisher's notice in the last issue of the *Imp*. Section two of the aforesaid circular can injure us but little. Section three, ditto. What our embryo editors must do is this: If your postmaster is one of those semi-numbskull country dignitaries who is either unable or insufficiently educated in the postal laws to pronounce upon the rights of your journal to the pound rates you must fight your own battle and proceed to convince him that your paper fulfills every requirement of the postal regulations, which you can enumerate. You can also inform him that the postoffice at Washington has pronounced favorably upon a large number of other amateur publications which have been sent there by other doubtful local postmasters for their judgment.

Whenever a paper has a known office of publication, a legitimate list of subscribers, and is not issued for the purpose of circulating doubtful literature. Uncle Sam's authorities cannot refuse it the rights of second-class matter. Very many, if not four-fifths of our papers

are still enjoying the pound rates, presumably because their respective postmasters have not as yet been presented with the late official circular issued by the Washington postoffice. Nor will they be troubled with a copy unless they suddenly happen to pause to consider whether amateur papers ought to pass through the mails at pound rates, and accordingly write on to Washington for instructions. Then will one of these circulars be sent to them. Should he after digesting the same fail to deem your paper eligible, you should forward a copy to the Washington authorities and present your case briefly and truthfully. Anything in our power to help you through will be cheerfully performed if you but write us your troubles.

In conclusion, we can say that we do not apprehend any very serious results from the late attitude of the Postoffice. While it may be the means of rejecting from the mails a large number of insignificant, ink-bedubbed publications, it cannot affect our more worthy journals. This, then, will perhaps be an incentive to each amateur aspirant for editorial honors to issue a really deserving paper. At least, such is devoutly to be hoped, and possibly Uncle Sam, as the guardian angel of the amateur press, may be crowned with the well-earned wreath of dandy-lions.

First Vice-President's Department.

WILL L. WRIGHT, CAIRO, ILLS.

OUR CONSTITUTION.

THE COURSE TO PURSUE.

Every contrivance and invention must be tried before its merits can be pronounced. No matter how complete, how perfect a thing may be apparently, when subjected to a test the fact will oftentimes be revealed that while it possesses many good qualities it is not without its defects. Then it becomes one's duty to consummate our machine as far as possible and—try it again. * * * As all know, the much-heralded Constitution of our National Amateur Press Association has, to use a common expression, been weighed and found wanting. Although seemingly clear and concise, it has proven, while good in many respects, not entirely faultless. It therefore devolves upon us as members and well-wishers of the cause, not to follow what may perchance be our inclinations and despair of ever obtaining a foundation on which to rest our endeavors; neither does it become us to discourage others by expressions of hopelessness, but rather recognize the incumbrances, grapple with them and put forth our

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every endeavor to enhance the cause, not by a fruitless attempt to build up a new from material of dissention in the old Association, but to energetically and heroically stand by the Union, revise our Constitution, and remodel our organization. It behooves us to show to the world that we are not to be foiled by what we may consistently term mere trifles. Why, if we cannot lift our Association out of a predicament, what folly it is to build up another to be ultimately hurled into like emergencies—remember, say we, if we haven't strength enough to free ourselves from present shackles what better encouragement what brighter guarantee of relief have we to look forward to in a new goal of embarrassment? Come! let us prove ourselves equal to the emergency, ready and willing to redeem our past irregularities, and receive by our meritorious course the grateful encomiums of an appreciative public. Let us again unite our forces, strengthen our will, harmonize our hearts, energize our laudable aims and make glorious once more the good old cause. Come! Prove not a traitor to yourself and to "the noblest work ever engaged in by the American youth"; do not blemish by wrong-doing your conscience and the respect in which others hold you; give us no more vapid vapors, no more wild, fanatical theories of new associations; but let your watchword be Our National Association! Though it be threatened of tempest and surrounded by the rocks of innumerable difficulties, we have the will of heart and strength of hand to guide it safely through its trials and tribulations, and by heaven, we swear IT MUST AND WILL BE PRESERVED!

