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Editorial.

With this issue of the Classic a most hearty greeting of the new staff is extended to all the friends and patrons of our journal. The staff which has just retired from these duties, which will undoubtedly be pleasant ones as we become more experienced, has turned over to us the management of this journal. As we take up this work it is with a trembling hand that we begin to write. We feel a strange want of self-confidence. We realize our want of ability to satisfy our readers, but we rely upon the assistance of the students, alumni and friends of the Academy and we will strive to keep this journal at the high standard at which the present graduating class have maintained it and turned it over to us. That is, we will endeavor to continue to make the reading of the Classic an instructive and interesting pastime. And so we kindly ask our readers to charge any deficiency of the Classic, not to our lack of desire to please but to our want of experience.

Affairs in Russia are still attracting considerable attention. We can scarcely take up a paper, but what we read about rioters and mobs attacking nobles and burning towns, and in other ways breaking the laws. Still we cannot blame these people for their hostile attitude toward the government. They have for years been oppressed and are now waking up to the advantages that people of other nations enjoy compared with them. The lower class of people receive little or no education. This want of education is shown by the fact that many soldiers fighting against the Japanese, scarcely know why they are fighting. With this lack of education, and lack of a voice in the government, there also comes a lack of patriotism, the mainspring of every nation.
can also be proven by the Russo-Japanese War. Many soldiers and
even officers of the Russian army have no wish that their country
may be successful. To this lack of patriotism is due largely the
failure of the Russian armies to cope with those of Japan. The
sooner the Czar and his advisers see the futility of any longer at-
ttempting to keep the common people from having a voice in the
government, and the sooner he sees the impossibility to keep
people any longer in ignorance, the better it will be for Russia.
However, if the Czar and his advisers do not soon see this, the
murders and terrors of a French revolution will be repeated and
magnified in Russia; for it is impossible in this enlightened age to
be oppressed as to-day are the people of Russia.

"A true hero lives after he is dead". So it is with Robert Burns.
During his life he was miserable and neglected, but now splendid
monuments have arisen on his own intrinsic merits. The cause of
such a life as he lived, must not only be sought in the poet, but also
in the time and conditions in which he lived. He did not have, as so
many other poets, riches and assistance, but he was without help
and instruction. The main cloud, however, that darkened his glory
for a while, was his intemperance. Thus it is no wonder that his
genius obtained no complete mastery of the art, or his talent was
not fully developed. But his true poetic genius at times breaks forth
through the cloud with glorious beams. Never shall the world know
the genius that could not show itself complete, in so short a lifetime.
But some of it is shown forth in his "sought-for" writings, which
are chiefly songs.

His sincerity and desire for truth are clearly brought out in his
songs, written from sight and experience. They are spoken with
modesty and modulation. Keenness of insight, in the poetry of
Burns, keeps equal pace with keenness of feeling. His songs are
rhymed pathos.

A fatal error of Burns was his want of purpose in his aims, but
he is not so much to blame, considering the age in which he lived.
The memory of Burns is enshrined in many a heart, not as the
noblest character, but in pitying admiration. H. S. '05.

The Slavery Conflict.

From 1619, when a few negroes were sold as slaves at James-
town, Virginia, by some Dutch traders, the slavery question has
caused more or less trouble, until in 1861 it led to the Civil War and
was decided after four years of hard fighting.

On account of geographical conditions, slavery from the very
beginning took a firm hold on the South. For in the South, where
the land could be worked during the larger portion of the year,
slavery was very profitable, and after the invention of the cotton gin
it was even more so. In the North there were but a few places
where slaves were profitably employed as field hands, most of them
being used as house or body servants.

Up to 1750 not so very much had been thought about the slavery
question except by a few such as Roger Williams, Sewall and some
others, but after that the feeling spread that the institution was
wrong. It was not until after the Revolutionary War, however,
that anything much was done. Then most of the Northern States
passed Emancipation Acts and several anti-slavery societies were
organized. Also by the Ordinance of 1787 slavery was prohibited
in the northwestern territory.

Most of the leading men of the day saw the danger in slavery
and it was Jefferson that wrote, "I tremble for my country, when I reflect that God is just and that his justice will not sleep forever."

Soon the need of a fugitive slave law was felt and from 1793, when the first law was passed, until the Civil War, laws regarding fugitive slaves were continually being made and broken.

