

# The Evergreen.

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## The Evergreen.

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THE management of THE EVERGREEN will give a prize of \$2.50 for the best Christmas story, of not more than one thousand words, written by a student and mailed, under an assumed name, to the editor by the 15th of December. Accompanying the manuscript must be a sealed envelope containing the real name of the writer and the alias. Last year this prize was won by a "Prep." This speaks well for the Preparatory students, but must be somewhat humiliating to the higher classmen, and it is to be hoped that they will not let it occur again.

† † †

DURING the coming year there will be held two inter-collegiate debates; one with the University of Washington, and one with Whitman College. Last year debates were held with both of the above institutions as a kind of an experiment. The experiment proved a success, although one of our teams was defeated by a very close margin. It is now high time that every student in the college who takes any interest whatever in this important branch of college work—and if there are any who do not, they should be made an object of pity by those who do—should be investigating conditions, and striving for a place on one of the teams. We look forward this year to by far the most prosperous era in the history of our college, and already on every side are to be seen evidences of this prosperity. The Athletic and Military departments are working in fine shape under its stimulus, and the literary work should be pushed along as much as possible by its impulse. Much has been said, but too much

cannot be said, of the importance of literary work, especially the work of forensic discussion. There is no qualification that a man—or woman either—will find so practical in active life as the ability to give a clear discussion of some question before an audience, and to maintain his own position on that question. Very few of us are born debaters, but all of us are capable of acquiring the ability to discuss a subject clearly and forcibly, if we but apply our minds to its attainment. The position of our college in the growing Northwest is one, we can truly say, of pre-eminence. It does not require a prophet, nor the son of a prophet, to foresee that in the years which are yet to come, there are to go out from this institution the men who as lawyers, lecturers, engineers, preachers and teachers are to assist greatly in shaping the destinies of all that part of the United States lying west of the Rocky Mountains, and indeed to wield a powerful influence upon the whole nation. As "westward the star of empire takes its way" the demand is increasing for able, educated men, who have been brought up and trained in the West, to assume responsible and prominent places in the management of our political, social, and industrial machinery. A prerequisite for holding such a position is the ability to maintain and defend one's own position on any of the leading questions of the day. This qualification, so practical and necessary for any young person looking toward success in life, should be attained, to a certain degree at least, during the course of his education. We have abundant opportunity for this training offered here, if we just take advantage of it, in our literary and oratorical associations. It is something that cannot be acquired at the hands of a teacher, but which must be worked and studied out by the student himself. It requires comparatively little of our time, and persistent practice. That the practice is beneficial in after life, is attested by the fact that we so often hear men in active life emphasizing the benefit that such a training has been to them, or deploring the fact that they have not had, or taken the advantage of it. It is a matter on which too much emphasis cannot be laid, and in which a lively interest must be taken and kept up by all the students, not only those who have hitherto done active work along this line. Right here let us

say a word about attending the meetings of the Oratorical Association. Being an organization which deals altogether with inter-collegiate affairs, every collegiate student, who is by virtue of that fact a member, should attend its meetings regularly, as it has to do with matters which concern our dealings and therefore our reputation, with other colleges. There has been so far a deplorable lack, in the meetings, of the presence of the men who most emphasize the fact that every man should attend and take an interest in the meetings of the Athletic Association. It is absolutely necessary that the whole student body should be a unit, and pull together, and send out to represent the college the very best timber that can be found. Let us all make a mighty effort this year, so that in every battle on the platform of public speech we shall enjoy a glorious victory, and so maintain the dignity and reputation of our beloved institution.

We would advise the Freshmen to avoid all stray cows, as pasturage is not at its best just now.—*Ex.*

Money is an uncertain quality—it's so changeable.

Jokes are like nuts—the dryer they are the better they crack.

"What an odd paper weight you have." "Yes, it's my wife's first biscuit."—*Pacific Wave.*

"What are you doing, doctor?" asked a man who entered as a physician was vaccinating a patient. "Scraping an acquaintance," was the reply.—*Ex.*

I wanted to start a magazine,  
And spoke of it to my dad;  
And after hearing what he said,  
I thought I really had.  
—*Yale Record.*

The student who refuses to subscribe for his college paper, and then reads it over the shoulder of his neighbor, is short enough to tie his shoestrings to his necktie.

"Speaking about the man who painted fruit so naturally that birds came and pecked at it," said one artist; "I drew a hen that was so true to life that after the editor threw it into the waste basket it laid there."—*Ex.*

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