A short time since we had the pleasure of a conversation with Herbert Clark, Mark Kerr, Will Carter and other Cincinnati amateurs, who are to arrange matters for the Convention next year, and they evince a determination to do everything in their power to make the meeting a grand success. They have, we believe, already spoken for the Grand Hotel, one of the finest in the country and with the bright array of attractions presented by the Paris of America, all who attend will not be disappointed with their visit. As to the Convention itself it will, of course, be a rouser, and to enliven matters a little we offer a prize (the nature of which will be made known hereafter) for the most logical revision of the Constitution presented thereat. Next number we will have more to say in regard to the matter, and in the meantime, set your wits to work and see what you can accomplish for the good of our noble cause. W. L. W.

A NEW CRUSADE.

The question is often put by elders, possibly with a sarcastic tinge, is, what may be the aim of Amateurdome? In two former papers under the title of the "Philosophy of Amateur Journalism," we

have endeavored to point out the peculiar education which it gives to those who approach it in the proper spirit, and the occupation it affords to youths who would otherwise be found in idler, and, no doubt, less beneficial amusements. There is, however, an object broader and nobler yet than this, as first preached from New York, in years ago, by then prominent members of our clan, but which is seldom boasted now, because it has not been faithfully held up as the best and noblest aim of Amateurdome. I refer to the extinction of that bane of American boys and girls, Sensational Literature, through the counterbalancing effect of amateur newspapers. As yet we have not been powerful enough to accomplish this peculiar reform, so enthusiastically mapped out by our predecessors, for reasons into which this article proposes to enquire.

In the first place, if our youthful editors determine on such a colossal undertaking they must understand that they can only undersell rival tradesmen by making their wares more attractive and, at the same time cheaper. The vulgar, oft-times obscene weeklies which are sown broadcast over this country, by publishing houses in New York, catch the eye of Young America by the highly inflammatory titles and sensational wood cuts which adorn their botchy pages, and the tender reader imbibes so much of this style of literature that his mind is utterly unfitted for anything better. A fair estimate would place the combined circulation of these brain-eating, mind-destroying papers at half a million copies weekly. Using the thinnest paper, the poorest ink and the cheapest prints, the proprietors retail these sheets at the lowest figure and pocket enormous profits.

How can this be counterbalanced and defeated? Let us note the contents of a juvenile weekly of opposite character, whose bright, clean pages are quite as eagerly read by not only the children, but their parents, in every cultivated home in the land. That publication, the *Youth's Companion* of Boston, which for fifty years has aimed to give only the purest, pleasantest tales to its young subscribers. This is a pattern from which the young editor wishing to accomplish some good in his sphere, may well model, and fill his amateur columns with the variety of interesting stories and sketches which grace those of his professional standard.

It occurs to the writer, in looking over his eight happy years of work in the field of amateur literature, that if we have not degenerated we have at least changed the contents of our papers for the worst. Those piquant sketches by Dennis, Dowes, Kendall, Terhune, Yelraf, Case, Diehl and Gerner lit up the columns of my exchanges, with an occasional serial which held me in eager expectation for each succeeding chapter. Now I pick up a paper whose narrow space is completely filled with a criticism of a late convention, (which the editor

did not attend) or an editorial abusing a brother amateur in the vilest manner, from neither of which can we receive the least glow of pleasure. In the old times we had, for instance, the "Vicissitudes in the Life of Jack Hamilton" in the old *Venture*, (printed at Detroit, in '71) or the "Boston Belle" commenced in that Jupiter of amateur journals, *Our Boys*, or the bright sketches in the *Coruscopia*, or the humorous productions of the editor of *Now and Then*, Chattanooga, Tenn. Or who can forget those two charming fictions by Farley, in *Our Enterprise* of Wisconsin, "Stealing a Kiss" and "Winning a Kiss?"

What do we find now? Our journals are smaller than formerly, in more than one sense of the word, and that too little space is changed from a repository of the literary productions of the best amateur writers, to a mere critical review of cotemporaries, when, forsooth, there is pitifully little to review! Let those who have such, glance over the back files of our worthy antecedent journals and observe whether the comparison is not damaging? Why should an editor be obliged to meet with the full account of an amateur press convention in every one of his cotemporaries? Such proceedings are assuredly not entertaining to outsiders. Leave those records to the official organs whose duty it is to publish correct minutes of all meetings. Confine purely "amateur" remarks, uninteresting to the casual reader, to a column, or better, a half a column. How insipid to read. "The *Star* hails from Bugtown, Arizona;" how trite and peurile the remark, "The *Globe* is a new one from Sandusky."