Now followed a time during which little was heard regarding the slavery question, for during the Napoleonic wars in Europe and the war of 1812 in the United States the slavery question was hidden under that of Tariff. During this time, however, although States had been admitted, it had been so arranged that the balance was still preserved.

In 1819, however, the question arose as to whether Missouri should be admitted as a free or slave State. The North objected to the spread of the institution in the vast territory still to be occupied, while the South thought any limitation to be an infringement on their rights. A fierce contest ensued but finally a line was drawn across the Louisiana territory at 36° 30'. It was agreed that north of this line no slavery should exist, save in Missouri.

Now the South seeing the necessity of extending slavery tried to acquire new territory, while the North did her best to prevent the South from doing so; the North even going so far in the Wilmot Proviso as to stipulate that no money should be appropriated to purchase territory unless slavery were prohibited therein. The Bill was not passed. The press was also very active, many anti-slavery papers being established. The most important anti-slavery paper was William Lloyd Garrison's Liberator, published in Boston.

In 1850 California wished to be admitted as a State, but here trouble arose, since part of California lay south and part north of the Missouri Compromise line. The citizens, however, wished the State to be free. Finally the Compromise of 1850 was passed, which admitted California as a free State, but to please the South they also made a Fugitive Slave Law, stringent enough even to satisfy it. But the law was not followed and all the benefits of the Compromise would go to the North, unless something was done. Senator Douglas furnished this something by bringing before Congress the Kansas-Nebraska Bill. This Bill declared that the Missouri Compromise was inoperative and void, being overthrown by the Compromise of 1850, and that the line of 36° 30' no longer marked the boundary line of slavery. It proposed that all the land of the Louisiana Purchase north of 36° 30' should be organized as territories and in due time be admitted as States, either free or slave, as the voters within the territories should themselves decide. This Bill was vigorously opposed by the Abolitionists, but it was nevertheless carried and became a law, May 30, 1854.

Now began a race for the new territory, societies even being organized to send people there. In the territory itself was the wildest disorder, some blood shed and considerable sacking and burning. At first the slave-owners gained the ascendancy, but in the end the Free State men won.

Rise of Japan.

Preeminent among those nations which have risen in late years stands Japan. The interest of the world is now riveted upon the struggle between this nation, which was supposed to be small and insignificant, and that nation, which, on account of its enormous size, is called the "Bear."

That Japan has military strength is proven by the victories which she has gained over the Russian forces both by land and sea. Also look at the civilization of these two nations. In Russia the masses of people are uneducated and ignorant. There is no system of schools. Everything which will tend to enlighten the people is kept out. In Japan conditions are nearly opposite. The Massachusetts system of schools has been adopted. The European method of dress is used. Men are sent to all countries so as to introduce new things into Japan. In government, Japan is also more advanced than Russia. In Japan the people have a voice in the government, Russia is an absolute monarchy. People are well satisfied in Japan. In Russia the people are at this moment in actual rebellion.

Now let us look for the beginnings of a nation which is so rapidly advancing as Japan.

The first known of Japan by Europe was thru Marco Polo, who spent seventeen years (1275-1292) at the court of the Chinese emperor. However inaccurate the book of Marco Polo may be, he first revealed to Europe the existence of Japan.

Jesuit missionaries were sent to Japan and five years after their arrival Christian communities were spreading in all directions. There were many causes favorable to this religion. First because Buddhism, the prevailing religion, promised rest only after years of wandering, while the Jesuits promised direct entrance into Paradise. Political conditions also were favorable. Nobunga, the greatest ruler at that time, hated the Buddhists and openly favored the missionaries.

Nobunga's successor, the famous Hideyoshi, was led to suspect that the foreign priests were plotting against Japan. In 1587 a de-
cree of expulsion was issued against the priests. The priests retired for a while but were working with great vigor when Ioyasu, Hideyo-
oshi's successor, issued another decree of expulsion against the priests and commanded all converts to recant. He enforced this decree by horrible persecutions.

Now for nearly two centuries and a half Japan is closed to the outer world. All foreigners except the Dutch and Chinese were expelled. The Dutch had to submit to the most humiliating trade laws.

