

The Ring-tum Phi.

Volume 1.

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY, LEXINGTON, VA., SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1898.

Number 21

Convention of the Second Province of the Sigma Chi Fraternity.

The Second Province of Sigma Chi, embracing the chapters at the University of Virginia, Hampden-Sidney, Roanoke, Randolph-Macon, University of North Carolina and Washington and Lee, held its annual convention here on Thursday night and Friday. The delegates arrived on the evening trains on Thursday and went immediately to the Lexington, where they put up.

The province conventions are only for the purpose of bringing the men of adjacent chapters more in contact with one another, and have no legislative power, so the meetings take much of the form of an open parliament. Mr. E. Lee Trinkle of U. of Va., was elected chairman; Mr. Malcolm Griffin of U. of Va., treasurer, and Gordon Houston, secretary. After the organization was completed, Mr. Snyder of W. & L., delivered an address of welcome.

Following Mr. Snyder, Mr. Brown of Roanoke College, read a paper on "The Essential Characteristics that Should Govern the Selection of Fraternity Men." This paper, as well as all others read, was followed by a general discussion of the subject.

The reports of the several chapters were next given, Mr. Stuart reporting for Hampden-Sidney, Mr. Logan for Roanoke College, Mr. Tucker for Washington and Lee, Mr. Sayers for University of Virginia, Mr. Williams for University of North Carolina.

Other papers and discussions followed on "The Fraternity Government," "Literary Work in the Chapter," and "Methods for Making the District Convention More Successful." It was decided to adopt the plan, formerly adopted by the Fraternity at large, of providing a fund to defray the expenses of delegates to the conventions. Mr. Frazer of U. of Va., was elected "Province Quaestor" to attend to this fund. Other matters of interest were discussed in a thoroughly free and informal style until quite a late hour, when the meeting broke up after giving the fraternity yell.

On Friday morning the crowd went to Miley's where their photograph was taken. Immediately afterward a tally-ho ride was taken, visiting Lee's and Jackson's tombs, the V. M. I., and taking in all the points of interest about the town. At 11 o'clock President Wilson gave the conclave a reception at the Lee house.

From 6 to 8 in the evening, Prof. and Mrs. Graves gave a delightful reception at which light refreshments were served. The following young ladies assisted in receiving: Miss Mary Turner Graves, Miss May Ross, Miss Mildred Myers, Miss Lucy Smith, Miss Nettie Preston, Miss Mary Wilson, Misses Ruth and Anna Anderson, Miss Leila McGuire, Miss Nettie Pratt and Miss Lulu Semmes.

At 10 o'clock the annual banquet was served in McCrum's Hall. The tables were prettily decorated in blue and gold, the colors of the fraternity. Mr. N. S. Fitzhugh was master of ceremonies. Toasts were responded to by G. R. Houston, Roy Williams, J. R. Tucker, R. T. Anderson, D. T. Stuart and J. L. Logan. After a few short hours spent in telling stories of chapter life at the various colleges, singing fraternity songs and listening to the inevitable after dinner speech, the convention closed.

The following delegates were present:

A. C. Southall, McCless, Gamma Gamma, Randolph-Macon.
W. A. Martin, Robt. Anderson, Geo. M. W. Frazer, W. A. Moore, P. P. Steptoe, M. Griffin, E. Lee Trinkle, H. McG. Robertson, S. R. Sayers, G. A. Allen, Psi, U. of Va.

Roy Williams, Alpha Tau, U. of N. C.

T. H. Wyly, and D. T. Stuart Sigma Sigma, Hampden-Sidney.

N. S. Fitzhugh, J. K. Graves, G. R. Houston, J. Rati Tucker, G. B. Shields, W. O. Bonnie, J. W. Jones and A. G. Snyder, Zeta, W. & L.

W. A. Brown and John Logan, Tau, Roanoke College.

Mr. H. W. Anderson left this morning to visit his people in Farmville, Va.

Pre-Lenten Hop.

