

2-1906

# The Classic, February 1906

Northwestern Classical Academy

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*F. Lubbers*

FEBRUARY, 1906.

# The Classic.

PUBLISHED AT ORANGE CITY, IOWA.



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# The Classic.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR BY THE STUDENTS  
OF THE N. W. C. A.

VOLUME 14

FEBRUARY

NUMBER 5

## Editorial.

THE railroad rate bill has passed the House with a large majority only a very few voting against it. It is now before the Senate and the fears of the people, as to its course, which were well founded a few days ago, are now rapidly disappearing, and it is nearly certain that the upper branch of Congress will follow the example of the lower branch and pass a measure which will practically be the same as the Hepburn bill. This bill, if it passes the senate, will most likely be in effect before April 1, 1906. Soon after this measure goes into effect the railroad rates in the United States may compare more favorably with those of Germany as has been conclusively shown by the committee of investigators sent to this country in 1904 by the Kaiser. The results which these men obtained from a careful study of the American railway system compared with those of Prussia show that the Germans have a decided advantage over the Americans not only in rates but also in the number of people killed and wounded by the railways. Statistics proved that per million travelers there were six times as many killed and twenty-nine times as many wounded by American roads as by German. Regarding rates the average passenger rate in America 2.02 cents per mile, compared with .98 cents in Germany. Freight rates .78 cents per mile in America, 1.36 cents in Germany. This the investigators said is caused by the American statistics including freight carried for the railroads themselves, while in Prussia they included only those upon which freight was paid. Also, the American companies made huge profits from express and the German companies comparatively nothing. They assert that if conditions were equalized at these points American freight rates would be 1.44 cents per ton per mile and German 0.95 cents. However if this measure, which is now before the Senate passes, American rates may soon be compared more favorably to the Prussian rates.

GREAT freindship has recently been shown to the president by the Cubans. They think that the circumstances are exceptional on account of the special relations between Cuba and the United States, and especially between Cuba and President Roosevelt, and that it is the duty of Cuba officially to show her good will on the occasion of his daughter's marriage by giving her a present. And the fact that other nations send gifts, has induced Cuba to do the same.

The president has made no statement as yet of his views concerning the intention of the Cuban government, but he has already revealed himself in such a way that he does not seem likely to approve of it. As he has consistently deprecated the practice of foreign governments making gifts to persons in America of official position or whose prominence arises from their relationship to officials of the United States, there is no doubt but that he will strongly oppose if the Cubans insist upon giving the proposed present. The position which the president has already taken has disappointed the Cubans exceedingly. There is however no reason for disappointment, for this position applies with equal force to other nations who contemplate doing the same. Why he is not in favor of this proposition we may not be able to see immediately, but doubtless when his arguments are exposed the matter will be looked at with a different view.

IN accordance with the custom of previous years and the recommendation of General Synod Thursday, January 25, was observed at the Academy as "Prayer Day for Colleges." Regular duties were suspended for the day to enable students and faculty to participate in the two special services of the day, the one at the Academy chapel at 10 o'clock A. M. and the other at the 1st Reformed church at 2 P. M. The morning service was in charge of Principal Soulen who, after the introductory exercises, introduced Rev. J. P. Winter who chose as the leading thot of his address a portion of a sentiment so well known to Academy students "Who are, who are, who are we!" Giving the jocular expression a serious turn he pointed out with his usual vividness the students relations, 1st: toward themselves; 2nd, toward each other and 3rd, toward God.

After a duet by the Misses Hospers and Van de Steeg, a brief talk followed by the Principal along lines suggested by David's paternal anxiety and love for the wayward Absalom.

The afternoon meeting was worthy of a larger attendance. Rev. E. W. Stapelkamp of the 1st church gave a strong discourse on the topic "Pray ye the Master to send Laborers into the Field." A

strong plea was made not only for more consecration to the Master's service among young men but also for loyal support to our educational institutions.

Perhaps no year for some time has witnessed such a general religious awakening among the Academy students as this. The "Week of Prayer" and the "Day of Prayer" have left an impression that is bearing a rich fruitage. At a recent meeting of the 2nd Ref. church ten students made public confession of their faith, a number to which it is hoped others will be added before the season has passed.

