

The National Amateur.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NATIONAL AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION.

Vol. II.

Richmond, Va., June, 1880.

No. 4.

POSTPONEMENT.

To the Members of the N. A. P. A., and
Amateurs of the country:

As there seems to have been considerable dissatisfaction at the date which I appointed for the Convention of our National Association. I herewith change the day to Wednesday, July 14th, 1880. Trusting that this will suit the convenience of many more who might otherwise have not attended.

I remain sincerely,

J. EDSON BRIGGS,

Prest. N. A. P. A.

MAY 24th, 1880,

SPECIAL ATTENTION.

Those authors not mentioned below, who have contributed poems, essays, sketches or histories in competition for this year's laureate titles are earnestly requested to send a copy of the paper containing the same to me; if not possessing a copy of the paper, please inform me its name, in order that I may secure the paper, if I have no copy among my exchanges.

H. S. Livingston, Max A. Lesser, Elderdice, Oswald C. Ludwig, "Hermit," Austin, Edwin N. Fussel, George B. Enegue, Jos. D. Miller, C. S. Elgutter, "Nameless," Elihu Palmer, "H. S. L." "Florida Violet," "Old Sledge," Zander Snyder. If any of the above authors have published more than one article please communicate with me. My desire is to have a complete list of this year's laureate articles.

Respectfully,

J. EDSON BRIGGS.

First Vice-President's Department

WILL L. WRIGHT, CAIRO, ILLS.

A WORD TO THE WISE.

The time for holding another National Convention is again upon us. In view of this fact, it will not prove inappropriate to speak upon the feasibility of exercising some discretion in our movements, and suggest to members the propriety of a little forethought. If the constituents of the different factions go to Cincinnati with the determination of electing their candidate as paramount to all other attainments, the result is obvious. Something of greater importance than the mere selection of officers lies before us. At Cincinnati the work of two conventions has to be performed, and nothing

but a friendly spirit will aid its accomplishment. We refer to the revision of our Constitution in particular. Previous to the Convention a meeting should be held, the different plans thoroughly discussed, and a method decided upon. Everyone should have his say, in order that the scope of opinion may be broad, and any after-claps prevented. Also, in connection with this, it should be ascertained who has amendments to offer, and let it there be seen that provision is made for all desired changes, and the papers given to the secretary. This will obviate any omissions that might occur in the heat of the next day's session. Every demand should be amply provided for, and we can then go into convention with clear heads and a complete knowledge of what is expected of us. Under the circumstances this previous understanding is imperative, and we hope even the chronic malcontents who have consecrated their lives to cross-purposes may realize its importance, and for once give way to promptings for their better natures.

When ready to enter upon the discharge of the Association's work, we urge upon every participant to keep cool! Let each member be appointed a committeee of one to see that no undue excitement or enthusiasm arises. Be gentlemen. Use gentlemanly language. Do not bully. If your side be the weaker, submit gracefully. Refrain from brute force. Let the power of intellect rule the day. Think much and say as little as the occasion demands. Every delegate must consider these things and act accordingly if the desire to make a success of the meeting be uppermost in his mind. We should profit by past experience, and by close observation at the Queen City we can readily distinguish our friends and enemies.

Nothing but a recollection of the Washington mime prompts us to pen these few lines. We cannot afford to suffer another like blow, therefore it is well to guard our Association's honor by a proper execution of its rules, even tho' it require extreme measure.

MISCELLANY.

Speak out, young man! Do not be afraid to express your opinions even at the risk of offending some one or making an occasional blunder. Of all despised mortals the man who is non-committal certainly is the most despicable. See him! There he stands in the midst of a fiery debate, hands thrust in his pockets, idly leaning up against the lamp-post. A theory advanced. The friend on his right upholds it in glow-

ing language; the brother on the left derides it in logical argument. Which is right? They look toward the third party, who is holding up the lamp-post, for a decision. He "d-o-n't k-n-o-w," for the reason that he fears to take sides with either the affirmative or negative. The trio separates, both arguers with feelings of contempt for the man who had not enough determination to command their respect with an honest expression of opinion.

