

THE FIFTH ANNUAL EVENT

A Large Audience Listened to the Speakers and Gave Frequent Applause.

Moscow, Idaho, April 16.—The oratorical event of the year in university circles occurred last evening, when the fifth contest for the gold medal annually offered by Dr. W. W. Watkins of this city, was held in assembly hall, which was packed with students and townspeople. ~~President Gault, who presided at~~ his opening remarks the conditions governing the contest.

After an instrumental solo by Max Garrett, J. M. Herman, Jr., of Moscow spoke on "The Mission of Education." He said, in part: "From the dawn of history to the present time education, in one form or another, has always exercised a potent influence in the affairs of civilized men. Each link in the unbroken chain of 40 centuries marks some decisive victory over ignorance, and each victory some consummate triumph over error. The light of learning at times seemed to wane, and almost disappear, but only to reappear and shine forth with redoubled brilliancy. The mission of education is to bear us to those heights from which we may behold the world with the true conditions of its affairs and judge more accurately the relations of life. By ever turning our steps forward, and not backward; upward, and not downward, we can bear civilization to heights undreamed of before, and make the brotherhood of man not a rhetorical phrase, but a realized possibility."

C. L. Herbert of Lewiston followed with an oration on "Memories of Our Heroes." He said: "The preservation of national memories is an element of national greatness; in their revival the noblest impulses of a free and grateful people are awakened to their sacred trusts. America will ever cherish the memory of every soldier who fought to found and defend this land of ours. From the Atlantic to the Pacific, from northern lakes to the southern gulf we are one. New duties now rest upon us; these men have left a national life for us to guard and develop. Let us idealize their characters by finer aspirations, by heartier hatred of corruption. Let us be worthy of them, and in our quiet duties prepare ourselves for the great national duties now before us. This Union can never perish. 'Old Glory' must forever float in the sweet breezes, not a stripe obscured, not a star erased."

"Our National Prosperity" was the theme of the third speaker, G. W. Kays of Genesee. "The great structure of civil and religious liberty known as the American republic was derived from pious and patriotic hearts, hewn from the great stone houses of nature, polished by experience, crowned with the accumulated wisdom of ages, sanctified and cemented by the blood of Christian men. While we profit by the teachings of history and our ancestors, while we labor to disseminate the blessings of education and the lights of morality and patriotism among the people, our integrity and prosperity will be established. Our Rome can not fall while we remain true to our trust. God's everlasting blessing will crown her to the end of time."

After a vocal solo by Miss Kate Hanley, Miss Jennie Hughes of Moscow spoke on "The Uncrowned King," Cromwell. "Roused by the cry for English liberty he offered himself as its champion, and, with his Ironsides, was victorious everywhere. Under his government England's dignity and glory were not only maintained, but given an impulse that has had much to do with her later development and progress. To be a Cromwell is to work as he did. The world has need of such. Future generations will not only think of him as the great man who contributed so much to the progress and development of England, but as the great general, in God's kingdom, who still leads the Ironsides on to new victories; not, however, for the Puritan alone, but for the redemption of the world."

"The French Revolution" was treated by R. B. McGregor of Genesee. "The revolution surpassed all others in its long preparation, its completeness and the greatness of its area. Never was more undaunted courage displayed than by those sons of liberty, when they answered their country's call and went forth like the Spartan. The revolution came, not as a sudden outbreak of fanatics but as a national result following a long train of abuses at the hands of imperial power. The spirits of its leaders shall join with those martyred heroes who have shed their blood on thousands of battle fields and on the scaffold in defense of home and country."

The sixth and last speaker was Miss Eva Nichols of Moscow, and her subject was "The American Press." "It is an acknowledged fact throughout the world that the American system of journalism surpasses all others in its far-searching collection of news. The striving for sensationalism is a most obvious fault, and there is a morbid craving for personalities. A third is a lack of fairness in political opinions. The harsh and outrageous criticism of our public men is a disgrace. The press cleansed and reformed, the standard American journal of the 20th century will rise, a journal whose pages shall be neither dull nor vulgar, courteous to opponents and answering their arguments rationally and convincingly."

While the reports of the judges were being collected and tabulated, Miss Maud Mix and Max Garrett rendered an instrumental duet. The judges were: On thought and composition—Rev. G. M. Booth, I. N. Smith and Mrs. Theo Reed. On delivery—W. H. Clark, J. J. Swartz and Miss Nellie Darby. Their decision, awarding the prize to Miss Hughes, was received with vigorous and long continued applause. She was presented with the medal by Arthur P. Adair, who won the contest in 1895, and afterwards was warmly congratulated by the audience. Miss Hughes is a member of the junior class, an excellent student, and the only colored student in the institution. Her oration was well written and her delivery excellent. The contest was the best thus far in the history of the university, and reflected high honor on all the par-