

Meadville, Pa., June 20, 1890.

Hon. Albion W. Tourgee,
Mayville, N.Y.,

Dear Sir:-

Your kind favor of the 19th at hand. I now find that I was not sufficiently explicit in my explanations of our system of marking, for I feel that you have misapprehended its true workings.

The judges signify on each point of excellence the respective merit of each contestant, but the decisions are not "determined by a mathematical consolidation of these markings". Your interpretation was a natural one and indeed formerly was the rule but now the successful competitor must receive the highest marks from at least two of the three judges. And thus the contest, barring the marking on the per cent. system, is simply governed by the ordinary methods. No conference of the judges is allowed because frequently, it is avowed, one strong-minded man can reverse the decision of the other judges by mere will-power and personal influences.

The rules, as you suggest, are manifestly defective but seem to be the best devised to counteract dissatisfaction and to prevent general disappointment. The markings are thrown only to a

very few and on no account are even published or publicly announced. The names of the successful contestants are simply read at the close of the Exercises. The audience or participants are never fault-finding or querulous, and the decisions of the judges are final and rarely unsatisfactory.

All the contestants are so heartily in favor of your acting, that I am requested to write again and endeavor to prevail upon you to withdraw your declination and to consent to honor us with your presence. If I appear too importunate or presumptory, please excuse it on account of our great desire to have you serve. As the contest occurs next Monday evening, it is a very difficult matter to secure judges upon such short notice. Your reputation as an author, lawyer and scholar has made you the first and unanimous choice, and we would feel deeply gratified to have you with us. Please telegraph me at once, at my expense, your final resolve.

Trusting that you will re-consider and consent to act, I am,

Very Respectfully,

J. J. Battern

Phi Kappa Psi House,

674 Highland Ave.

per C