The wide-awake editors of the *Junior Record*, the enterprising Swift, the genial Kerr and Carter and the other Cincinnati boys will outdo themselves to make every one's stay in that city enjoyable. Do not fail to be on hand, boys. Hurrah for the N. A. P. A., July 14th and a glorious reunion!

We note with pride the reaction that has taken place in amateur circles. The once languid editor is now bestirring himself in live language preparatory for the coming Convention, the listless author and the dreamy poet, nerved up to the highest pitch by the prospect of gaining the laureate honors, are flooding the press with their most brilliant productions, while new papers, anxious to mingle in the strife of a campaign, have appeared without number. Keep it up, boys, and let us see if we cannot continue the excitement even after the Convention.

Cincinnati may hereafter be aptly termed the City of Conventions. Among those to take place there this season will be the Methodist Conference, Musical Festival, National Democratic, and last, but not least, the National Amateur Press Conventions. La! boys, the wind we conventions confinement. Give us air!

W. L. W.

THE POET LAUREATESHIP.

The verses brought out this year for the laurels are not so good as those a year ago. The spirit seems to be lacking and in many the idea as well as the measure is abominable. This is strange. We know no reason why one year's productions should not be an improvement on the previous year. The poems of last Spring can be recalled with pride, including such as "Music," which won the title, "Retrospection," "Progress," "In the Woods," and especially "Caro Mio." Of such as we have examined this month, we rather think Miller's "Pastoral," in the *Amateur Globe*, takes the lead. The opening lines are the finest; the second stanza had best been

The National Amateur.

omitted, and the idea of fire settling in his heart like lava is forced. Further on, another reference to "girls" spoils the effect; "milk-maids" is better.

Hear his roundelay:

There where the noisy locusts played
All day long their serenade
To the chirping katy-did,
'Neath the grass-blades where they hid;
Every insect, near and far,
Swelled the tiny orchestra.
There the bumble bee's bossoon,
There the cricket's ceaseless tune,
Ever through the livelong day,
From the rise to set of sun,
Nature breathed her roundelay,
Tuned her choral antiphon!

In several lines of "A Picture," Elgutter adds one more syllable than is consistent with the metre. His poem tells of a summer evening's quiet happiness, where four dear friends drink the beauties of the night. Listen to his closing verses:

Yielding to the magic power
The dreamy sweetness of the hour,
Life and earth seemed very bright;
Heaven was near our hearts that night,
And our spirits silently
Drank in all the scenery—
Beauty more than witchery,

But we did not speak, for awe
Of the glory that we saw,
And enchantment made it seem
Like a vision, like a dream,
Yet, although we thought it well
That no voice should break the spell,
Eyes spake more than tongue could tell.

Elgutter has been severely criticised by Zander Snyder, who himself prints a botch not worthy of criticism. We have our suspicions that Snyder prints it more as a new sort of advertising dodge than as a genuine competitor for the National's prize. Elgutter writes, as Addison would say, "in a storm of discontent," and calls it *La Misanthrope*. Why the Spanish name? Why not *The Misanthrope*? It is all that the name tells; peculiar; wierd. Human life as viewed by the misanthrope and virtue treacherously betrayed, is well drawn. At times it is difficult to catch the author's thought, so hurried is the reader by the impetuous rush of the lines, each line a story.

Life from birth by mists enshrouded,
Soon by winter storms is clouded,
Toll and anguish multiply
Thorns and briars fructify.
Every path with thistles sown,
Every step brings forth a groan.
Friends are but the serpent's eye,
Fame is but a hollow cry;
Wealth rings with a demon's laugh,
Slips one's fingers like the chaff.

Of the "Last Parting," in the *Idler*, and "Love's Ecstasy," in *Our Progress*, we cannot say much. The first is the wail of a husband over the corpse of his wife, and is agonizing in the extreme. He asserts that "in Heaven she'll never rejoice, if separate always" from him. For a youth who is not yet old enough to think of having a wife, to say nothing of losing one, this is good. "Love's Ecstasy" has been withdrawn from competition. Its every line changes measure, and it is by no means so good as "A Picture" by the same author.