Oh, if our bright boys would but concentrate their energies wasted in concocting, for political ends, low allegations against candidates for office, and devote their growing minds to brisk stories and happy serials; if, in fact they would not look forward to the yearly installation of officers in the National Association as the sole ultimatum of their labors and the highest of Amateurdome's aims. Such a change would shine over the "spirit of our dream" as would start afresh the rusty pens of long-idle authors, the outside youthful public would be given such reading matter as they could appreciate, subscription books would be full, and we might confidently look for the decay of sensational literature.

C. Clement Chase

OBITUARY.

Died, at his home, Plainfield, N. J., on August 12th, 1879, of Typhoid fever, M. L. ANGLEMAN. He was twenty years of age, and had been in the amateur ranks since '76, being a prominent member of the N. J. A. P. A., and editor of the *Jersey City Amateur Journal*.

The National Amateur.

Official Organ N. A. P. A.

[Formally entered at the Postoffice at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter, in accordance with Section 199 of the Postal Laws and Regulations.]

C. CLEMENT CHASE, Editor,
LINCOLN, NEB.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

PRESIDENT:

John Edson Briggs..... Washington, D. C.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

First, William L. Wright..... Cairo, Ill.
Second, Arthur B. Perry..... Norfolk, Va.
Third, Herbert A. Clarke..... Cincinnati, Ohio.

SECRETARIES:

Corresponding, Frank N. Reeve..... Newark, N. J.
Recording, J. Fred Eberle..... Philadelphia, Pa.

TREASURER:

Frank M. Morris..... Indianapolis, Ind.

OFFICIAL EDITOR:

C. Clement Chase..... Lincoln, Neb.

The Publication and Business Office of this paper is at 907 BANK STREET, RICHMOND, VA.

The National Amateur Press Association is composed of the amateur editors, authors, publishers and printers of the United States, who meet yearly, during the month of July for the purpose of acquaintance and transacting such business as may come before it. The next Convention will be held in Cincinnati, O., subject to the call of the President.

This Organ is published by the Association and is free to its members, but to all others 15 cents per annum postpaid.

EXTRACTS FROM CONSTITUTION.

Article XVI.—Section 1.—Any person who is actively interested in Amateurdom is the publisher of an amateur paper, or a contributor to the Amateur Press, or an amateur printer or engraver, and resides in the United States of America may become a member of this Association by conforming with the requirements set forth in this Constitution and these By-Laws, and no person shall be entitled to the privileges of membership until he has. Persons who are Puzzlers only are not construed by this section to be contributors to the Amateur Press.

Section 2.—No person connected with or contributing to the Boys' Weekly papers: 'The New York Boy's Weekly,' 'Our Boys,' 'Boys of New York,' and 'Frank Leslie's Boys' and 'Girls' Weekly' being samples—or no disreputable person shall be eligible to membership.

OSWALD L. WILLIAMS, PRINTER, RICHMOND, VA.

A VEXED QUESTION.

A new and distressing feature of amateur politics has manifested itself since the last National Convention, which threatens to work more harm in our happy circles than any discussion which has yet arisen. It is with sorrow that we see its discussion spreading over the land and becoming more bitter at every turn, and as it is not merely a question original with Amateurdom but one of National importance and great significance, its end is not clear to be seen. We speak of the distinction of color, the so called Civil Rights in Amateur Press Associations. At the Chicago Convention in '78, there was present, for the first time a modest, dignified young negro who had earned some little reputation as the editor of *Le Bijou* of Rodney Miss. Had he been more widely known, and his name then and there proposed for an office he would have received it without a dissenting vote, as Southern representation was a minimum. At the Convention of '79 at Washington, D. C., Mr. HERBERT A. CLARK, the gentlemen referred to, again appeared, and after a hot fight in a "Briggs's caucus," he was proposed for and elected to the unmovable position of third vice-president. To this denouement of amateur—patterned so

closely after professional politics—the large number of representatives from the Southern States objected; not very vociferous then, but much more so afterward, when they realized that he might in the absence of superior officers, have the chair at Cincinnati. As to their perfect right to object, it is not the province of the official editor to enquire, as it is not looked for in him to express his private opinion in this organ and so we only criticise the general evil arisen from this discussion, rather than the question itself of Civil Rights.