On Monday evening, Feb. 21st, the Cotillion Club of W. & L. gave its regular monthly dance. This was the last of the Club's dances until after the Lenten season. The number of students in attendance was larger than usual. Besides, the presence of many of the first classmen of the Virginia Military Institute added greatly to the generous rivalry of the evening. This being the case we are warranted in the statement that the hop was—from the stand point of the young ladies at least—a howling success.

The chaperones were, Mrs. Wm. L. Wilson, Miss Virginia Lee Letcher, Miss Annie R. White.

The following were among those in attendance: Miss Semmes with Mr. W. A. Roberts of Washington, D. C.; Miss McGuire with Mr. Powell, Miss Wilson with Mr. Barret, Miss Baylor with Mr. McB. Moore, Miss Elizabeth Graham with Mr. Vance, Miss Margaret Graham with Mr. Slicer, Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Walker, Miss Annie Jordan with Mr. O'Neal, Miss Scott with Mr. Muir, Miss Anna Anderson with Mr. Gibson.

Stags.—Mr. Lisle (by request), Mr. V. A. Batchelor (by special request), Messrs. Wilson, Alford, Nelson, Witherspoon, Frierson, Burnett, Smith, McSween, Capito, Hamner, Burke, Garrow, Mason, Thornton, R. L. Owen, Randolph Tucker, R. T. Shields and Dixon.

Cadets Estill, Sned, Scott, Hubbard, Marstella, Nelson, Marshall, Lewis, Wood, McNeil, Harding, Raleigh, Crump, Ellett, Percival.

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Address all matter intended for publication to the Editor-in-chief, and all business communications to the Business Manager to insure publication all articles must be accompanied by full name of the writer.

Entered at the postoffice at Lexington as second-class matter.

Last Saturday night the two literary societies met in joint session and inaugurated a movement to suppress politics in elections which are held by the societies in joint session. A committee was appointed to report at the meeting this evening, and they were instructed to draw up regulations for the joint meetings. We hear that the committee has met and will submit a plan which will be of incalculable good in the suppression of politics, and it is hoped that each society will unanimously adopt the measures.

It has long been a source of regret to the true lovers of literary work that the purpose of the societies has been perverted and that they have been made the hot-bed of political schemes. Time and time again men have been rushed in and they exercise the right of voting in elections and appear at no other times. The societies are organized for the specific purpose of advancing and promoting literary interest, and all those who do not have this end in view should remain outside of the ranks. It is true the societies have many honors in their gift, but these honors should be in the control of those who join with the right motive and prosecute their duties in the true spirit. Furthermore, these honors should be conferred upon the faithful members. It falls not far short of disgraceful that politics should be the thing of leading interest in the two famous societies of a great University.

Now that steps have been taken to save the reputation and fair name of our two most important organizations, let us one and all support any measures which may be taken. This is a time of peace and if ever we can take such steps it is now, for the excitement of spring elections has not yet appeared.

There is one particular in which our baseball team has been markedly deficient in the past. This is the batting. Time after time two and three men have been on bases with no hands out only to die in their tracks because of saws and pop flies. One fault of the men is that they try to hit too hard. If they will first learn to hit the ball, afterward they can learn to hit it hard. Stand up to the plate, men. Try to hit the ball at all odds and let the finer points come later.

We are determined to have the best football team this fall that Washington and Lee has ever had. The manager is making every effort to arrange for a series of good games with the strongest of the Southern institutions. So far only three games are scheduled but others are in course of arrangement. We want good games and good players to make us successful in each one of them. What we need is more action and less talk about what we are going to do.

Wednesday Morning.

Following his custom of addressing the student body on some question of living interest, Mr. Wilson spoke on the subject which the recent Zola trial suggested—the difference between trials in France and those in our own country.

While cases in which individuals appear against individuals, the French courts are as impartial as are the English or American courts, in cases in which the government is party there is only the merest pretense of justice, for the dignity of the government must be upheld at all hazards.

The state of affairs which allows such unquestioned partiality in favor of the government is due to the fact that an empire exists under the form of a republic. The laws of France are from an entirely different source from that to which the English laws owe their origin.

It will be remembered that the cause of the Zola trial may be traced back to the Dreyfus case.

J. Sam. Slicer was in Staunton last week.

Last Friday evening Dr. Jas. A. Quarles gave a reception to the members of the faculty and their wives and other friends in honor of President W. L. Wilson.