A BOLD SEDITION.

Certain enemies of the N. A. P. A. and negro race have been trying to flame into existence a "Southern Amateur Journalists' League," or something of that sort, in open opposition to our Association. Moreover, not content with this bit of sedition, they have been endeavoring to inveigle the Nova Scotian amateur editors by promising admittance to their embryo association upon condition of signing an oath pledging that they could never join an association that admitted to membership any of the black race. We are glad to say that our friends, the Nova Scotians, agreed to no such proposition. Indeed, we should have been overwhelmingly surprised and disgusted if they had done anything but indignantly reject such a scandalous suggestion! The amateurs of the Southern States must be fanatics; they are certainly carrying things a little too far when they descend to such schemes as these for furthering their inbred hostility to the negro. For the sake of the peace of Amateurdom, let those that object to seeing Vice-President Clarke, or any other dark-complexioned boy who is handsomer than themselves, hold his own on the floor of our conventions and yield an easy quill in his own paper. Let these, we beg, set up a little aristocracy among themselves and immediately retire within the walls of their own bitterness. But don't intermeddle with the Democracy of the North. Don't endeavor to enlist the sympathies of countries foreign to our own. We, "officially," thank our neighbors on the North for their action.

THE EDITOR'S LYCEUM.

President Reeve sends a message to his fellows in which is very clearly set forth his interpretation of the obnoxious Article IV, Section 10 of the Lyceum Constitution. This prohibits members of the Lyceum from "nominating officers in their papers or circulating printed papers or tickets appertaining to the nomination of officers, for any press association, more than one month in advance of the election." Knowing that this works in direct opposition to the N. A. P. A. Constitution, which provides that officers shall be elected by proxy in the month of May; that the latter law takes precedence and preference by prior adoption, and that to abide by the present interpretation of Article IV would be to withhold all public electioneering for National officers from Lyceum men until June, a month after legal elections; President Reeve very logically decides that members of the Lyceum may electioneer for National officers one month in advance of State Association meetings. This is a very liberal view but it is the best under the circumstances when two Constitutions so acutely conflict.

The question now presents itself as to the use of Lyceum. A number of members are in favor of suspending it altogether. It certainly has seen its best days and its usefulness is questionable. Its members are few, its treasury bankrupt. On this account no official organ will be issued this year, and so no needless expense incurred when it is doubtful how the expense may be met, if at all.

AMATEUR ENGRAVINGS.

The *Omaha Chief*, itself an illustrated paper, says, in its own lively way, that "a blind man would take a bucket of mud and a mop, and make better pictures on the side of a barn" than the original illustrations in the *Cedar Rapids Press*. A Nova Scotia paper adds that the *Press* engravings must be "produced by a master artist, with a jack-knife on the end of a fence-rail." Now don't be severe on the amateur engraver! Rather, encourage him. Did you ever try your hand at a hard block of wood? We well remember, at the time when the dreadful news of the Chicago fire came, how graphically we illustrated the *Omaha Excelsior* with a map of the "burnt district" which picture was characterized by a very liberal amount of intense blackness. In fact, it was nearly all "burnt," remarkably true to nature. And at what cost was it achieved! The block was pine. The graver, father's sharpest knife, and it would slip over our poor finger's and cut away whole blocks of buildings and bridges and elegant residences on the north side, working worse havoc than the fire-fiend himself. We never attempted another burnt district.

Others have succeeded better. Geo. Howe, one of the best of Baker's engravers, once cut at blocks with home-made tools in a farm-house near Beloit, Wis., printing his first attempts in amateur papers, and soon designing headings, for which he was well paid. Sidney Herlbut, now with the American Bank Note Company, pattered away at home on bits of metal. We know many others who made their own gravers and resolutely set to work, without a master, to learn the great art, and they did well. There is no reason why the amateur should not cut his own illustrations and make his paper novel. Crude they may be at first, but all the more interesting to study, and the improvement will be more rapid and encouraging.

We would earnestly recommend to all amateur writers, both beginners and those long in the ranks, the pithy article on "Amateur's Style, its Formation," in the April number of the *Lecture Room* the organ of St. John's Social and Literary Society, San Francisco, Cal. The whole paper is carefully prepared.

