

The National Amateur.

—OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NATIONAL AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION.—

Vol. II.

Richmond, Va., March, 1880.

No. 3.

THE REORGANIZATION QUESTION

J. EDSON BRIGGS.

One of the main topics for discussion among our amateurs at present seems to be the reorganization of the N. A. P. A. This is one important subject and deserves earnest consideration, and our amateurs, with few exceptions, appear disposed to act for the best interest of the Association, regardless of party feeling.

This is as it should be and with honest intentions on their part success must ensue. While, of course, great minds will differ as to the best course to pursue, the end to be accomplished is mutual. The trouble arises out of the partial impracticality of our Constitution as developed at the Washington Convention. We therefore wish to place our Association upon a positively sound foundation, by the immediate adoption of an impregnable Constitution. Whether this is to be done by the *sine die* proposition or an adherence to the provisions of Article XXVII, sections 5 and 6, of our present official document will be determined at the Cincinnati Convention. For our own part, we favor the former plan as the speediest and most effective. In this Tom Harrison will beg leave to differ with us, and we also with him. While we admit that the method he urges is in strict accordance with the Constitution and that on this account it should be recommended, still in our opinion, in its practical working, it will be found so loose and inpolitic, and will develop so many illegal transactions that the *sine die* method will be the only means out of the scrape. For instance, suppose the petition to revise the Constitution be forwarded to the President of every State Association, we will wager ten to two that not half out of the dozen or so associations will assemble in May, or in six months afterwards for that matter. What will be the result? Why, at the succeeding Convention of the National, when all the returns will be supposed to have been arrived, the President will probably have in his possession the ballots of some two or three State Associations. The "will of the majority," as it is humorously called, will be no where. To be sure it will be their own fault, because they did not assemble in May and send in their little votes like their enveable brothers. But owing to circumstances it may have been their misfortune and not their fault. This we have shown as one instance that Harrison's method is not advisable. We have made no mention of the lavish waste of time it will necessitate. In the name of common sense, therefore, we trust our amateurs

will with one voice at the coming Convention favor the *sine die* adjournment, and in one day extricate themselves from the sea of difficulties which by any other effort will leave them floundering in the toils for months, not to say years, even then with no ample assurance of escape.

THE COMING LAUREATES.

J. EDSON BRIGGS.

There seems to be a regretful tardiness this year among our amateur authors regarding the competence for the numerous laureate titles. It is to be hoped that the few remaining months before the coming Convention will witness the production of at least as many specimens as were entered last year; while if it is possible that that number may be exceeded, we may well congratulate ourself. Whoever had the pleasure of perusing the poetic gems of "Quince," "Huss," "Morris," "Netos," "Stuvesant," "Campbell," and all the others who strove for the coveted titles, will well remember what remarkably fine productions they were, and can it be believed that our amateur literature would have been thereby enriched were it not for the laudable features in our present Constitution referring to our laureate titles? We therefore urge all of our authors of to-day to make an effort to secure one or more of the many titles open to you. While, perhaps another may carry off the prize, you will, at least, have the satisfaction of knowing that you have by your increased exertion to win the honor, contributed in no small degree, to elevate the present standard of amateur literature. Those who propose to enter the race should bear in mind that their articles must be printed in some amateur paper at least three months prior to the following Convention; and that two copies must be sent to the officer in charge of the department, including the title for which you are competing. For your further information, we quote the following from the Constitution:

"ART. XXIII, Sec. 3.—Articles may be written under the following heads and sent to the officer whose name precede them:

Second Vice-President.	{ Serials,
Department A.	{ Stories or Sketches.
Third Vice-President.	{ Poems, Essays,
	{ History of Amateur Journalism."
Department B.	

It will be seen therefore, that if you wish to enter for the Poet Laureatship, you must have your poem printed in some amateur paper, three months prior to the Convention, and send two copies to the Third Vice-President, Mr. Herbert A. Clarke, P. O. Box 17, Rodney, Miss.

We therefore solicit all our amateur editors to immediately call the attention of the contributors to the amateur press to this subject and urge them to enter the race.

THE BADGE COMMITTEE.