Southern Inter-State Oratorical Association.

President Wilson handed us a letter written to him by the secretary of the Southern Inter-State Oratorical Association in which was enclosed a letter addressed to the two literary societies. The contest will be held at Vanderbilt University this year and it is gratifying to find out that distance will not prevent W. & L. U. from being represented. We are glad to say that steps have already been taken to select a representative. It was at Vanderbilt that a W. & L. U. man, Mr. Smith, of West Virginia, won the medal seven years ago, and we hope that our representative will be as successful this year. We publish the letters which speak for themselves:

NASHVILLE, TENN.,
Feb. 26, 1898.

President W. L. Wilson,

Washington and Lee Univ.:

DEAR SIR:—Will you kindly hand the enclosed communication to some student who will see that it is at once brought to the notice of the literary societies. We are very anxious to have Washington and Lee represented at the next meeting of the S. I. O. A. and hope that the societies will immediately take steps toward selecting a representative.

Very respectfully,
EUGENE A. COX,
Sec'y S. I. O. A.

NASHVILLE, TENN.,
Feb. 26, 1898.

To the Literary Societies of Washington and Lee University:

GENTLEMEN:—The next meeting of the S. I. O. A. will be held with Vanderbilt University in Nashville. The officers of the Association are desirous that a full meeting shall be held, as much important business will come up, and earnestly urge the societies to take steps for selecting a representative at once.

At the last meeting of the Association a by-law was passed requiring all members to send in their annual dues (\$15.00) to the treasurer by April 1st.

Please attend to this at once and let me hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully,
EUGENE A. COX,
Sec. and Treas. S. I. O. A.
West Side Row, Vanderbilt Univ.,
Nashville, Tenn.

Local and Personal.

Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Corse have returned from Philadelphia, where they spent the winter.

Miss Scott, who has been visiting relatives in Lexington, has returned to her home in Washington.

Miss Louise Baylor of Charles Town, W. Va., who has been on a visit to Miss Wilson, returned home on Saturday last.

Mrs. John Carmichael and her son, Mr. John Carmichael, Jr., have returned to Lexington. Mr. Carmichael is just recovering from a protracted spell of fever.

Mr. W. W. Whiteside is in receipt of a communication from the "Nashville Banner" tendering to him, in the event of war, the position of war correspondent on the staff of that paper.

Messrs. J. W. Garrow, G. C. Powell and C. T. Smith have just returned from a trip to Washington. Mr. Powell went as a delegate from the Washington and Lee chapter to a special convention of the Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Miss Charlotte Ranson, one of Staunton's most popular young ladies, and Miss Nannie Powell McCormick, a charming beauty of Berryville, Va., were the guests last Tuesday and Wednesday of Hon. Wm. A. Glasgow.

The "Card club" has suspended hostilities until after the Lenten season. The last meeting of the club was held on Tuesday evening, Feb. 22nd, at the new and attractive home of Misses Margaret and Elizabeth Graham on "Graham Terrace." "Hearts" was the game of the evening. The winners of the prizes were: Miss Bettie Clarke, ladies' prize; Mr. G. D. Letcher, gentlemen's prize; Mr. R. L. Owen, the booby prize. The club was royally entertained and all were profuse in their praises of the hostess to whom they are indebted for a most delightful evening.

The Hampden-Sidney correspondent of the Richmond Times writes: Professor Edwin W. Fay of Washington and Lee university, delivered a lecture in the chapel of the Memorial hall before a large and fashionable audience on Saturday night. His subject was "Vers de Societe in Rome." It was a masterly address, carefully prepared and effectively delivered. He left a profound impression on the community.

Baseball.

The bad weather so long expected has come and is still with us, putting a stop to baseball practice for the time, but it is hoped the men will soon be able to resume field work, for they need regular and hard work every day to prepare them to meet successfully the strong teams games have been arranged with.

On Monday a practice game was played with the Lexington town team which resulted in a score of 8 to 2 in favor of the Varsities.

Not much could be judged from it of the fielding of the team as pitcher Burnett rarely let the Lexingtonians hit the ball, but when he did he was well supported.