The National Amateur.

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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.

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., Wednesday, July 14th, 1889.

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 Fuzzlers 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.

NATIONAL AMENDMENTS.

Plans, plans, plans, for changing the Constitution of our Association. So many are the suggestions and so varied their striking originality, that were half adopted the to-be-pitied constitution would be completely transmogrified. Among the most sensible are: One making a standing Credential Committee to admit new members at any time; one providing that proxy votes shall be sent in June 1st without passing through State Conventions; one forbidding members to circulating campaign literature before April 1st; and one that Constitutional Amendments shall be sent in petition signed by the members to the President, who shall publish them in the NATIONAL AMATEUR for March, when members shall vote upon them when they vote for officers. Amendments must receive two-thirds proxy votes and President's signature to be adopted. We make no editorial comment but recommend them for consideration.

THE PROXY VOTES.

It is very safe to prophesy that whether the next President of the N. A. P. A. is elected by proxy votes or the

latter thrown out, and the election decided by those who attend the Cincinnati Convention, some ranting sorehead will howl fraud until he is tired of hearing his own weak voice. It is equally certain that the candidate who fears defeat if the proxies are counted, will advocate their being cast out, if he thinks he can secure a majority of the votes if cast by those in attendance. Such proceedings would, of course, be highly dishonorable, and it is to be hoped that some one of the interested parties will have moral courage and true independence strong enough to insist upon honest dealings, even though he may sacrifice his own personal and political ambition by so doing. The hair-brained partizan who will not defend honesty because he may thereby incur the displeasure of his political associates, is not worthy to be called a man.

DR. HOLLAND ON THE 'DOM.

Frank Bassett has been doing us a favor by interviewing, through his *Clipper*, leading literary men of the East on their ideas of Amateurdom. Whitelaw Reid confesses that he don't know much about it. J. G. Holland writes a very sensible letter, which we quote, thinking it to read a good lesson to young editors, especially those who indulge in campaign flings:

"It seems to me that one of the great sins against good taste which characterizes modern journalism, amateurs and otherwise, is *petty personalities*. This is the kind of thing that you will find scattered all through the country press, and the second rate city papers. Now, my dear young fellows, don't cultivate it. This is not dignified; it is childish; it is not even passable pleasantry. In fact, it is vulgar. I really know of nothing that needs converting so much or availing with such detestation and determination, as this tendency to talk to and about people by name. Don't take hold of anything that you do not try to raise and make better. Especially try to avoid the gross mistakes of those who are old enough to set you a better example.

Yours Truly,
J. G. HOLLAND."

IN BYWAYS AND HEDGES.

President Sullivan, of the New England A. J. A., is no longer allowed room in the official organ, and so very ably edits a column in his own paper. He nominates a "Committee on New Members," composed of one member from each of the New England States, whose duty shall be to "induce all amateurs within their respective sections to join our Association." The President and Secretary, with gratifying push, are soon to issue a circular setting forth the aims of amateur journalism, and asking the youth of New England to join the fraternity and reap the benefits. A worthy mission, imitated by President Bassett, of the Michigan A. P. A., who, in his last message, urges upon his fellows the wisdom of mailing copies of their publications in which amateurdom is placed in pleasing light to the boy printers of the State, thus bringing into their coterie "a host of new faces,

young men full of energy and an honor to the educational institutions which will hold them as its only students, while they seek perfection in a science, which from the beginning, offers opportunities for practice.

THE NEWS.

AMATEUR PERSONALS.

Frank Chamberlain has given up the *Elf*, of Washington, and left for a brief tour to Europe the last of May.

President Briggs is threatened with consumption, and his doctors have ordered him West. He will reside in Denver, Colorado, possibly taking a position on a paper there. He leaves for his new home after the coming vention.

It is stated by some that Zander Snyder has not retired, but will soon bloom again. We hope so.

J. L. Grigg, of the *Jimplecute*, (what does that name mean?) has withdrawn from our midst.

All the young gentlemen in the ranks are "extending the hand of good fellowship" to Miss Clara H. Tardy, the new assistant editor on the Richmond *Dial*.

