

John L. Campbell

The Ring-tum Phi.

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Number 7.

St. Albans Letter.

RADFORD, VA.,
October 25, 1897.

Mr. Editor:

I see in a recent copy of "RING-TUM PHI" the following:

"Games with preparatory schools are very risky. Teachers are allowed to play on these school teams and for this reason principals look out for stalwart men when seeking instructors." And further on the same article says: "We would advise future managers to get rid of school games as far as possible, as nothing is to be gained by winning, and it is a great pity to have our reputation bedraggled in loss without having a chance to win any laurels."

I ask the privilege as the Head-Master of a preparatory school to say a few words in reply to this article.

As to the first point, that teachers are allowed to play on preparatory school teams, please let it be remembered that the matriculates in a preparatory school are not numerous, usually about fifty; and that these fifty are young and small, from the knee breeches age on up; and that it is the best a preparatory school can do, teachers and all, to get eleven men large and strong enough to give interesting practice to a 'Varsity team. Furthermore, the 'Varsity gets its best material annually from the preparatory school, and unless a teacher shows the young boys the fine points of the game and leads them in their athletic sports, inculcating by daily example the sportsmanlike and skillful features of the game, where in the world will these young boys learn the game? Then to me it has always been a scene to see the strict barriers of the class-room for a few hours thrown down and teacher and boys rolling each other in the dust of the football field. On such a field there is no coarse profanity, no fighting, no vulgarity, and it begets an admirable understanding between master and boys. A preparatory school's athletic association is not rich enough to hire a coach and unless some one of the teachers undertakes

this, athletics will run down and decay and the 'Varsity teams will feel the effects of it.

Then again as to the point that a principal looks out for "stalwart men," I beg to say that in a preparatory school boys have a tendency to hero-worship, and I can see no objection to "stalwart men." A "stalwart man" sometimes inspires a certain wholesome respect where a nervous, hysterical "Miss Nancy" of a man stirs up ridicule and invites disciplineless familiarity.

But if the article means to say that ability to impart knowledge and competent scholarship for teaching are sacrificed "to get a star half-back," so far as St. Albans is concerned I desire to make a justly indignant and specific denial of it. I make this denial in justice to the men teaching at St. Albans no less so than in justice to myself and to the good name of the school. Two of the masters here—Mr. H. C. Ford and Mr. R. H. Fife, Jr.—are University of Virginia men and are known at the University, and two more competent and scholarly men have seldom, if ever, left the University. They came to St. Albans with no athletic reputation, having never played on any 'Varsity team. Mr. Izard, who has for three years been the Master of Mathematics at St. Albans, finished the entire mathematical course at the Government Naval Academy, and few professors of Mathematics in our colleges command more enthusiastic testimonials from the highest sources. In Mr. Izard I desired to associate with myself in my work at St. Albans a man fully competent to teach mathematics and to coach and lead the boys in their athletic sports. There was nothing to conceal about it, nothing to gloss over and certainly *nothing to apologize for*. A man that will go out and play and lead and show young boys how the big 'Varsity teams play ball is preferable to one that hermitizes himself; at least a school is fortunate if it has one such man in its faculty. And it is altogether to his credit: if he is willing to take that much sympathetic interest in the sports of young boys. Now as to the other point, where

this article advises future managers to get rid of school games, I would say that in such short sighted ostracism a University will soon get rid of its own team. Suppose Princeton would have nothing to do with Lawrenceville, Yale with Andover, Harvard with Exeter, do you suppose that each year these great teams would get such excellent new material from these respective places? Oh, but you say these schools do not play teachers. That is a mistake. They do play teachers. And furthermore, the Virginia preparatory schools could have more boys and larger boys to pick from and could dispense with the teachers on their teams if our universities would only cease doing preparatory school work and would shut their doors on the class of boys that properly belong in a preparatory school.

And then again, it is a species of athletic phariseism to object to teachers on a preparatory school team and at the same time to play instructors, demonstrators of anatomy, Charity (?) students and what not on a 'Varsity team.

Talk about winning laurels, "all to lose and nothing to gain," it is just that thing that has given Southern athletics the dry rot; that it is that is preventing them from taking their place beside the Northern schools.

And just so long as Washington and Lee or any other university puts its team under a glass case for fear some other team from a school not so dignified in name or numerous in students or extensive in course of study may defeat it, just so long will it have a feeble and hot house kind of athletics. Besides no preparatory school boy will even go there.

There is much more to be said on this question but I have taken already too much of your space.

GEO. W. MILES,

Head Master St. Albans School.

Dr. Eliphalet Nott Potter has accepted the presidency of the Cosmopolitan University which was left vacant by the return of President Andrews to Brown. Dr. Potter is a brother of Bishop Potter of New York.

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Foot-Ball.

Washington and Lee's foot-ball team started on their trip through Kentucky and West Virginia yesterday evening with bright prospects of victory before them.

The team, including substitutes, are in perfect physical training and not a man of them disabled by the hard practice of the past week.

The practice lately has mainly been directed toward strengthening the team's defensive work. In this it has been very successful, especially in the work of the line men.