Many attempts were made by different nations to open Japan. We will state a few of these attempts and their failures to show the extreme hatred the Japanese cherished for the foreign nations. A vessel sent by Charles II was not allowed to trade, Russia made efforts to open Japan at the beginning of the 19th century but without success. Several Japanese were wrecked and rescued and a private enterprise was fitted out in China to take them back to Japan. But Japanese would not allow their countrymen to land because they had been with the Europeans.

Success finally crowned the many fruitless efforts. In 1853 an American squadron arrived off the coast of Japan. A letter was passed from the President of the United States to some of the highest officers in Japan. In 1854 a strange squadron arrived and after much negotiating a treaty was made which opened two ports to the Americans: Shimoda and Hakodate. Shimoda was soon destroyed by an earthquake and Yokohama was substituted.

European nations were not slow to claim similar advantages. Russia succeeded in getting a treaty signed. Great Britain also negotiated but the treaty was never ratified. But since an opening had been made into Japan they were not long in getting better conditions. In 1858 treaties were made first with United States and then with Great Britain, allowing foreign citizens to reside in certain cities of Japan.

There was however a certain tribe of people, the Salsumma, who resented the arrival of foreign nations in Japan. These set the Shogun at defiance. A British fleet bombarded their cities and razed them to the ground. Seeing how thoroughly unprepared they were for modern warfare, the Salsumma became the leaders in the movement for closer intercourse with foreign nations.

All these treaties had been made with the Shogun. It soon became known that the Shogun was not the supreme rules and that he had made all the treaties without consent of the Mikado. The country was on the verge of a civil war but the Mikado seeing the great advantages which foreign nations brought to Japan sanctioned the treaties in 1865.
seaports one on each side of Korea, Korea's absorption would become inevitable. Historically Japan held a feudal authority and protection over Korea. Therefore her national sentiment was deeply wounded by any foreign aggression in this peninsula.

The United States and Great Britain seeing the danger of the Russian policy ordered her to withdraw from Manchuria. This Russia consented to do at stated times. But when the time came Russia remained quietly in Manchuria. She intended to yield nothing. The only alternatives for Japan were total and permanent effacement in Asia or war. She chose war.

Hostilities between Russia and Japan began Feb. 8, 1904. The participants may be likened to a Goliath and David. And we see as the struggle advances that the result will be as was that of Goliath and David.

We therefore must conclude that the nation which in a half a century rose to be the equal of Russia, that nation may also be ranked an equal among the greatest nations of the world.

E. H. '06.

Exchange.

"That was a mean trick Harry played Louise."

"What is it?"

"Why, he disguised himself as a census taker and found out her age."

"Confidentially," said the undertakers wife, "Mr. Smith has not paid the bill for his wife's funeral yet."

"Isn't that scandalous?" exclaimed Mrs. Gabble. "I should think he would be ashamed to let other people know how little he thought of his wife."

"Yes, and his brother John, when his was buried, paid the next day."

"Huh! Peared like he was glad to get rid of her, didn't it?"

"I see yer movin' out boss," remarked a very disreputable looking Weary Willie, who had stopped to watch the operation. "Is dey anything that you don't need and I might take?"

"Yes!", snapped the crusty suburbanite tossing a bundle into the van, "a bath!"

Magistrate (to prisoner) "Did you really call this old gentleman an imbecile and an idiot last night?"

Prisoner, (trying to recollect his tho'ts) "The longer I look at him the more probable it seems to me that I did."

THE CLASSIC.

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Baseball!!!
Look at the bulletin board!
Owing to a teachers association held at Sioux City, the students enjoyed a short vacation Apr. 20-21.

The Academy baseball team played their first game of the season with Hull, on Apr. 20. Owing to a tie in the 9th inning, an extra one was played in which Hull ran in one more score, which made it 7 to 8.

Another game was played on the Academy diamond, Apr. 21, between the Sioux Center and Orange City high schools. O. C. won by a score of 9 to 5.

Mr. Heusinkveld spent his vacation at Sioux City.

Mr. L. Dyk has left for an extended visit to the old country.

TRY THEM.

Phone 36.
On Apr. 27 a game was played between Rock Valley and our boys on the local diamond. Vermeer pitched the first six innings and "Slim" finished up. Score: 4 to 7 in our favor.

An interesting game was played here two days later, between Hull and the Academy. Both sides did very efficient work. Score: 4 to 5 — O. C.'s favor.