Towards the last of the game Captain Snyder changed the team somewhat, substituting Faulkner for Alford behind the bat and Campbell at Faulkner's place at second base, while Maxwell went to short stop which Campbell had vacated.

Perhaps the reason of this is that Captain Snyder sees the necessity of having more than one catcher and he is certainly right. With three pitchers and the number of games Washington and Lee has this year, many of them to be played on foreign grounds and on consecutive days, it is absolutely necessary to have more than one catcher, and Alford, McNeill and Faulkner should all be worked behind the bat.

Alford is a steadier catcher and throws more accurately than either McNeill or Faulkner, but with a little more experience they will both make good change catchers and they should be practiced as such and not thrown off because one man is a better catcher than they are.

The game on Monday showed that the team is weak in batting. Although fourteen hits were made, they were scattered, some doubtful and resulted in but few runs. Good batting is what wins a game and more attention should be paid to it, especially in this the early part of the season, than to any other training.

The batting practice instead of forming a small part of the daily work ought to be regarded as the most important branch of it. At least three-fourths of the practice should be devoted to batting and it should, whenever possible, be against the regular pitchers. It will not be too much work for them. They can

relieve each other at short intervals. It is absolutely essential to have a good batting team and the more practice they go through against good pitchers the better batters they are going to be.

It has been noticed that some of the men trying for the team are still smoking more than is allowed. This should not go on. If the captain has not mentioned the fact to you, go to him and sign the pledge. He is not expected to request it of you and you can't play ball and smoke continually, and if you are playing for the team it is your duty to stop it.

Election of Officers.

In some unaccountable way we failed to publish last week an account of the election held in the Washington Society two weeks ago. The election was held to select three men to compete with a like number from the Graham-Lee Society for representing W. & L. U. in the Southern Inter-State Oratorical Association. The second winner represents us in the state contest. Great unanimity prevailed and the following gentlemen were unanimously elected: G. Cathbert Powell, D. C.; W. Kyle McClung, Va., and Van Astor Batchelor, N. C.

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Books Received.

SHAKESPEARE'S MEN AND WOMEN.
By Rose Porter. \$1.25. E. R. Herrick & Co., New York. For sale by W. C. Stuart.

This is one of the most unique books of its kind that we have seen. It contains about 700 quotations from Shakespeare's writings. There are two quotations for each day in the year—one for men and one for women. No plays are neglected and there are many beautiful extracts from poems and sonnets. There are different plays for different months, each day of the month having two quotations. For instance, the selections for the month of April are taken from *The Merchant of Venice*, *As You Like It*, and *A Winter's Tale*.

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By Beatrice Sturges. \$1.25. E. R. Herrick & Co., New York. For sale by W. C. Stuart.

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"It depends entirely upon the point of view." We admit that that proposition is often a correct one, and yet every one must realize that circumstances sometimes give us very disadvantageous points of view, even positions which are positively harmful.

It could hardly be charged that any man of good purposes would willingly put himself in a position to get a misleading view, and most men will gladly avail themselves of the first opportunity to change this position when once they find they have an untenable position or a position, the holding of which means harm to other individuals or even institutions.

The object of our scrutiny now is the marking systems as practiced in some of our Southern schools of higher education. Let us in search of information ask the questions: Does the system of marking claim to be accurate, or is it only approximate? Does it try to represent what the student *knows* or does it endeavor to give an impartial account of the merely relative standing of the men who compose the classes? Does any teacher in any subject feel that the power of discrimination is so fully developed in him that he can *hope* to judge of men to the thousandth part of their work?

Such questions would manifestly receive different answers according to the different points of view.

Teachers differ widely in their views and methods, and because they compose a much larger class students have a much wider limit of individual peculiarities. The greatest teachers and educators realize the importance of the instructors' making a careful study of the individual students. His success as an instructor depends largely upon his

maintaining a close intimacy with the several students of his classes. This personality is of incalculable good in inspiring the student. If the instructor once gets the student impressed with the fact that his object is to impart the greatest good by instruction and by inspiring a love for inquiry, he may hope for success in his chosen profession. If once the student becomes filled with the belief that his instructor's chief virtue is punctiliousness, even though the instructor be possessed of marked scholarship, and even though the students in his classes pass with satisfactory "marks," it is to be doubted whether he can be classed among the successful men.