Captain Barclay is playing a steadier game, getting low in the line and meeting the opposing rushes more effectually.

Of Oberlin, it need only be said he is playing his regular game with improvement in tackling.

Our three centre men, though light, are good, reliable players; their practice this week has been of the best and has shown a marked improvement in defensive work since last game.

On the ends, Michler and Shields have been doing great work, their defensive work has greatly improved, and supported by our half-backs it is safe to predict they will successfully break up all interference that comes their way.

Campbell, F. B., and Burr, Q. B., are sure tacklers and always present themselves readily to those who are fortunate enough to get through our line.

The offensive playing of the team is quick and snappy. Particularly has the interference around the end improved.

Campbell's "bucking" is harder than ever, and Alford is running

ends well, following his interference and making good gains. Muir is playing quick, snappy ball, getting in all the plays and successfully meeting them.

The "Subs," Mason, Moore, Dixon and Fitzhugh, have been playing good ball and are anxious to get in the game.

The social feature of the trip will add much to its enjoyment. While at Lexington, Ky., the team will be entertained by Messrs. Lisle, Alford and Muir, and at Charleston, W. Va., after the game, will be given a reception by Governor Atkinson and Mr. Snyder.

The following is the schedule of games to be played on the trip :

Central University, October 30th, Lexington, Ky.

State College, November 2nd, Lexington, Ky.

University of West Virginia, November 4th, Charleston, W. Va.

LINE UP OF TEAM.

Shields, right end.
Barclay (Capt.), right tackle.
Webb, right guard.
Snyder, centre.
McCluer, left guard.
Oberlin, left tackle.
Michler, left end.
Burr, quarter back.
Muir, left half back.
Alford, right half back.
Campbell, full back.
Substitutes—Mason, Moore, Fitzhugh and Dixon.

Whatever success we attain in these series of games will in a large measure be due to the second team. Their work for the past week has been splendid. Saturday and Monday evenings they lined up against 'Varsity in regular games which were in many respects more interesting than any college games we have had this year, and were characterized by hard, steady bucks, the second team scoring in both games.

Captain Lang deserves especial credit for his work, which has been both faithful and efficient.

With the rough practice these so-called scrubs(?) have given the 'Varsity we await and expect great news from them. Suppose we should win all games; "there would be a hot time in the old town that night."

We are with them any how.

Our neighbors on the hill give fine accounts of a magnificent time while on their southwestern trip. They received an ovation at every point.

Foreign Athletics.

As the foot-ball season of '97 progresses we watch with intense interest the gigantic struggles for supremacy between the foot-ball playing schools of the country, and during the past week we have kept ourselves in breathless suspense, as the various "would be" champions clash together in deadly combat with a shock that fills every college man's veins with enthusiasm.

Princeton has met the giants from Cornell, and after a fierce struggle has carried off the laurels by the close score of 10 to 0.

Yale has faced the red men from Carlisle, and although victorious, she came out of the fight with many a scalp lost, and several of her men tomahawked. The score was 24 to 9 in favor of Yale, but several times during the game it looked as if the Carlisle Indians would be victorious:

The U. Va. has at last conquered her old enemy—the Hampton Athletic Club. During the season of '96 they played two games, both of which were ties, and so there was considerable enthusiasm over the game this year. The score was 34 to 0.

RESULTS OF GAMES OCTOBER 23RD.

Yale 24, Carlisle 9.
At Philadelphia—Pennsylvania 46, Lafayette 0.
At Cambridge—Harvard 18, Brown 0.
At Ithaca, N. Y.—Princeton 10, Cornell 0.
At Mason—Auburn (Ala.) Polytechnic 26, Mercer 0.
At Pittsburgh—Pittsburg Athletic Club 14, Wheeling Tigers 0.
At Washington, Pa.—Washington and Jefferson 12, University of West Virginia 0.
At York, Pa.—York Y. M. C. A. 12, Franklin and Marshall of Lancaster 6.
At Annapolis—Naval Cadets 6, Princeton Reserves 0.
Bucknell 28, Lehigh 20.
At Richmond—U. Va. 34, Hampton 0.
At West Point—Cadets 30, Tufts 0.

So-Mayou, who has just received his diploma from Cobb University school at Lewiston, Me., is probably the first heir to the African throne who ever graduated from an American college.

Where is that Clapper At ?

This is the question that has been asked about the campus ever since 8:30 on Wednesday morning, but as yet no one has been found who is willing to undertake to solve the riddle. It is evident, however, that some earnest student, after sitting up into the hours long past midnight, poring over his book, looked at his clock and thought what a short time it would be until the sounds of the college bell should announce the time for prayers. Knowing that his health would be undermined from loss of sleep, if compelled to rise at that hour, he slipped from his room, stole quietly to the back of the physical laboratory, climbed, climbed, climbed, seeing even before him in letters of gold that charmed word "Excelsior." Having at last attained the coveted prize, he returned to his couch to enjoy that sleep which comes from duty well done.

Is not such conduct to be encouraged ?