### Origin of St. Valentine's Day.

How many of the "Classic" Readers know the origin of St. Valentine's Day and the reason why we celebrate it. There are three explanations as to the origin of the day.

The first is that St. Valentine was a bishop or a presbyter at Rome and was beheaded by Emperor Claudius A. D. 270 and from that on was exalted as a saint, because of his character. It is said he was famous for his love and charity, and the custom of choosing Valentine's upon his festival took its rise from thence.

The second explanation is that the custom may have descended to us from the ancient Romans, who, during the Lupercalia, which was a festival in honor of Lupercus, god of flocks, pastures and forests, celebrated in the month of February, were accustomed to put the names of young women and women into a box from which they were drawn by young men. The Christian clergy finding it difficult to exclude this began practice, gave it a religious aspect by substituting the names of particular saints, for those of women. This usage is more or less widely extended in the Roman Catholic church, to select, on St. Valentine's day a patron saint for the year, who is termed a valentine. It is also probable that this is a relic of that nature-religion which was the primitive form of religion in North west Europe.

The last explanation is that about this time of the year the birds choose their mates and thence probably came the custom of the young men and women choosing valentines for special loving friends on that day.

St. Valentine's day was in early times extensively celebrated in Italy, England, Scotland and France. On the eve of St. Valentine a number of young folks would assemble together and inscribe upon paper the names of an equal number of each sex, throw the whole into some receptacle and then draw the names out—care of-

course being taken that each should draw one of the opposite sex. The person thus drawn received a valentine and also became a valentine. The imaginary engagements often led to real ones, because one necessary consequence of them was that, for a whole year a bachelor remained bound to the service of his valentine. During the 15th century this amusement was very popular among the upper classes at many European courts.

We know that these several customs have changed in America. Now when St. Valentine's day approaches, the store windows are filled with valentines, but of a far different kind than of old. Now they are made of paper, celluloid or some other material, while in the time gone by they were in the form of persons. Then, it was that a valentine was appreciated more than it is now. Now the greater part are given as jokes and with no thought of a real valentine. So we see other nations have handed down this custom to us and, after gradual changes, we in turn will pass it to other people.

R. D. K. '06.

### Robert Burns.

As benefactors to all mankind, literary men have rendered a universal service, which shall never be surpassed by any other class of people. Alexander the Great, Napoleon and Frederick the Great wielded swords of destruction and wherever they traveled with their large host of conquerors they left devastation and poverty in their bloody paths. The glory of a Socrates or of a Cicero, the well versed literature of Classic Greece and Rome, and the influence of a Shakespeare or of a Milton is greater than the renown of Alexander, Napoleon or of a Frederick the Great. Likewise, about a few years before the fathers of our country had signed the Declaration of Independence, did the beautiful thoughts of love and humanity proclaim to the world that the greatest man that Scotland had ever given to the world had come forth in the person of Robert Burns, the National poet of Scotland.

High souls like Burns, the friendless son of man, come in sight about once a century, like a far distant star whose dim rays are like the beautiful expressions of truth, beauty and love that he scattered.

Robert Burns was a descendant of a good line of sturdy Scotch peasantry, who devoutly upheld to their son the national cause. Robert was thereby inspired with a rustic patriotic air, that gave him that true love for his country, for which he is and will be forever immortalized.

A natural virtue dwells in his poetry, he had an inspiration for every fancy, a cause for every mood, as we see that the loss of a pet sheep, a church quarrel, some old tune or a stormy night induced him to write some very good poetry. In him is the gentleness and trembling pity of a woman and the deep passionate forces of a hero. He sways humanity to and fro with a power which seemed natural to him.

No poet of any nation or age is more graphic than Burns. We see this characteristic at a first glance. In that rough dialect and often awkward and rude metre, it seems as the blunderous results of an unskilled person and yet the artistic touch of a Michael Angelo is not more delicate or expressive.

The poetry of Burns will live forever, because it is sprung directly out of the human heart, to the deepest and noblest emotions to which it appeals.