Anything which injures the teacher's personal influence is likely to injure his successful work; and if continued will bring harm to the department over which he presides.

It is claimed by some who have an unalterable (should I not say unaltering?) rule of deducting from the student's mark for each absence, that the student actually loses something by his absence and therefore ought to be charged with what he loses. Let us grant this for the sake of seeing to what it will lead. Some teachers have the custom of deducting two points for each absence. Let us take two students, one of whom is ambitious and diligent, and has almost perfect recitations, and the other is indifferent and barely makes a mark sufficient to pass. It is possible, has happened under our observation, that the ambitious student has been unavoidably detained at home for some days and yet has kept up his studies. At the end of the month the good student loses six, ten, twenty points from his mark while he has possibly lost two per cent. of the good that he might have gotten had he attended class all the time. On the other hand the idler has had nothing to keep from class and yet he gets more than the faithful worker. Does it take more than a passing thought to see the fallacy, I go farther and say the *injustice*, of such a system? Let us change our point of view and suppose that the deduction is made as a penalty. Punish men for being absent because they are too sick to get out of bed! Such conduct *might* be pardonable in a small preparatory school, but does not comport with the dignity of University life.

Such conduct certainly goes far towards destroying the love and respect which a student would naturally have for his instructor. Let the student once become alienated and the instructor's usefulness is limited. The student feels that he does not get justice and he becomes discouraged. His work grows distasteful and one who might otherwise have been a good student in that branch gives it up in disgust. Nor does this work stop with the individual. Students in general lose interest in work where the main issues are made subordinate to a distasteful personality. Thus the department suffers damage which it will take years to repair. The student does not feel that he is sitting at the feet of one whom he can respect, but he takes the work because it is *required*, or else avoids it altogether. The youngest of our living languages might thus be easily rendered a dead language.

"The melancholy days have come, the saddest of the year."

The bard didn't have this season of the year in mind when he penned this quotation, but had he attended an institution whose session is divided into three terms, he would very probably have started his "Spring Poem" in this manner instead of his "Ode to Autumn." When the Christmas exams come they are a slough through which we must wade in order to reach the pleasures of the holidays. In June we must clamber over rugged peaks in order to obtain the joys of commencement; but there is nothing poetical about the March examinations. It is just a plain old case of where, when you are tired of walking, they let you run a while for a change; only to drop back into the same monotonous trudging.

Yes, the March examinations are nearly on us, and the RING-TUM PHI must once more drop the curtain, while the scenery is shifted for the third act. We hope that at their next appearance the actors will appear in their most becoming curls, and we would advise them to do as little corking as possible, as light complexions are in vogue now.

Our next appearance will be on April 9th.

Mr. G. Lomax Thornton has been initiated into the Theta Nu Epsilon society.

It is as little as can be asked of the fellows who go out to the baseball grounds that they do not guy the players, who are doing the best they can, and much better than the lazy nin compoos who do the guying. If you think you have some good suggestion to make to the team make it known to some of the players, but for pity sake make the fellows feel that the whole college is backing them instead of guying them. It must be admitted that the players do not at all times practice with the vim that they should. The practise at the first of the week was not what one would expect of a team with the list of games to play that we have; the batting was careless, and the fielding was worse; but was this not due largely to the lack of interest of the college rather than that of the players? Every one who has tried to make a speech to an empty hall knows the difficulty of such a task; and what is true of oratory is true of ball playing. If a crowd is present to cheer every good play much will be done to make our team a winner.

Local and Personal.

Mr. M. B. Corse has recovered from an attack of la grippe.

Miss Rosa Brooke is on a visit to friends in Richmond and Old Point.

Misses Margaret and Janet Allan have returned from a visit to friends in Baltimore.

General Scott Shipp of the V. M. L., is rapidly recovering from a severe illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dillon, Jr., of Buena Vista, spent a few days with Mrs. Edward Dillon at "The Willows."