In accordance with a resolution adopted at the late Convention, regarding "Badges" for the N. A. P. A. members, I hereby appoint the following gentlemen on the committee in place of those whom I formerly appointed, but have not been heard from since, with one exception: F. N. Reeve, Wm. F. Buckley, Eben S. Frye and Stanton S. Mills. It will be remembered that Mr. C. Clem. Chase is the chairman of this committee. We hope the members will exert themselves at once to secure best designs and most reasonable prices for the badges. J. EDSON BRIGGS,

Pres. N. A. P. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 17, 1880.

LAUREATESHIP BADGES.

To the N. A. P. A.:

Besides the titles bestowed by the Association, I have determined to offer two prizes as additional incentives. These prizes—Gold Badges, suitably inscribed as to title, year and Association—will be awarded to the Poet and Essayist Laureates.

Very truly yours,

HERBERT A. CLARKE,

Third Vice-President N. A. P. A.

AMATEUR POESY.

Resting in peace after their Indian wars the Puritan colonists naturally found mental recreation in theology. Hence the early developments of literature in America consist of sermons and doctrinal treatises. As British colonies, England ruled, controlled commerce and stamped her national characteristics upon people and soil. Circumstances, political and social being English, the writings of this era are decidedly English in savor.

Just as German literature is characterized by legends, weird tales and feudal castles; the French by the gay, princely and polished courtier; so in America we should seek for a national feature. A literature as distinctly American, sprang from the same revolution of sentiment, whence sprang our American Independence. In the struggle for Independence all English ideas became hateful, grated against their sympathies and threatened their hopes for the new country. Like the Athenian Tyrtaens, there arose during these times which tried men's souls, writers whose burning verses inflamed the aspirations of the patriots for political Independence and aroused them so thoroughly, that they eagerly sacrificed their lives on the altar of their beloved country. Independence being achieved, America with her fertile lands, mighty rivers and wonderful va-

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rieties of natural scenery, forms a grand field for the development of the poetic muse.

In Amateurdom our writers have written chiefly romances, amatory and humorous odes. The average amateur author is wayward, jovial and pleasure loving, hence the productions are chiefly lyric-some, few didactic. Amateurdom can boast of many real poems, things of beauty, even jewels, but not Koohinoors, jewels sparkling for the moment but loosing the lustre.

In selecting models, we need not go back to Homer and Virgil, but let us seek them at home, here in America. Note Longfellow's "Hiawatha," varying in incidents and figures, yet forming a truly brilliant portraiture of nature *Americans*—like the differing instruments of the orchestra, each individually separate in tone and form, yet happily blending into one grand harmony of sound, thrilling the heart, and wringing tears of ecstasy from the soul. Note Bryant, who found a plentitude of thought in the fields, forest and rivers of America and whose sympathetic character interpreted the deep melodies of Nature and portrayed them in living lines.

Our amateur writers have several thorns in their pathway. The principal is the severe criticism showered not only upon himself but upon his productions. Let any one of the faults incident to every beginner predominate or be merely noticeable in an amateur, and he is at once a target for a thousand shafts of wit or vituperation.

Shall we desire the writer for his individual self-traits or the writer for his productions? Assuredly the latter. Let us remember Pope, the hunchback, dwarfed, childish, whimsical and eccentric. Yet we can but admire his pantheistical "Essay on Man." Think of the high tempered Voltaire slapping his bookseller. Yet Voltaire, taken away from the century in which he lived, leaves a blank.

The amateur poets have their works not only criticized, but halved and quartered; their figures exaggerated and ridiculed. Amateur writers are neither angels no Jobs, and this harsh criticism not only destroys the love for Amateurdom but dampens the development of poetic genius. Johnson says, "we judge another alive by his worst, dead by his best," but life in Amateurdom is too short, and true merit must be quickly recognized, nourished and cultivated by generous treatment. Many publishers expect the writer to almost give them his productions free. This tends to weaken the ambition which leads to perfection, and the productions are written on a scale commensurate with the paltry price. This of course lowers the standard of poetry, unless the poet be of that sterner mold which melodizes without money and without price.

Emulation leads to improvement. Hence, the railroad instead of coaches; gas instead of candles, and now electric

light instead of gas. The N. A. P. A., knowing this, has offered titles of honor to the best writer in any of the several departments of its literature. Let us hope that it will be just as honorable to be announced Laureates of the N. A. P. A., as it was to the Greeks to be Laureates of Hellas.

—Herbert A. Clarke,
Third Vice-President N. A. P. A.

POLITICAL COURTESY.