It is a maxim, applicable to all, that every man has a right to his own mind, and those who chance to be born or bred in a freedom loving North must not be surprised at the deep dislike of our Southern brothers to the black race. Looking calmly at the question from even a most Republican point of view, we cannot but recognize the impossibility of attempting to alter the sentiment of a section of the N. A. P. A., when that sentiment is one which has been inculcated from infancy. We know, or at least, ought to know, that we cannot in this generation or the next, or perhaps for some time to come, create love or appreciation of the black man in the breasts of those who formerly ruled the negro as a slave, and who now exclaim, "a negro was elected by hot-headed Yankees, who are, to say the least, no better than the negro himself."

But the question is, how is this matter to be decided, if pushed forward at the next meeting? The Southern members threaten, in the manner of their fathers on the same dispute, to secede from the National Amateur Press Association if negroes are allowed to sit with them. It is a delicate question, and we see no peaceable recourse but the ballot. We are willing to leave it to a vote, which should be a well divided one in such a central location as Cincinnati. Listen to the noble defence of the young aspirant for literary honors, who is the sole subject of this sudden strife: "In the Republic of Letters, there has never been any distinction save that of merit." If our friends, the Southerners, are not willing to abide by this, we are quite in favor of adopting the policy proposed by the South itself, before the Rebellion, and—"let them alone."

LOYALTY TO THE N. A. P. A.

We print elsewhere a cheering letter from the worthy President of the Missouri Amateur Press Association, in which he says that they propose to "ever remain loyal to Amateurdom's Representative Association, and in adopting that resolution to set an example that other associations should speedily follow." And other associations have followed it, for we note with pleasure the action of the Metropolitan (N. Y. City), Virginia, Illinois and Western A. P. A., in endorsing the election of President Briggs. This is as it should

be, for censure of the late Convention seems exquisitely absurd when it comes from those who were not present. That the election of Mr Briggs, as well as the other officers, were fair and legal, there is not the least doubt in the minds of—as Mr. Beaubien puts it—"the sensible members of the fraternity." Even those bodies which object to the manner of procedure at Washington show that they have the vital interests of the great cause at heart, when they vote to ratify the Board of Officers as it stands.

FAIR AMATEURS.

The latest rage is to have "associate lady editors" on amateur journals, and encouragingly pleasant partnerships they must be. We know that in a certain Nebraska town is a professional weekly published by a man and his wife, and the wife is the biggest part of the concern. Can it be so with the *Hartford Era*, which has the name of Miss Annie Watson at the head of its editorial column, or the *La Crosse*, (Wis.) *Censor*, of which Miss Blanche Hooper is one of the interested parties? We also are pleased to see the contributions of Miss Mamie Cole of Washington, D. C., a lately elected member of the Capitol A. J. C. Miss Cole also writes for Forney's *Sunday Chronicle*, (professional). Wish our association would grant the NATIONAL AMATEUR an "associate."

STAND BY THE SHIP!

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE MO. A. P. A.,
Hannibal, Mo., Oct. 17, 1879.

Clem. C. Chase, Esq.,

Ed. NATIONAL AMATEUR:

Dear Sir—I have noticed considerable comment throughout the fraternity over the resolutions upholding Briggs, as adopted at the last meeting of the Missouri A. P. A., and regretfully I notice much opposition to the course pursued by the Mo. A. P. A.

In justice to the association of which I have the honor of being presiding officer, I will state that the Mo. A. P. A. will ever remain loyal to Amateurdom's Representative Association, and in adopting the aforesaid resolutions set an example that other associations should speedily follow.

Those "turbulent" infants, continually bowling "fraud" are only giving vent to the spleen caused by the scathing rebukes they received at Washington. But I am glad to note that the sensible members of the fraternity only laugh at the spasmodic efforts of these defeated "politicians," and heartily sustain the action of the Mo. and Ills. A. P. A.'s in remaining loyal to the Washington Conventions. Trusting you will allow this prominence in the columns of the AMATEUR.

