

**AN ESSAY ON THE RISE AND FALL OF
THE CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS AS A
MACHINE FOR NOMINATING
CANDIDATES FOR THE PRESIDENCY.
CLASS OF 1902, ACADEMICAL
DEPARTMENT, YALE UNIVERSITY**

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An essay on the rise and fall of the congressional caucus as a machine for nominating candidates for the presidency. Class of 1902, Academical department, Yale University by C. S. Thompson

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C. S. THOMPSON

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AN ESSAY

ON

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS
AS A MACHINE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES
FOR THE PRESIDENCY

BY

C. S. THOMPSON,

OF THE

CLASS OF 1902,

ACADEMICAL DEPARTMENT, YALE UNIVERSITY.

AWARDED FIRST PRIZE IN THE COMPETITION FOR THE
YEAR 1902.

Terms of Foundation
of the
John Addison Porter Prize in American History.

TO THE PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS OF YALE COLLEGE IN NEW
HAVEN :

Being desirous of founding a permanent memorial of my husband, the late JOHN ADDISON PORTER, Yale 1878, within the Academic Department, of which he was a graduate, I, AMY BETTS PORTER, of Pomfret, Connecticut, submit the following offer :

(1) I will forthwith convey to the President and Fellows of Yale College the sum of \$2,000 cash, for a permanent endowment fund.

(2) The income of this fund shall in each year be paid out by said Corporation for a prize, to be called "The JOHN ADDISON PORTER Prize in American History," which shall be constituted and continued as a memorial to the late JOHN ADDISON PORTER, Yale, 1878, Academic, and be annually so announced in the University Catalogue, together with a summary of the conditions of award thereof.

(3) This prize is established, and shall be annually awarded, on the following additional conditions :

(A) The entire income of the fund may be awarded in any year for a single prize, or it may be divided into a first prize of 75% and a second prize of 25%, respectively, of said income.

(B) The prize shall be open to competition among members of the Senior and Junior Classes in the Academic Department, for the College Year, and awarded for the best original essay on a set subject, bearing upon the Political, Constitutional or Economic, History, Condition or Future of the United States, including its Internal, External and Foreign Relations. The prize shall be awarded by three judges, who shall be appointed by the President of the University, and one of whom shall be a graduate of the Academic Department, of at least 10 years' standing. These judges shall be appointed on or before the first day of the second Academic term, the announcement and award of the prize shall be made at Commencement time.

(C) The specific subjects shall be chosen and publicly announced within the first two weeks of the first Academic term of each year, and preferably before Commencement time of the preceding College year. Suggestions as to the length and character of the essays, if any, shall be made at the time of such announcement.

(D) If, in any year, in the opinion of the judges, none of the competing essays is of sufficient excellence to merit either a first or second prize, the prize shall not be awarded; but the surplus income resulting from the endowment, in such case, may be added to the principal, or disposed of by the Corporation in some other way, related to the object of this endowment.

(E) Essays submitted in competition shall be handed in and transmitted to the judges not later than March 1st of each year. They shall be under cover, signed by a fictitious name, and accompanied by the real name of the writer in a sealed enclosure.

(4) The terms of this endowment and the conditions thereof, as set forth, may at any time be altered by agreement between myself as donor, and the Corporation of Yale College. They may also be altered after my death, by unanimous vote of the Corporation of Yale College, if it should seem for the best interests of the College, always provided that the general character of

this endowment, as a lasting memorial to the person specified, shall not be changed, and that the income of the fund shall in any event, continue to be awarded by the Corporation, within the student body which shall, in the future, correspond most nearly to the present Academic department of Yale College.

(5) The Corporation of Yale College, in consideration of the above endowment, agrees to perpetually continue the annual award of a Memorial Prize, as above constituted, and under the above conditions, unless altered by agreement, or by vote of said Corporation, as herein provided for.

YALE UNIVERSITY,
SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., May 18, 1901.

MRS. AMY BETTS PORTER,
Pomfret, Conn.

MY DEAR MADAM: I have the honor to inform you that the following record appears in the Minutes of the meeting of the Yale Corporation held in New Haven on Tuesday, May 14th:

"The President read a communication from Mrs. Amy Betts Porter, wife of the late John Addison Porter, offering to give two thousand dollars for the establishment of 'The John Addison Porter Prize in American History.' The Corporation voted to accept the offer in accordance with the terms indicated, with hearty thanks, and to direct the Secretary to communicate to Mrs. Porter the high appreciation of the President and Fellows for her generous thought of the University."

I am, Madam, with high regard,

Very truly yours,

ANSON PHELPS STOKES, JR.,
Secretary.

Pursuant to the terms of the foregoing foundation, the following subjects were announced for the competition to be decided in the year 1902 :

"The Rise and Fall of the Congressional Caucus as a Machine for Nominating Candidates for the Presidency."

"French Efforts to recover Louisiana, 1780-1800."

"Did the Jay Treaty with England involve a violation of existing treaties with France? If so, was the ratification of the Jay Treaty justifiable?"

"An investigation into the History of the Lynching of Negroes in the South."

"The American Policy of Napoleon III., 1860-1867."

Twelve essays in all were submitted. Five of them were on the first of the above subjects, one was on the second, two were on the third, two were on the fourth, and two were on the fifth subject.

The President of Yale University appointed the following judges:

Charles Henry Smith, L. L. D.,

Professor of American History, in Yale University.

Edward Villette Rayolds, D. C. L.,

Professor of Comparative Constitutional Law and Civil Government, in Yale University.

Samuel Rossiter Betts, B. A., Yale 1875.

The Committee of Judges made the following award :

We, appointed by President Hadley judges of competition for the John Addison Porter Prize in American History, having examined the essays submitted, make our report unanimously, as follows :

We award a first prize of seventy-five dollars to **Charles Seymour Thompson**, of the Class of 1902, for his essay entitled

"The Rise and Fall of the Congressional Caucus as a machine for nominating candidates for the Presidency."

We award a second prize of twenty-five dollars to **Henry Lee Swainhart**, of the Class of 1902, for his essay entitled "French efforts to recover Louisiana, 1780-1800."

We also desire to make honorable mention of **Henry William Hamlin**, of the Class of 1902, for his essay entitled "Did the Jay Treaty with England involve a violation of existing treaties with France? If so, was the ratification of the Jay Treaty Justifiable?" and **Eugene Heitler Lehman**, of the Class of 1902, for his essay entitled "An investigation into the History of the Lynching of Negroes in the South."

Yale University, June 8, 1902.

CHARLES H. SMITH.

EDWARD V. RAYNOLDS.

SAMUEL R. BETTS.