Burns has given to us the best verses made by indignation that ever were given. Who will forget his "Dweller in yon Dungeon dark" with its infernal pit laid bare and its streaks of hell fire shooting forth in all directions to consume everything within its fiery grasp, as a masterpiece of this species? Another wild song that dwells in our minds with a peculiar vagueness is "Mac Phereson's Farewell", there was not a touch given to this rough Scottish highlander, except by Burns; but who except Burns could have given words to such a soul? words that we never can listen to without a strange ghostly feeling.

In a different manner the same principle of Love which we have recognized as the great characteristic of Burns occasionally presents itself in the shape of Humor. Everywhere in sunny moods a full buoyant flood of joys dwells in the mind of Burns; he rises to the high and stoops to the low and everywhere in his rustic poetical manner he is the brother and playmate of all nature. In his poems the "Elegy on Poor Mollie" or "The Farmer's Mare" there are fine traits of humor—peculiar, original and altogether different than other humor—it is the humor of Burns.

But by far the most complete, tender, truly inspired and musical works of Burns, are without a doubt to be found among his Songs. The reason may be that song is a short simple species of poetical composition and requires nothing more for its perfection than a genuine poetical feeling; yet the Song has its rules as well as the Tragic, and in many cases is not nearly so well rendered. His Songs are the best in all Britain, for since the era of Elizabeth we know that no better and sweeter Songs have been sung.

Besides from this manly, heart-felt sentiment which Burns so beautifully expresses in his poetry, his Songs are honest in point of view as well as in form and in spirit; in his songs he has found a tone for every mood of man's heart, and we will seem to be giving him only a small praise, if we place him first in rank and honor; for we know not and can find no other to place there.

We cherish forever the man who can put the songs that our hearts sing, into immortal music. That was what Burns did. He was a great singer and the world repays him by loving him as it scarcely loves no other. The wisest and best people unite with speech and song to remember, not the wisest and best man that ever lived, but the generous, genial, loving heart that conquered men's thoughts. Without evidences of culture, without the grand imagination by which a Shakespeare or a Milton is inspired, lighting up only the humblest poetry, it is so profoundly fraught with passions so true to nature that every soul capable of feeling, must be touched either by its beauty, mirth or its pathos.

But we must leave the literary character of Burns. Far more interesting than his literary works are his enacted ones: The Life, which he willed and which was doomed among men.

Properly speaking there is but one period in Burns' life and that the earliest; in this man we have not youth and manhood but only youth, for as it was, he was the same in his thirtyseventh year as in his youthful days. With all his keen insight and singular maturity of intellectual powers shown in his writings, he never attains a definite purpose in life. To the last he wavers between two purposes; glorying in his own talent, he yet cannot make this his chief glory. Another and meaner ambition clings to him: he is struggling with the idea of being more completely supplied with money. He looks at the world as the young do and expects what it cannot give to any man. He seeks for contentment, not within himself in action and wise effort, but from without in friendship, honor and pecuniary ease. We do not say these things in dispraise of Burns, for they interest us more in his favor, this blessing is not always given soonest to the best people, but rather, it is often so, that the very greatest men are the slowest in the attainment of manhood.

It seems that Burns made another fatal mistake by becoming involved in the religious quarrels of his district. He enlisted as a fighting man for the New Light Priesthood, in their unprofitable and unpopular warfare. At the meetings of those free-minded clergy he learned much more than was needful for him; he was so awakened by liberal fanaticism that he even disbelieved Religion itself; and

in this world of Doubt in which he was growing, it took men far better and more learned than those free-minded clergy to direct his thoughts in cleaner and more sacred paths of duty. Before long he committed himself before the world; his character of sobriety so dear to the Scottish peasant, is destroyed in the eyes of men and his only refuge consists in trying to disbelieve his own guiltiness. The blackest despiration now gathers over him. He is cast about as worthless. He sees no escape but the saddest of all: exile from his beloved country, to a country in all ways inhospitable to him; and as the gloomy night is fast gathering o'er him in life's storm, he sings his exquisitely beautiful Song of Farewell, which has made him the man of the Scottish people.