As the world advances, people are beginning to realize that the more gentlemanly and impartially all questions are discussed, the better it is for all parties concerned. Liberality and tolerance are far more generally practiced now than in days of yore, and all questions of import are discussed in a more friendly manner. The two great disturbers of peace, Religion and Politics, often intimately connected, though still made in many cases a cause for strife and bitter feeling, are beginning to be argued in a more considerate and reasonable manner. People are beginning to understand that both opposing parties in a controversy may be partly correct; like the old story of the two knights who quarrelled and fought about a shield that had one side of silver and one of gold, each contending that he was right and the other wrong.

The old theory of controversy was that the party which commanded the most power should convince its opponents by annihilating them. This was the course pursued by Mohammed in order to convert the nations to his belief; they were offered the alternatives of accepting the Koran or losing their lives. It was this same principle which was carried out by the Roman Catholics in their bitter persecutions of all who would not accept their belief. And England, after she had freed herself from the bonds of Papacy, still retained this principle, and continued to imprison and persecute all dissenters from the National church. And even our own Puritans, fleeing from the restraints which held in check religious freedom in England, drove Roger Williams into exile because he choose to believe differently from themselves.

Too firmly imbedded in the popular mind was this idea of intolerance that it required centuries for even the most enlightened nations to discover their error, and even now the shadow of this great oppressor has not been banished from the Old World. The American government was the first to proclaim civil and religious liberty, and, though it was nearly one hundred years afterward before true freedom for all men had been attained, yet it stands alone in the world the only country on earth where entire liberty of conscience is not more or less restricted. It is true that England has approached that result, but yet the people are bound, hand and foot, by both civil and religious aristocracies. They are as free as air, as long as they

do as their masters direct them. France claims to be a Republic, but the press is gagged, and the people dare not express their sentiments, should they conflict with those of the ruling power. The nations of the earth have yet to learn the great principles of tolerance, free speech and liberty of conscience.

It behooves us, as the journalists of the rising generation, to learn early this principle, that should you be ever so well convinced in your own mind of the rectitude of your position, remember that it is possible that your opponent may be just as near the right as yourself and to act accordingly. It has ever been a characteristic of amateur political campaigns that they have usually been conducted in a very intolerant and ungentlemanly manner. Slander and abuse have been thrust at every aspirant for political honors, and has generally been returned in kind by the opposite party. Every party organ has striven to convince its readers that *its* candidate is the *only* honest one, and that all the others are thieves, bribers, and prevaricators of the deepest dye. It is sometimes the case that these accusations are true, but in the majority of cases they are merely circulated for the purpose of defeating a worthy man. Let this state of affairs be no longer. Brethren, we ask of you, is it gentlemanly? Is such conduct seemly in the members of an institution which is clamoring for recognition at the hands of the public and the professional press? Do you hope to gain their respect by apeing the vices of your professional cotemporaries? Would it not be better to initiate their virtues, and, where it is possible to do so, improve upon them?

Amateurdom is just entering upon another political contest. Now is the proper time to begin this much talked-of reform. Let tolerance and mutual consideration govern your words and deeds, always remembering that your opponent is a gentleman as well as yourself. Show your professional brethren that you are better than they, inasmuch as you can discuss politics simply upon the respective merits or demerits of your respective candidate and upon the principles involved, without descending to the degrading level of slander and vituperation. Let us arise and shake off this vampire which has been sucking away our life-blood. Dismiss intolerance from the ranks, and remember ever to practice the golden rule, which teaches us to "Do unto others as ye would that men should do unto you."

—Ben Newsome.

—The holiday number of the Richmond, Virginia, *Dial* was one of those seldom issued, but highly appreciated, specimens of amateur typography, which show the originator to have much enterprise.

—The *Amateur Globe* of Mt. Carroll, Ill., had also a very attractive January issue.

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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.

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Corresponding, Frank N. Reeve.....Newark, N. J.
Recording, J. Fred Eherle.....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 Amateurism 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.

HANDSOME PINS.

In response to letters sent out by us as chairman of the Committee on Badges, we are now receiving bids from the leading manufacturing jewelers of New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and some other cities. The designs they enclose are all handsome, occasionally unique, although to be made of good gold, are surprisingly inexpensive. From a Chicago house—we do not feel at liberty to mention names—comes a design with the monogram N. A. P. A., chased on an open book, encircled with a buckled band. This in plain gold will be \$2.50. An amateur house offers the monogram engraved on a gold circle for \$2, to be worn either on the vest lapel or as a scarf pin. Some very elegant designs come from a Philadelphia establishment. One was the four letters cut out with an enamelled quill vine through them.