Mr. Stephen Courtney Harris of the University law class, has been called home by the illness of his father.

Miss Maggie Freeland and Miss Bettie Clarke have closed their house on "The Heights" and are visiting friends in Baltimore and Richmond.

Mr. Pratt and Mr. McIlhany represented the University at the recent international convention of the Student Volunteer Movement in Cleveland, O. At the meeting of the students in the Chapel Wednesday morning Mr. Pratt delivered an interesting and instructive address upon the convention and its work.

Boat Crews.

At present it looks as though we are to have no race, for in the Gym. there can be seen only about five men training for both crews. It seems as though it does no good to tell men they ought to train harder and longer; they only smile and say "all right," but never show up to do the work. Those who know anything about rowing, know that boat racing is the severest strain on men of any form of athletics. Why is it then that men expect to get along well when put in the boats without any preliminary training? The athletes of Washington and Lee are not so fine but that they could be better; yes, very much better. And the reason that they are no better is that they do not train faithfully for events. The northern crews have been in the water for a month while we here in the south where it is pleasant have not even begun gymnasium work for preparation. It doesn't do to talk about studying; the writer sometimes studies and does other things of the sort but he finds time for nearly two hours per day in the gymnasium and it has never yet caused him to flunk. If you have the proper spirit in you you can study and train hard too, and your studies won't suffer. It is nothing but laziness that keeps men here from training as they ought to.

It is very true that both crews are on a level in this respect, but the committees are the ones that have the trouble; they are expected to take new men, who perhaps never sat in a boat before, and in six weeks or two months time make good oarsmen out of them. Such a thing is impossible and the result is that seats jump off, somebody catches a crab, somebody else gets sick on the race, and the whole thing is a botch. Of course it is a different thing when old men are in the boat, as was the case with last year's Harry Lee crew. But even that crew did not get in good shape until a week before the race, so that it is not safe to row a race with only two months training done.

As matters now stand there are seven applicants for the Harry Lee crew and two for the Albert Sidney. Of these four Harry Lee's and one Albert Sidney are working in the gymnasium. We hope Monday will

bring out more men and that they will begin regular work in spite of approaching examinations. This exercise will help you on your exams, and will certainly make you feel better, for spring fever is coming around and you need something to relieve you. All who are going to try for the crews come out and get to work.

Miss Bernice Castello.

Tuesday evening at 8:15 o'clock management of the baseball department will give an entertainment in the College Chapel. It is hoped that the students will turn out well and help us make something, and at the same time have an enjoyable evening. Be sure to bring a calico.

The young lady who conducts the entertainment of the evening is Miss Castello of New York. The newspapers give flattering accounts of her entertainments, and if these be any criteria by which to judge we may expect a pleasant evening of impersonations and violin readings. Miss Castello is said to possess a sweet voice for solo music.

The "Pinafore" aggregation is rehearsing continuously and the expectant public is awaiting with interest its presentation, the success of which is already assured.



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The Calyx.

The work on the Calyx is progressing rapidly. March 10th, Thursday, was the day when all manuscripts were due, and most of them were in at that time. The clubs have not all reported yet. All of these which have not organized thus far should do so at once, so as not to delay the publication. It is a great disadvantage to the management not to have the book on the market at an early date.

The management will collect the charges due from all clubs to be represented before sending the material to the printer. This is only right, as it should be known as nearly as possible what money can be counted on before the contracts are made.

The illustrations, as a whole, promise to be very good. Those who are to draw have been rather slow in doing their part, but the drawings thus far submitted show a great deal of taste and skill. It is hoped that those who still have drawings to finish will do so as soon as possible. Those which the Flournoy brothers so kindly promised us are expected in a few days, so that these, together with the undergraduate talent, will make a very respectable showing.

The girls have finished their department, both drawings and writing, and their pages promise to be far from unattractive.

Owing to the haste in which the Calyx '97 was gotten out the literary part of the annual was rather scanty. This will be remedied this year, and we may expect a sprinkling of pen sketches and short stories written in a style of pleasant persiflage, so that altogether the Calyx '98 promises to come up to its worthy predecessors if it does not surpass them.

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