While he is in this condition of ruin and despair he is invited to Edinburgh, he hastens thither as in a triumph. The appearance of Burns among the noblemen and clergy of Edinburgh must be regarded as a singular phenomenon in modern literature. At Edinburgh Burns starts out rightly, but the degrading Patrons of Genius tempted him away from his duties, on account of not being able to resist he is weakened in heart and mind and still more with the fever of wordly ambition. He was diverted from his old beaten track of employment in the same way by which Wordsworth and Coleridge were mislead, on expressing too open a sympathy with the French leaders, to suit the taste of some of his friends among the higher orders, alienation followed and Burns' violence soon increased to such an extent that he soon grew out of favor and popularity.

We are told that he was neglected. Neglected? No strong man in good health can be neglected if he is true to himself. By whom was Burns neglected? Certainly not by all Scotland. For they did all they could for him, except pensioning him, for we can hardly think of poets without thinking of pensions.

It is always supposed that Burns was a drunkard. I do not want to exonerate Burns when I say that he was no worse in accordance with the times and his associates than any other man. But drunkenness in his time was the country's worst vice. It is so today. And if tradition is to be depended upon, the supposition to his frequent indulgences of crime is incontestable with the vice to which it is connected. If James I and Sir Matthew Hale believed in witchcraft and were agents in burning decrepit, old women, was that not the cruel superstition and vice of their times? If the great political martyr Lord Wm. Russel accepted bribes from Louis VII was such corruption not also the vice of his time? Is Burns to be held up to

the never dying desecration of posterity as a man steeped in evil and impurity because he unfortunately fell a victim to the social habits of his day, before his better judgment and nobler principles had gained control over the burning passions of youth?

But it is said Burns was imprudent. Much praises to the man who has done one act to influence beneficially his whole life. Burns did three such acts; he wrote poetry; he published it; and in despair of his farm he became an exiseman.

Burns was much impressed with the shortness of life and the Dumfries Aristocracy might as well have treated him kindly because finally death makes all mankind equal.

About the time that the first President of our country was inaugurated, Burns sank into the calm of death, peacefully and without a groan.

The admirers and lovers of Burns are however of all countries. He is loved and honored more when his soothing nature has more power than the sublime; the pathetic than the tragic; and to know his real power and to test the true influence of his genius, we must make ourselves acquainted with the daily life and conversation of the man—Robert Burns. J. L. '06.

### Radium.

A new metallic substance known as radium has lately been discovered by a Polish woman Sklodowsky Curie, who with her husband is engaged in scientific work in Paris. Radium is a white crystalline powder made up of several metals which has the power of illuminating in a degree vastly exceeding the X-ray. Its rays travel nearly as fast as the sun's rays, but they can pierce through iron 3 ft. thick and take photographs in closed trunks. In the entire world there is supposed to be no more than 2 lbs. of it, but this if it was gathered together would have sufficient potential energy to swing the globe from its orbit. It throws off scientific particles of matter at the rate of about 1,200,000 miles a second. Some one in New York has taken several photographs by the light of radium, among them is one of a mouse taken by laying the animal directly on the plate, which was then placed in the bottom of a trunk, wrapped in rugs and allowed to remain there 24 hours.

The probable uses of radium are various. It is expected that it will be beneficial in the treatment of blindness, cancer etc. Its extreme scarcity will compel people to dispense with it, but a small fraction of an ounce properly employed would successfully light several rooms for a matter of one hundred years. F. H. '06.

## THE CLASSIC.

Published Monthly during the School Year  
by the Students of the N. W. C. A.

E. H. Huisinga, '06, - Editor in Chief

### ASSOCIATE EDITORS.

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F. Vanderble, '06	- - -	Local
Anna Meyer, '07	- - -	Ass't Local
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J. C. Kuyper, '07	Ass't Business Manager

Subscription 50 cents per year in advance; 75 cents if not paid by January 1, 1906. Single copies 10 cents. Stamps not accepted.

Advertising rates furnished on application  
Address all communication to Bus. Manager

Entered at the post office at Orange City Iowa, as second-class mail matter.