Richard Dallam, who so long and so ably assisted Allen Gray on the *Argus*, has retired. Cause, the usual one, lack of time.

J. W. Snyder, known to us all, and made famous as "Winslow," has left Richmond, Va., for Kansas City, where he will tack his shingle as a lawyer.

Delavan W. Gee, was married about the 1st of April to Miss Katie Knight, of Washington. Gee was long editor and proprietor of the *Southern Star*.

Frank H. Duffy, formerly of the *Pastime*, Washington, D. C., died of consumption on the 5th of last April.

John W. Kramer has ceased the publication of *Idle Hours*, and will hereafter be connected with Bielm on the *Composing Stick*.

Hudson Imhoff of the Lincoln *Boomer* has the finest collection of coins, stamps and autographs in Nebraska.

D. A. Sullivan, by a lengthy card in the *Young American* refuses to be candidate for Official Editor or any other office of the N. A. P. A.

Ben Newsome, Carbondale, Ill., has charge of the *Western Representative*, organ of the Western A. P. A., vice Mills, resigned, under appointment of President Morris.

Thos. J. Hope has taken charge of the local columns on the Norfolk (Va.) *Day Book*, a daily newspaper started in 1857. Jno. R. Hathway, another amateur, we presume, is his assistant.

The National Amateur.

Wright wholly devotes the April issue of his *Egyptian Star* to a review of recent amateur books. On the whole impartially written, its criticisms are such as to be of real value to the writers of the books quoted. In the remarks on Parson's book is it correct usage to write "a real good burlesque?" Eh, Will?

The publishers of *Our Boys* live at Plattsmouth, Neb. The Editor-in-Chief Daniel H. Wheeler, Jr., attends the State University, at Lincoln, and chums with the editor of the *AMATEUR*. Both are in for a full course, the first literary, the second classical.

The St. Louis A. J. C., has been re-organized as the "Stylus Club." The Resolutions of Regret, called out by the withdrawal of Stanton S. Mills, is handsomely prepared. They thank him for his example and the faithful performance of his duty as an officer of the club.

Oldham, now in Washington, is publishing a series of amateur cabinets, that are said to be really superb.

Oswald C. Ludwig, editor *Decatur Herald*, Decatur, Ala., was recently married.

NEW PAPERS.

Amateur Times..... Detroit, Mich.
Bee..... San Francisco, Cal.
Boomer..... Lincoln, Neb.
Cap Sheaf..... Detroit, Mich.
Commentator..... Philadelphia, Penn.
Detroit Herald..... Detroit, Mich.
Furnace..... Detroit, Mich.
Gazette..... St. Louis, Mo.
Graphium..... Fostoria, Ohio.
Idler..... Brooklyn, N. Y.
Little Joker..... Concord, N. H.
Michigan Boy..... Detroit, Mich.
Our Buckeye Enterprise..... Canal Dover, Ohio.
Patriot..... Detroit, Mich.
Radical..... Bergen, N. J.
Stranger..... Detroit, Mich.
The Eureka..... Detroit, Mich.

AMATEUR ASSOCIATIONS.

The Pacific Coast A. P. A., meets second and fourth Saturdays of each month in San Francisco. E. Thompson, President; E. Oakley, Vice-President; Frank Michael, Recording Secretary; Philip Figel, Corresponding Secretary; Geo. Swasey, Treasurer. The *Ubiquitous*, Official Organ.

The Vermont A. J. A. met at Montpelier, May 27th. Grand success. The following were elected officers: President, Fred. H. Kimball; Vice-Presidents, J. Leech, Edward Genksbey, Charles DuBois; Secretary, Fred. E. Dailmey; Treasurer, Geo. E. Tenell; Official Editor, F. S. Weston.

New England A. J. A. holds its next Convention at Portland, Me., July 6th, 1880. President Sullivan has appointed E. W. Fryc, Orator; Miss Virginia J. Stephens, Essayist; C. E. Stone, Poet. According to the list in the official organ they have sixty-five members.