If a sufficient number of designs do not accumulate in time for the Committee to make a selection before the Convention, the matter will be delayed until July, when the gentlemen at Cincinnati can decide for themselves as to which is the most appropriate design, and to whom the contract shall be awarded. A certain journal in Washington elevates its highly pessimistic nose at the ill taste which it thinks would be exhibited

by the members of N. A. P. A., were they to wear the Society badge. We are quite of the opinion of George William Curtis, that "nothing carries with it so much significance as the symbol of an order," and we are willing to bet an amateur directory that the very editors of that peculiar sheet will be among the first to proudly pin and go for a long time wearing on their bosoms the handsome badge of the National Amateur Press Association.

STATE BALLOTS.

An unfailing topic of interest to the wide-awake amateur is, quite naturally, as being the most important, our National Association. Schemes for its improvement and advancement, schemes for simplifying its machinery or for enlarging its sphere are continually being advanced by those either really solicitous for its welfare, or only anxious to achieve distinction for themselves. Some few are well thought and planned, (as, for instance, the platform of the new "Radical Party," which we comment on elsewhere), but the great majority are from those who never were at a National Convention and have very vague ideas concerning the same.

At present, our amateur brothers are turning their puzzled heads to a solution of the "proxy" problem as it will be presented at Cincinnati. Some propose that two conventions be held in succession, the proxy votes to be counted at the first assembling, whereupon the Association adjourn, (poor thing), *sine die*, and a new N. A. P. A. be organized. Others insist that the proxy or State votes should be counted upon the formation of the new Association. Still a third party, by no means a minority, contend that it is all nonsense to go through such a laborious operation and that State ballots can be counted and the Constitution amended without ending our ten-year-old Association.

With the latter division we sympathize except in so far as it, in common with the others, clings fondly to the idea of counting proxy votes according to the dictates of a despised Constitution. We insist that it is futile to count such ballots at all. At most, voting by States is an abortive attempt to fit the working of machinery of an adult congress to a rone too finely organized body of boys and young men. To attempt it at Cincinnati would be but to repeat the Washington *fiasco*. Such ballots as are forwarded from the forced meetings of State Associations are of necessity scattering, unauthoritative and useless. They offer the broadest field for cheating and fraud. It is an utter impossibility to even approach a correct count. The committee appointed at Washington occupied two valuable hours over three States and were then released by the Convention from their thankless task. Must this be repeated?

"But," we hear from all sides, "the Constitution provides for voting through State Associations and we must abide by it." Abide such a Constitution if it is even to the ruin of that it should foster? Here is where the Official Editor begs audience for a somewhat radical proposition. When it is acknowledged that the laws, under which some, however, think they are bound to act, are useless, worse than useless; when every amateur editor in the land agree that the clog should be removed as soon as possible; where public opinion is *unanimous*, we say, why in the world should we adhere for a moment at Cincinnati to a miserable farce of a Constitution if a vote can be obtained without a dissenting voice to immediately *suspend* the same? Why should we delay our Convention with endless red tape folderol hold two meetings, disorganize and reorganize, when every single member recognizes the fact that it is absurdly unnecessary, and simply wishes to observe "Parliamentary law." There are occasions when even Parliamentary usages are out of place and cumbersome, and we believe that the exigencies of the coming strife will effect just such a climax. The only proper, because the only possible, way for the National Amateur Press Association to elect its officers is by a vote of those who take their time and spend their money to be present at Conventions. And so mote it be.

A PHENOMENON.

It is curious to note the ebb and tide, as it were, that is a characteristic of Amateurdom. When the "fever" is at its height in the Eastern States, the number of publications in the West is very small indeed, and when, in turn, Western amateurs wake up, those in the East seem to fall asleep. Just at the present time it seems as if the West was indulging in a heavy doze for nearly all our exchanges bear the postmark of Eastern cities. Why this is so is difficult to logically explain. Possibly it may be traced to the alternating presence of the national conventions in the East and West bringing an influx of new sheets to the locality where it is proposed to hold the meeting. However this may be, it is quite a remarkable fact that since the Chicago Convention, that city, previously a veritable hot-bed of journalistic aspirants, has remained in positive inactivity as far as the circulation of any amateur papers is concerned. St. Louis, also, quite appals us with its inactivity, but she may suddenly break forth, like Vesuvius, into an intensely active state. She must be credited with doing much better than Chicago, even now. Iowa is quite brisk for a Western locality. Is it owing to her admirable State Association? The South-east is not very lively, but promises more in the Spring. Let us hope that the coming months may see a general awakening of all over our broad field.

