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HENRY A. EROWN PRIZE DEBATE.

Won by a Freshman for the First Time in Many Years.

QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION:
Should the representation, in Congress, of those States that have enacted disfranchisement laws, be reduced in the proportion that the entire number of male citizens, over twenty-one years of age, disfranchised, bears to the total number of male citizens in such States?

Space will not allow an extended account of the debate last Thursday night, but we will attempt to give a brief outline of each speaker's argument.

J. G. LOGAN.

Mr. Logan, a Senior of the Teachers' College, opened the discussion. After a brief exposition of the spirit and meaning of second section of the Fourteenth Amendment, he held that the enforcement is practicable under present conditions. In exemplifying this point he cited the states which have educational qualifications upon the right of suffrage, showing that under such qualifications reduction of representation is made possible. He contended that the enforcement of the clause is expedient, that it is required by the circumstances. "A number of States are tending to gravitate into oligarchies and aristocracies. "Rotten borough" districts are being created, in which there exists no sound political life; there is being established a ruling class. Reduction of representation is the only check for such tendencies; it is the only repressive force available to prevent their further spread." Mr. Logan closed his argument by referring to the constitution as the backbone of the nation. He spoke of the imperative language of the amendment, mentioning the fact that every Congressman is under oath to support every article of the whole document. He insisted that we as Americans cannot afford to disregard law and authority if we would maintain our position as a great nation. His climax was in the form of an appeal for the respect of the constitution and the hope that Congress would, in pursuance of such an attitude enforce the second section of the Fourteenth Amendment to the letter.

J. C. BAGLEY.

Mr. Bagley, of the Senior College Class, was the second speaker. He opposed the measure because it is impracticable. States having control of registration are always able to evade the federal laws by local devices. He gave Maryland's trick ballot and the corruption at the polls in Colorado as examples of the ability to abuse discretionary powers. He also held that it would be productive of evil because it would widen the breach between the two races and in general cause a hostile feeling. Again, that the measure is partisan. It would only tend to bind the Negro more closely to the party in power to which he is politically wedded. It is aimed as a blow to Southern power in Congress. He further stated that such a measure shows an attempt to establish a democracy by a system of penalties and cannot accomplished the result desired. Mr. Bagley ended his argument in the contention that the measure discussed proposes a form of punishment that fails in the primary aim of punishment. Punishment is used to cause criminals to fear, or better still for the benefit of society. But this measure would neither cause the South to fear nor would it benefit society. It would mean another Ku Klux Klan, a veritable reign of terror. What they cannot accomplish by legislation they will accomplish by force.

A. D. TATE.

The third speaker was Mr. Tate, of the Sophomore Class, who upheld the affirmative side. He maintained that every Congressman should uphold the Constitution, and that the government is able to enforce the measure if it will. He said that the argument of Judge Cooly was [Continued on Second Page.]
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WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 21, 1905.

"There is no excellence without labor." This was demonstrated last week at the Henry A. Brown prize debate.

Mrs. Terrrell Lectures to the Assembled Students.

The lecture for the present month, in the regular course of monthly public lectures given to the assembled students, was delivered last Friday afternoon in the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel by Mrs. Mary Church Terrell. Mrs. Terrrell chose for her theme a description of her recent trip to Berlin as a delegate to the International Congress of Women. The lecture was exceedingly interesting and entertaining. Responding to an encore the lecturer made a short rousing speech on Woman Suffrage. The entire student body was present and at the conclusion of the exercises repaired to their respective class rooms refreshed and inspired.

The Recital.

At the recital given by members of the Teachers' College Wednesday night an excellent program was rendered. Mr. Guy, a pupil of Mrs. C. Franklin Cook, deserves special mention. His work is that of an artist. The dialogue by Miss Ransome and Mr. Toone met with general favor and reflected credit upon the efforts of their instructor. The play called "A Business Meeting" was superb and could not have portrayed the characteristics of women better. The parts played seemed to have been made especially for the young ladies who played them.

The Philadelphia Giants defeated Howard Base Ball Team Wednesday by a score of 14 to 0. This however is a professional team, the champions of America. Howard will play Union, of Richmond, Easter Monday. This is a team in its class and a good game is expected.