I remain, most respectfully, yours,
LEWIS W. BEAUBIEN,

President Mo. A. P. A.

THE NEWS.

PRESS CONVENTIONS.

The Capitol A. J. A., met September 17th, 1879, at Washington, D. C., electing C. R. Waller, president; C. W. Darr, vice-president; J. D. Lee, secretary; W. E. Merritt, treasurer; *Our American Youth*, organ.

Connecticut A. P. A., held its fifth annual at West Meriden, August 24th, 1879. Officers: A. N. Daniels, president; C. W. Robbins, vice-president; W. E. Nickols, second; F. C. Case, secretary; W. G. Snow, treasurer; W. L. Washburn, editor. The *Connecticut Amateur*, is published as organ.

Illinois A. P. A., held its fourth annual at Springfield, August 5th, 1879. H. W. Wilson, president; H. Rouse, first vice-president; Allen Gray, second; E. E. Stowell, secretary; John West, treasurer; H. S. Livingston, editor. The *Illinois State Amateur* is published as organ.

Kentucky A. P. A., formed at Paris, August 20th, 1879, with E. C. Egbert, president; Robt. S. Porter, vice-president; Jim M. Allen, secretary; Wesley Wright, treasurer. The *Times*, Paris, organ. Meets at Covington, same date as National.

Maine A. P. A., convened at Old Orchard Beach, on August 13th, 1879, electing J. H. Burgess, president; Barrows, vice-president; Perry, secretary; Marsh, treasurer; J. M. Parker, editor. A quarterly folio will be published as organ. Next meeting at Portland about the time of the N. E. A. J. A.

Missouri A. P. A. convened at Sedalia, August 8th, 1879. L. W. Beaubien, president; W. A. Morris, vice-president; A. Rammelkamp, second vice-president; Geo. Fischer, secretary; R. M. Looney, treasurer. A monthly organ will be printed. Next meeting at Hannibal.

North Carolina A. P. A., met at Goldsboro, July 21st, 1879. Geo. M. Carr, president; E. A. Oldham, J. R. Griffin and G. W. Warren, vice-presidents; P. Holland, secretary; H. Disosway, treasurer; J. Daniels, editor.

New York State A. P. A., met November 4th, 1879, at Syracuse. Chas. J. Fieck, president; F. S. Stoddart and J. J. O'Connell, vice-presidents; J. H. White, corresponding secretary; Chas. G. Steele, recording secretary; Wm. F. Boysen, treasurer; Thos. H. Parsons, editor. Next place of meeting, Albany.

Oregon A. J. A., was organized September 6th, 1879, at Portland. G. M. Hoyt, president; Robt. Blossom, vice-president; G. W. Buchanan, secretary; Curtis Holcomb, treasurer; F. J. Sterbig, editor. *Ark* official organ.

Western A. P. A., held its fourth annual at St. Louis, Mo., September 24th, 1879. F. M. Morris, president; Chas.

T. Bunce, first vice-president; Allen Gray, second vice-president; Ulrich Knoch, secretary; Elihu Palmer, treasurer; S. S. Mills, editor. Next convention at Indianapolis, Ind., week preceeding the National.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