On Apr. 27 Miss Ida Bomgaars entertained her class-mates at her home. A pleasant time was reported.

Messrs. Bauman and Schwitters were absent a few days delivering their orders of stereoscopic views. Both report success.

A few weeks ago Mr. G. V. M. tried to emulate Mr. J. C. D. B's Sunday evening habit and succeeded so admirably that he accompanied the object of his visit to church the same evening.

What is the matter with the girls this spring? We have not seen a sign of the basketball and bloomers yet.

Prof. Soulen returned from a ten days absence spent on business at Chicago and Hope College.

A general case of "rubbering" occurred a few weeks ago. Prof. Soulen announced a change in the program, the order of which, he said could be found on the bulletin board. Of course all the students rushed down to consult it — but they didn't. Prof. had

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it with him.

"B" German class: "Als er der schone Brant Thranen sah."
Miss H. M. translates. "The beautiful bride was sitting in tears."

Mr. G. M. "She must have been pretty wet."

Chow Nic-Nac. Ask Mr. Huisings for recommendations.

Prof. in Dutch: "Miss I. S., what instrument does a balloonist always take with him?"
Miss I. S. "A microscope."

Mr. Dekker, who has had an attack of erysipelas, is again able to resume his studies.

"B" German class: "Er hung seiner Lippin auf Marietta's, zuszern mund."

Mr. E. F. translates: "He hung his lips on Marietta's sweet mouth."

A certain student has thot fit to criticize our baseball manager's managing. But when we compare this same person's managing of last year we see great improvement. A word to the wise is sufficient.

On May 4 Miss Agnes Staplecamp gave her class-party. A delightful program was arranged for and everything went off smoothly with one exception, and that went off too smoothly. A very pleasant time was reported.

Some students have great difficulty in reading Miss Kremen's writing, often making some ridiculous translation; for such it

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is often necessary to make.

Mr. Schwitters has been employing his spare time lately by helping some ladies clean house.

The Classic is in receipt of a very liberal offer for a piano. Among other things a piano is something the Academy is sorely in need of. It would be well for the Board and Classic to cooperate in this matter at once.

A ball game between Paulina and our nine was played here May 12. O. C. won by a score of 7 to 1.

Miss Abbie Van Wechel entertained her class-mates May 11. That they had a good time goes without saying.

Talk about mean tricks! Rock Valley and Orange City arranged for a game May 13, and when our boys got there Rock Valley wouldn't play; and to make it worse they wouldn't help pay expenses. To cap it, the boys had to stay all night on account of rain.

We are sorry that such a limited amount of interest is taken in our ball games. We would be very much pleased to see a better representation of the ladies.

Prof. in History. "What was the result of the battle of Gettysburg?"

Mr. E. F. "Lincoln's speech."

Janitor Jellemel celebrated his 35th wedding anniversary May 14. Congratulations!

The habit of getting the news, the important news expressed in a good literary style, is a puzzle to the busy student.

Watch our Chicago Daily Record Herald readers any morning in the reading room for a solution of this problem.

De Alumnis.

'83 Rev. Henry Hospers was appointed delegate to the General Synod at Ashbury Park, N. Y.

'96 Hattie Hospers has resigned as teacher in the Orange City Schools and will stay at home next year.

'03 Jennie Van der Meide spent her spring vacation at home.

'96 Hattie Hospers, '97 A. G. Huizinga, Hendrine Hospers, '02 Kate Rouwenhorst, '01 Hattie van Rooyen, attended the North-western Teachers' association meeting at Sioux City Apr. 21-22.

'04 Hugo Kuyper has completed his course in the Brown's Business College of Sioux City and is now working in Mr. G. Hatley's office.

'02 Kate Rouwenhorst has been elected as teacher in the Orange City Public School.


'97 J. Van Peursen '98 J. Van Der Bock and '97 J. Wesselink will be examined the twenty-third of this month.

'85 We send our heart felt sympathy to Rev. T. W. Mullen burg on account of the death of his wife.

'05 John de Bey is working for a plumbing company in Oakland, Neb.

'03 We are pleased to notice

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INVITES THE STUDENTS TO GIVE IT A TRIAL.
that John Roggen's ability as a ball player is being recognized at Hope.

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