Henry A. Brown Prize Debate.
[Continued from First Page]

false, for if the requirement of the ability to read and write is not disfranchisement, what is? Mr. Tate had his speech well in hand, and was able to deliver it very forcibly. He received much applause.

J. H. ROBERTS.

The fourth speaker was Mr. Roberts, of the Junior Class. He said: "The aim of government is to secure the promotion of the best interests and welfare of its subjects. All governments in which the people exercise the franchise have deemed it best to attach certain qualifications to the ballot. The liberty loving American colonists did so." He opposed the measure because, first, it would be contrary to the aim of government; second, it would put too much power in the hands of one political party; third, it would now be an unjust interference with the states. He further said: "If the South accepts this reduction, though the letter of the law be executed, not only will the mass in the South still be without the ballot, but worst of all, without the possibility of ever securing it, for the South rules and manufactures her own political machines in such a way as to accomplish what she wishes.

J. T. VANDERHORST.

The fifth speaker, Mr. Vanderhorst, of the Theological Department, said that it is not a race question, for there is no race question involved in the determination by the law-making power of a political fact that, under the constitution calls for a legislative enactment reducing representation in accordance with the fact. "The question is, Shall the provision be carried out? In other words, shall less than 5,000 votes in South Carolina or 1,500 in Mississippi remain the electoral equal of more than 35,000 in Ohio or New York?" Mr. Vanderhorst quoted many other statistics to show where the ratio is immensely out of proportion, and held that to submit to such an unfair inequality is to acquiesce to a most objectionable domination, exclusively sectional in character. He also held that the Fifteenth Amendment is unmistakably violated, for the grandfather clauses show clearly that a blow is aimed at the Negro; for, no matter how ignorant the white man is, he can vote; and that the States should be punished for this injustice. He closed the argument by stating that the claim that manhood suffrage is dangerous is a platitude or sophism. It is dangerous to have laws, states and magistrates, but it is more dangerous not to have them. In a free republic it is dangerous to multiply ignorant voters, but it is far more dangerous to have a large class of disfranchised men who are neither stimulated, educated or ennobled by the exercise of the vote. An open volcano is dangerous, a sealed volcano is an earthquake that shakes a city into ruins.
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C. E. Smith.

The last speaker, Mr. C. E. Smith, of the Freshman Class, brought down the house in applause. He held that the representation in Congress should not be cut down, for the following reasons:

First, because "A law reducing representation because of disfranchisement as it now exists in the South would not stand for the impersonal, civil equality of all, but, defeating its own aim, it would sanction arbitrary public inequality."

Second, because "Such a law would establish a new basis of representation from which it would be wholly impossible to obtain a just and equitable distribution of political power among the states."

Third, because "The proposition, should it become a law, would be wholly incapable of producing the desired effect, i.e., to put an end to the illegal disfranchisement of colored citizens in the South."

Fourth, because "Such a law would be unfair to the colored citizens of the South in that it would sell their right to demand suffrage upon any condition to the South for the reduction of representation, thereby taking from them rights of true citizenship."

In conclusion, Mr. Smith said: "The only true and permanent democracy is the one that establishes justice throughout the land. The will of free men to be just one toward another is our only guarantee that government for the people, of the people and by the people, shall not perish from the earth. It is only when guided by the hand of justice that a democracy is able to shun that abyss in which fallen nations have found their end. It is as sad as it is true that though justice is the foundation on which the citadel of this government is supposed to be built, yet it is that we seek to crush. But justice crushed to earth shall rise again. The eternal years of God arc hers; yea the faint rumbling of a long lost cause will end with justice firmly enthroned and that spirit paramount which teaches the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man."

Decision of the Judges.

Mr. Smith's speech was followed by applause long and loud. He had an argument that appealed to the people, and was frequently interrupted in the midst of his eloquent flights. The judges, Rabbi Simon, Judge Terrel and Lawyer Burney, after a few minutes deliberation, stated that the decision of the house was the decision of the judges, and awarded the prize to Mr. Smith.

The Band Concert.

The effort of the University Band last Friday evening was much of a success. We are glad to see music at Howard receiving so much attention.

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