All Sorts, W. W. Bartlett, Omaha, Neb.
Amateur Universe, John Wilson, 7 Ormond Road, Dublin, Ireland.
Argus, C. W. Darr, 303 Fourteenth street, N. W., Washington, D. C.
Ayle, Theo. Berle, 300 N. Fourth street, St. Louis.
Cipper, Hastings, Neb.
Connecticut Amateur, W. L. Washburn, box 870, Hartford, Conn.
Decatur Herald, Decatur, Alabama.
Detroit, John Hanley, 11 Columbia street, E., Detroit, Mich.
Eastern Amateur Journal, Harrisburg, Penn.
E. F., Frank Chamberlain, National Hotel, Washington, D. C.
Experiment, Springfield, Ill.
Florida Mite, Acron, Orange county, Fla.
Gem City Star, Dayton, Ohio.
Globe, Mt. Carroll, Ill.
Hurricane, Miss Eva E. Britton, editress, Charleston, S. C.
Illinois State Amateur, H. S. Livingston, Mendota.
Monatliche Anzeiger, (German) Guttenburg, Iowa.
Occasional, Elihu Palmer, 615 Chestnut street, St. Louis, Mo.
Our Boys, Wheeler Bros., Plattsmouth, Neb.
Our Yankee Land, Detroit, Mich.
Owl, Tucker & DuHamel, 338 Indiana avenue, Washington, D. C.
Prairie Boys, Blue Mound, Ill.
Spunk, box 5, Park Ridge, N. J.
Starry Flag, Belvidere, N. J.
Tattler, Fostoria, Ohio.
Young American, Ben Newsome, Carbondale, Ill.

President Reeve, of the Editor's Lyceum, has appointed C. Clement Chase, as Orator, for the Cincinnati meeting, and Joseph D. Miller, as Poet. It is intended to make the literary exercises there a prominent part of the convention, and they will probably be held in a public hall.

REFORM!

Where it is Mostly Needed.

I think experience has taught every Amateur Journalist three things relative to our National Association which must be observed if the Association is to live and prosper and elevate Amateur Journalism—moderation in our campaigns, total annihilation of sectional animosity, and dignified decorum and parliamentary proceedings at our conventions. All are essential to the preservation of harmony and a healthy condition of Amateur Journalism generally.

During our last campaign, some of the most disgraceful scandals were perpetrated, and exposed to the disgrace of those who promulgated them, and most damaging to the reputation of Amateurism were the effects. Down-right knavery, however, is but seldomly indulged in,—more frequent is the fault of blackguardism. For my part, I could never see the sense of maliciously misrepresenting candidates, and by every argument that can be manufactured by a scheming mind, seek to defeat an opponent. Did it ever occur to you, reader, that all the disgraceful campaign leaders ever written never influenced the defeat or success of a candidate? The character and worth of every

Amateur Journalist of any prominence is sufficiently known by all of our fraternity to judge of their respective merits and capabilities without the aid of the extravagant eulogies or ungentlemanly abuse so frequently indulged in by our members. I am well aware that rivalry creates excitement of feeling, but extremes should always be avoided. I remarked that no votes were ever influenced by campaign articles; but they are influenced, though invariable in an entirely opposite direction from what is intended. Abuse always excites sympathy; while extravagant eulogies create disgust.

Sectional feelings should be avoided above all things. The argument promulgated by many, that their candidate, perhaps an Eastern man, should be supported because the West may have secured the preceeding Executive, or that another should be opposed because he may be from the West, is too absurd and childish to command respect. The N. A. P. A. is not an institution for adjusting the claims of any section, but for the National advancement of Amateur Journalism; it does not exist to gratify the ambition of mendicant office seekers, but to concentrate the forces of our institution for mutual benefit. A candidate should always be supported from the belief that he is the most capable man, and not from sectional sympathy. Let these facts but become impressed upon the minds of all our members and then—and not until then—need we look for campaigns conducted upon strict principles of honesty; need we expect our leaders to carry a dignified mien rather than stoop to tricks familiar to pot-house politicians.

The most despicable feature ever developed in our campaigns is the deliberateness with which a predominant party has disregarded all constitutional and parliamentary rules to secure their ends. It may be a great temptation to see everything within your power and not take advantage of the situation, but you will certainly gain universal respect by advocating honesty and a fair deal. A Western candidate may be elected by the popular vote, but if the convention which is to count his votes and decide his election is held in the East, and the majority in attendance, simply because the power is held by them, choose to sacrifice fairness for partizan triumph—if, in their estimation might makes right, what a contemptible farce is charity, what a hollow mockery is an existing constitution. If it has come to pass that one section of our institution can no longer trust the honesty of another to see justice meted out, it were better that the temptation be removed, and our National Association be abolished.

Frank Newton Reeve.

The printer is constrained to offer an apology for the late appearance of this issue. The exhaustion of all MS. before the paper was filled, and the loss of his letter to friend Chase requesting more, is the cause therefor.—Printer.