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THE NEW PARTY.

The editor of the *Plain Dealer*, with his characteristic originality—in the same spirit, no doubt, in which he takes milk toast—has invented a new party and given his offspring a name. With the idea of going to the bottom of things he dubs its the *Radical Party*, proposing the following platform, which with the exception of the fifth plank, is certainly not bad: 1. A new constitution, 2. The Convention's choice conclusive, 3. No sectionalism, 4. Foster local associations, 5. Loyalty to the present constitution, 6. Civil rights. Puzzlers allowed. The rest of the scheme is not so clear. The radical gentleman asks his radical friends to send to him their choice for the various N. A. P. A. offices, committing themselves to postal cards. He then proposes to publish the result, omitting the names of the bal-loters, giving only the number of votes for each candidate. This is, to our mind, a doubtful project. It savors of partizanship. But as the principals of this new party are refreshingly pure and upright, we wish it all the success which its enthusiastic projector anticipates.

LITERARY EXHIBITION.

The not ungrounded complaint that the sessions of the N. A. P. A. are made up of "an election, a banquet, and a pillow fight," has urged those who have the interest of the Association at heart to arrange a literary entertainment for the Cincinnati session, which will not only be interesting to members but to the citizens of the city whom it is proposed to invite. We have some excellent talent in the N. A. P. A. Our brilliant speakers have never been called out. We speak of them, but we never hear them. A better means of showing the outer world our capabilities then by a carefully studied public exhibition could not be had. It is suggested that a prominent hall be secured and if our friends of the Editor's Lyceum acquiesce that the two organizations consolidate their exercises, giving an entertainment of which we will undoubtedly be proud. Then a debate between chosen members of each society would be interesting. To go further, why should not music, instrumental or vocal, fill up the interstices? In every gathering of young men like this good voices are always to be found, and then, you know, *college songs* never are old. Let those who are gifted prepare without special notification, whatever may advance the pleasure of such an evening. We are confident that the reputation of the "National" will be largely argued in this way, and at least, the Cincinnatians will be able to learn something more of the Association and its work than can be gleaned from the stingy reports of the professional press. Let us be energetic in this new plan.

A HINT OR TWO.

In choosing the headquarters for N. A. P. A., at Cincinnati, let the committee observe these facts gained from experience. Firstly, that the hotel be of the first class. Not chosen on account of the exorbitant rates but of such a standing as will compare well with former houses at which the National has so-journed, the Palmer, in Chicago, for instance. We don't want any "Hotel Hunt" in ours. Secondly, that an arrangement on the European plan is much less expensive and usually quite as satisfactory as paying so many dollars a day for room and meals. Thirdly, in planning any excursion or entertainment, allow us to suggest that a definite time and place be set and not deviated from, for as sure as such arrangements are left to the visitors, fifty plans will be suggested and fifty boys will be as frantic to go in as many different directions. Some one must exercise a certain amount of authority in order to keep the flock together, and none would be better, indeed, than the chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, who ever that unlucky chap may be.

A PLEA FOR PROSE.

Contributions for the "Poet Laureate-ship, '80," are beginning to appear in about the same number as at this time twelve months, and, as if repeating last years experience, prose contributions are correspondingly conspicuous for their absence. We recall the disgusted tone in which the judges of "Class A," made their last report. "It would seem," they sorrowfully write, "since no serials of stories were entered, that this class of writers are totally defunct among us. *This is something to be extremely regretted.* Where are our Winslows, our Yel-rafts, our Heumans, our Millers, our Gerners and our Mills?" Yes, where are they? We can answer, many have left us, but others of equal mind and as ready pen are with us, and they *must* step in to fill the places as the old "lights" drop out. It is from them that we are anxious to hear this spring and we are our earnest plea that aspirants for Laurels submit their thoughts in prose with which they are familiar, and not attempt idyllic flights into abominable verse.

—The New England Amateur Journalists' Association has a membership of sixty, by a late list in its official organ.