Illinois A. P. A.'s regular Convention meets at Mattoon, Ill., on July —. The Special Convention for voting by proxy for National Officers, met pursuant to President's call, at Carbondale, May 31. Results not known.

Granite City A. P. A. President, H. D. Stuart; Vice-President, A. H. Chase; Secretary, O. Cummings; Treasurer, B. Jackman; Official Editor, W. J. Drew; Organ, *High School Mite*.

The Detroit A. J. C. has fifteen members, thirteen of whom are actively identified with the 'Dom. Meets semi-monthly. The amateurs in Detroit are progressing finely.

The Eastern A. P. A. will convene in New York City five day prior to the National Convention.

The Southeastern A. P. A. will meet at Fortress Monroe, Va., during the month of July.

The Kentucky A. P. A. meets in Covington the day before the National Convention.

The Ohio A. P. A. meets in Cincinnati during the week of the National Convention.

The New York S. A. P. A. met at Albany, May 31. Report not yet in.

The New Jersey A. P. A. met at Morristown, May 31. Report not yet in.

—President Reeve, of the New Jersey A. P. A., in a very firm message to his association, says that he has not the power to appoint any committee to meet a committee of the backsliders from that club with a view to conciliating the factions. He has decided upon Monday, May, 31st as the time of holding the next convention, which is to be at Morristown, and he says to the "Opposition," that "if any of them feel that they have made a mistake and wish to join us again, they will undoubtedly have a respectful hearing at Morristown, and those who are worthy of confidence and are constitutionally qualified, will be welcomed back."

—Something unusual. The printing office of the *Totter*, Fostoria, Ohio, is insured in the sum of fifty dollars. It is valued at seventy-five dollars.

—The last issue of the *Totter* brings a supplement showing the autographs of Fostoria boys, printed by the ceratype. The signatures look very boyish in the main.

—A certain paper advances the claims of a candidate for the Corresponding Secretaryship of the N. A. P. A., and gives among a list of virtues, the statement that he blows the leading horn in a cornet band. Then why don't he blow his own horn.

—The *Ventilator* of Millview, Florida, has blossomed out from amateur-ishness into a quasi professional, by adopting patent insides.

—Of Brooklyn amateur editors, four are for Washburne for our future President, three for Grant, three for Sherman, and two for Blaine on the first choice. Pretty well divided. Only one Democrat, and he for McClellan!

—"Early Marriages" appears as a frequent and favorite heading, nowadays. Much they know about it!

PROFESSIONAL BOY'S PAPERS.

There is a universal opinion that nothing earthly is perfect, and it may be safely said that the Constitution of the National Amateur Press Association is no exception to this rule. One imperfection, the writer thinks, appears in Section 1, Article XVII, relating to the expulsion of members connected with the professional boys' papers. This clause, it will be remembered, was formed at a time when the amateur ranks were agitated over the question, and when impulse rather than calm thought was followed. Let us look at the subject at present, and we will find that the 'Dom has not received the benefit expected from the clause. True, that may have kept some few from reading such papers and the papers themselves are injured in a very slight degree, but there is at present no decrease in their number and they exercise about the same influence upon the youth of the country. On the other hand, Amateurism, bereft of the excellent departments conducted in these papers has lost a most valuable advertising medium, which has been severely felt, for probably any one of these professional papers has a circulation exceeding that of all of our amateur journals combined. In consequence of this the Amateur cause has steadily declined from the halcyon days of '73 and '74 to the present of '80, both in number and quality of papers. Some amateurs may with some truth attribute this decline to other causes; but, nevertheless, as an experiment, would it not be well to strike out Section 1, Article XVII, as it does no good, and let some wide-awake member of the fraternity conduct a useful department in one or more of these papers? If its beneficial influence is not soon felt, the writer will give up the profession of a prophet and forever after hold his peace. At any rate give the experiment a trial. If this article can have any influence toward abolishing or amending the said clause at the Cincinnati Convention, the writer is fully recompensed for having written it.

—Arthur B. Perry.

—Thus endeth Volumn II of THE NATIONAL AMATEUR.