### Locals.

Mr. Tyrell gave an interesting talk to the students, Thursday morning Jan. 18. We like to have these men come around. It always makes the forenoon pass so much quicker.

It always has been a mystery to us why Schwitters hung around the club house so long after supper, before going up town, but it became clear when he was seen strolling up town with a neighbor lady friend.

Prayer day for colleges was observed at the Academy, Jan. 25. The usual exercises were held at 10 a. m. Interesting addresses were made by Rev. Winter and Prof. Soulen.

James Kuyper was summoned home Jan. 24, on account of the illness of his sister.

## Northwestern State Bank.

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Wagons, Barb Wire, Binders, Mowers  
and Binding Twine.

### DE COOK, BRINK & CO.,

HARDWARE AND SHOES.

Shoe repairing neatly done. Plumbing,  
Hot Air and Steam Furnaces. A first-class  
Repair Shop.

We wish to call the attention of some subscribers to the fact that their subscriptions are due. Please settle as soon as possible as we need the money.

A few of the "A" class members accompanied Gerrit Van de Steeg as far as Alton Friday morning Jan. 19. Mr. Van de Steeg returned to Ames to resume his studies.

Prof. Muste, who left the club some time last fall, has returned to the old boarding house again. After all there is no place so cheap and yet so good as the Club.

Mr. R. D. K. seems to have a mania for ridiculous translations. He translates a passage from the Anabasis thus: "And Clearchus jumped down into the mud and helped himself." We suppose he ate as much as he wanted.

Schwitters and Brink recently had the good fortune to find a pocket book containing some money. Then they did a very unnatural thing — advertised it in the papers. Incidentally Prof. Soulen made some remarks in Bible Study only the day before, on this very subject, and we suppose the boys wanted to see how it worked.

Miss Walvoord instructed the members of the "D" class, that when Will Pennings, who was at the board working a problem, made a mistake, they should say so. Suddenly some one shouted, "Pants is off!"

## Cash Drug and BOOK STORE.

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Prices on all the  
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Supplies.

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Stucco, in fact all kinds of  
Building material.

Free Delivery in City.

One of the large steam pipes in the laboratory burst a few days ago. No particular damage was done except to some sets of the book-keeping class.

Mr. Yellema, our janitor, has informed the club that he cannot supply the club with milk any more. If you want to know the reason why, ask Schwitters.

Mr. William Hospers went to Maurice, Mon. evening, Jan. 29.

Four "A" class members have been enjoying some free periods lately.

Mr. Lankelma beat time with his heels on the back of a seat the other morning, while some one was "rehearsing" a theorem in Geometry.

Miss Walvoord says that two persons cannot use but one paper to cover up their demonstrations at the same time. Slim and Heemy can do it though.

Elocution is becoming one of our most important subjects. Prof. Soulen is combining physical culture with it, so that it is beneficial from a physical standpoint also.

Miss Slob says that if a right angle does not look right by standing right in front of it, you must stand right on the ceiling and then it will look right all right.

The Misses Eveline Hospers and Kittie Klein visited Sheldon Feb. 9-10.

The poor little seniors are cry-

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guarantees you both style and a good likeness. These two features alone are creating and sustaining a demand for our photos. Think it over. Yours truly,

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N. W. C. A. '88 '94.

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carries a line of fine shoes, fully warranted.  
Work for the students a specialty.

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ing lately "Boo-Hoo- we mayn't have class meetings any more."

The students made a "stab" to get let off Feb. 12, by handing in a petition, but it didn't work. They had to be satisfied with an interesting address given by Mr. Klay of this place.

All the books of the library are being re-numbered and re-arranged under a new system. Books can now be found with comparative ease which was not the case here-to-fore. Books will also be drawn and recorded according to chapel number of the students.

Did you know that Schwitters is thinking about making bank inspecting his future life work?

The "B" class had a class party Wed. evening, Feb. 14. Miss Scott's home was the place of entertainment. Of course they had a good time.

Libby Dyk, who has been absent some time on account of the illness of his mother, has resumed his studies again.

Notice the changes in the ad's in this issue.