We agree with Mr. Miles in nearly every point he makes in his letter. We think it well to have teachers as coaches of school teams, and to play on the team if need be, nothing was ever intimated that it was underhanded; but the point we made was that little is to be gained to the college team by winning, so why play a game of heads you win, tails I lose? We think that a happy solution of the matter would be for the preparatory teams to play class teams or scrub teams. These would be more evenly matched, and it would be well for the boys to have a chance to show their head work, when no teacher is there to direct and give signals. This would allow the boys to come in touch with the colleges, and yet not be outclassed by playing no one but students.

As to the point of prep. work at Virginia colleges, we are glad to say that W. & L. U. has already taken this step, and no one is admitted to her classes without first having stood satisfactory entrance examinations. And we hope that, both for the welfare of the school and for the sake of themselves, that the other colleges of the state will make a similar move.

A golf club has been started at the University of Virginia.

Earthquaking.

In some of the recent papers have appeared articles on various scientific subjects, among which one attracted our attention to the subject of the origin of earthquakes. No one has ever been at the source of an earthquake, so everything said on the subject must be more or less of a conjecture. The scientist gets up some very pretty theories on these subjects, which sound very plausible, but too much dependence must not be put on them.

Now we have our theory. It suits us very well and it may do for you.

It is a fact handed down by the forefathers of one of the oldest empires in the world, that our earth rests upon the back of a terrapin. There are some persons of our day who sneeze at this suggestion, but the man who first stated it lived closer to the time of the earth's creation than we, so his word should have the more weight, we think.

Every time Mr. Terrapin takes a step, it gives the earth a shock. If he is just stepping along tolerably pertly, it just jostles us a little, but if his footing is not good he has more trouble in getting along, and it sometimes gives us more or less trouble.

We do not doubt that flaws can be found in our hypothesis, but let us say as much for the others.

That the old Roman held our view is shown by the etymology of the word—Terra, the earth; pineo, to hold up.

Y. M. C. A.

Despite the inclemency of the weather on last Sunday afternoon there was a large crowd out to hear President Wilson's address, which many considered the best they had heard from him. He pointed out the importance of keeping in harmony with God's laws, and after illustrating freely from examples in the material world he pressed the importance of the spiritual laws as transcending those of the physical world.

Tomorrow we will have the pleasure of an address from Mr. Owen, who will shortly sail for the mission field. From his thorough study of the field and the subject in general we may expect a strong spirited address on "Missions."

Tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'clock.

Chapel Exercises.

Though the change which is to effect the Wednesday morning exercises has been mentioned elsewhere in this issue it will not be out of place to remind all that on the other week days the exercises will be conducted as usual at twenty minutes to nine.

W. & L. Alumni Association of the University of Va.

The old boys will place their Alma Mater first. Blain, Toole, Wilson and Sperry, under the above high sounding name, rejoice in meetings assembled over our football victories and other successes and send an encouraging "go it old W. & L."

As disagreeable as it may be to apologize for anything we have done, yet the RING-TUM PHI will always try to make amends for any injustice done anyone through its columns.

In the last issue there appeared an article concerning Capt. Barclay which did him a great injustice. It would never been published had we thought of the article other than in a light way. Taken as a joke, it appeared funny, but, if it were meant seriously, which was not the case, it was libellous. We herewith apologize for it.

Mr. Spencer has been steadily improving all week, and it now seems only a question of time when he will be among us again. He has passed the crisis of his fever and is on the way to recovery.

Mr. Powell is also getting on nicely. He is better every day, and can now walk about some. He will probably be out ere long.



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Glee Clubs.

Every college ought to have a glee club; and there is no reason why we should not have one. We have material here to make a club of merit and we have men who know music thoroughly enough to give most excellent training to the club. We are especially fortunate in having Anschutz in college; he is a thorough musician and has had a wide experience in singing. With his valuable aid an excellent glee club can be worked up. The only thing necessary is for everybody who can sing at all to apply and have their voices tried by the gentlemen in charge. It is of no consequence if you are not able to sing true now for you will be taught that. Show your college spirit in this way as in other ways and make this feature of student-life a success. You will find it a great pleasure and benefit too.

An Innovation.

In accordance with a wish expressed by President Wilson nearly every student was at chapel service on Wednesday. After the religious exercises Mr. Wilson spoke to us upon the need of a regular gathering of all the students and professors when announcements could be made and explained, and when matters of importance to the student body could be presented to them. After due consideration the faculty has decided that at the Wednesday morning chapel service every student will be expected to be present. Besides notices it is the expectation of Mr. Wilson to have some one give a very short and informal talk on some subject of interest and importance to every self-informed man, and yet something not to be gotten from classroom lectures. The whole plan is a pleasing one and should draw the students and faculty closer together, and also develops college spirit.

The article concerning Captain Barclay served but one good purpose, and that was to show up how the members of our team stick together. In looking over our exchanges we see repeated inklings of friction among the players of other teams. The entire absence of this on our team is what has given us the success we have already attained and it is that which will give us success in the future. In a college the size of Washington and Lee, it is absolutely necessary that everyone swing together, if we want to make a creditable showing. So far this year we have done admirably. Let us keep it up.

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