—The *Press* of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, opens out the year as an illustrated journal. The engravings are simply "immense."

—Secretary Reeve is book-keeper for a large manufacturing jewelry establishment in New York city, and promises to aid the N. A. P. A. badge scheme.

—Detroit is advancing to the head as in the good old days. Seven amateur papers, and good ones too. Five of the editors mail their papers in one wrapper to exchanges and thus save their postage bills and outwit the department. Buffalo has adopted the same brilliant plan.

—A Missouri Amateur Directory has been issued from Sedalia. Let the idea be caught by other States, for every one should issue a directory for reference. When fresh, they are invaluable. Iowa is discussing the propriety of such a scheme, and we understand the State Association has taken steps to publish a directory itself.

THE NEWS.

AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATIONS.

Eastern Amateur Press Association met at Boston on January 2d. George W. Baildon was re-elected President; L. E. Tilden, First Vice-President; F. H. Varnum, Second Vice-President; Oswald L. Williams, Corresponding Secretary; W. B. McCann, Secretary; J. F. DuBamel, Treasurer; C. K. Watkyns, Official Editor. Meets in New York next July.

The fourth semi-annual Convention of the South-eastern Amateur Press Association met at Norfolk, Va., December 27th, 1879. The following officers were elected: President, C. Ridgley Waller; First Vice-President, J. K. Outten; Second Vice-President, P. J. Donahue; Third Vice-President, Oswald L. Williams; Fourth Vice-President, C. A. McLean; Fifth Vice-President, C. C. Morris; Recording Secretary, W. Darr; Corresponding Secretary, G. R. Calk; Treasurer, Richard D. Guy; Official Editor, John E. Overton. Next meeting at Hampton, Va., in July.

Illinois Amateur Press Association held a poorly attended meeting at Peoria, December 27th. No business of importance. Next convention will be held at Mattoon, in July.

Iowa Amateur Journalists' Association met January 1st at Cedar Rapids. Frank E. Day was elected President; John Richmond, First Vice-President; M. A. Fountain, Second Vice-President; H. E. Reeler, Secretary; John Cook, Treasurer; James Cook, Official Editor; Warren Moore, Poet Laureate. The plan of publishing a guide and history of amateur journalism in Iowa was referred to a committee. The cost of printing the official organ hereafter is not to be limited. The President will appoint the place of next meeting.

Missouri Amateur Press Association convened at Hannibal, January 1st. S. S. Mills was elected President; Reynolds, First Vice-President; Pierrot, Second Vice-President; Fischer, Treasurer; Avouson, Secretary. Next meeting at St. Louis, on or about July 4th.

The sixth semi-annual convention of the Connecticut Amateur Press Association was held at Middletown, Wednesday, February 18th. The following officers were elected: President, Albert N. Daniels; First Vice-President, C. W. Robbins; Second Vice-President, W. E. Nichols; Secretary, F. E. Case; Treasurer, W. G. Snow. Fenwick was selected as the next meeting-place, the convention to be held in June.

The New England Amateur Journalists' Association met in Boston, January 1st. D. A. Sullivan was elected president; Ralph Metcalf, first vice-president; W. E. Leathe, second vice-president; H. P. Chase, third vice-president; J. G. Oliver, secretary; W. B. McCann, treasurer. Next seat of meeting, Portland.

New Jersey Amateur Press Association convenes at Morristown on Decoration day.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Amateur and Collector, St. Paul, Minn.
Boom, Warsaw, Ill.
Striker, Rocky Point, N. C.
Cedar Billow, Cedar Rapids, Ia.
Cornucopia, Chicago, Ill.
Junior Record, Cincinnati, O.
Our Banner, St. Louis, Mo.
Pilot, New York city.
Proconium, Newburyport, Mass.
Reporter, Syracuse, N. Y.
School Reporter, Cairo, Ill.
Vanity Fair, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Venture, Detroit, Mich.
Press, Millersburg, Ind.
Connecticut Amateur, Hartford, Conn.
Cadet's Trumpet, Windsor, N. S.
Golden Hours, Ipswich, Mass.
Industrial People, Richland, Pa.
Spy, Hawkinsville, Fla.

SUSPENSIONS.

Jersey Snyder, *Kaleidoscope*, *High School News*, St. Louis
Courier, Portland Ark., *Manhattan Journal*, All Sorts.