The "B" class girls, in their great anxiety to know who took Prof. Muste home one Sunday night, asked both Prof. Hospers and Muste. They wouldn't believe that Mr. E. S. A. had gone home so early.

Mr. E. O. S. is attending Dutch question school lately. Wonder why?

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**A. POPMA'S,**

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In Turner, Lincoln and Yankton Counties, S. Dak., also in Southeastern Minn.

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Guaranteed Clothing, made by

**J. Capps & Son.** Every garment

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**ACADEMY  
STUDENTS**

Come for your Clothing,

Ties, Shirts, Collars,

Hats, Caps and Shoes, to

**M. Rhynsburger**

Prof. in English: "Give some prepositional phrases." Class: "Side by side", "Hand in hand", "Arm in arm", "Face to face". Prof.: "That will do now."

Since the "B" class party Mr. Cupido has had pickles on the brain.

## De Alumnis.

'91 Rev. J. W. Te Selle, clergyman in Yakima, Wash., gave up his position on account of his health and will move to his farm in Colorado.

A baby girl at the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. D. Van Oosterhout. '88 and '93.

'97 Miss Gertrude A. Huizenga visited with Orange City friends February 11.

Among the teachers who attended the Professional Teacher's Association held at Alton Feb. 10th the following alumni were present.

'94 Katie M. Kramer, '97 Hendrina Hospers, '97 Gertrude A. Huizenga, '98 Jennie Cambier, '01 Henrietta Van Rooyen, '02 Mary Muyskens, '02 Kate Rouwenhorst, '02 Kittie Smeenk, '02 Will Kuyper, '04 Hattie Muilenburg, '05 Ida A. Bomgaars, '05 Arie Te Paske, '05 Marie Muilenburg, '05 Abbie Van Wechel, '05 Henrietta Maris, '05 Minnie Van Gorp.

'00 and '03 At the recent Oratorical Contest at Hope College, the N. W. C. A. was well repre-

**John Synhorst,**

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for reading this. You will find the finest line of ladies' furnishing goods such as underwear, corsets, hosiery and white goods for graduating dresses. Also hats, caps, collars, socks, suspenders and gloves for the boys, at

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PHONE 2.

**MRS. VAN DEN BERG**

—invites the—

**LADY STUDENTS**

to inspect her fine line of

**MILLINERY.**

sented. J. Roggen '03 was one of the representatives of the Junior class. His subject was "The Dark Continent" and his delivery was extremely effective. A. Judson Kolyn '00 was awarded first place in the Contest both on the merits of his oration and of its delivery. Mr. Kolyn's subject was "The Great Peacemaker" (Roosevelt). Kolyn will be remembered by friends of the Academy as the son of our former Principal, Rev. Matthew Kolyn. We wish our Alumnus success in the Michigan State Contest where he is to represent Hope.

### Exchange.

"You studied French while you were abroad?"

"I did," answered Mr. Cumrox. "I prefer the French language to the English."

"Indeed?"

"Yes. It makes it harder for mother and the girls to find fault with my grammar."

It was their wooden wedding.

"And, now, darling," said the wife, who was in one of her sweet moods, "what are you going to give me?"

"I give you myself," said the husband.

"Yourself?"

"Yes: don't you remember calling me a blockhead?"

"Yes, Goodley hurt himself quite badly. He attempted to open a car window for a lady and—"

### DR. J. A. OGG,

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Agent for the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co.,  
Milwaukee, Wis.

"Ah! burst a blood vessel tugging at it, eh?"

"Not at all. He expected the thing to be hard, but it went up so easy that he pitched headlong through it."

When Professor Moses Colt Tyler, of Cornell, was an instructor in the University of Michigan, he called one morning the roll of an eight o'clock class in English. "Mr. Robbins," said he. There was no answer. "Mr. Robbins", in a slightly louder voice. Still no answer. "Ah," said the instructor, with a quiet smile, "come to think of it, it is rather early for robins."

"Please ma'am, it was two minutes after nine when you got here. When we're late you always keep us in after school," said the smart boy.

"Very well," said the teacher, "you can all stay and keep me in after school, if you wish." The smart boy subsided.

### PANORAMA OF FINANCE AND THE MARKETS.

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