

# THE RING-TUM PHI.

*John L. Campbell*  
109

'BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS.'

VOL. II.

WASHINGTON & LEE UNIVERSITY, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1899.

No. 17.

## Personal Recollections of Washington College.

By Prof. A. L. Nelson.

It was in 1846 I entered the sophomore class in Washington College. It was an unusually large class. In 1849 twenty-three members of that class were graduated with the degree of A. B. The usual number of graduates varied from about three to eight or nine. There were about ninety students present during the session of 1846-7. The number varied in different sessions from about seventy-five to ninety. Rev. Henry Ruffner, D. D., was President, Rev. Philo Calhoun was Professor of Greek, Prof. Geo. E. Dabney was Professor of Latin and French, Rev. Geo. D. Armstrong, D. D., was Professor of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, Col. Benjamin S. Everett Professor of Mathematics. Dr. Ruffner was the father of Dr. Wm. H. Ruffner, a member of the present Board of Trustees. He was man of profound learning and he was absorbed in his books. He did not seem to know many of the students, nor did he seem to see them as they passed him on the walks. Dr. Armstrong is still living, a very old man, and pastor emeritus of the Presbyterian Church in Norfolk, Virginia. Col. Everett was a sturdy West-Pointer, a fine mathematician and teacher, and the quickest man I ever knew in detecting a mistake in an exercise on the blackboard. There being few professors, few recitation rooms were requisite and nearly the whole of the old buildings was devoted to dormitories for students. There was a range of dormitories where Newcomb Hall now stands, corresponding to the range on the north end. There were forty-five student's rooms. All of the students were required to room in college unless excused for special reasons; and every student was required to be in his room after nine o'clock p. m. In order to enforce this requirement the members of the faculty in rotation were expected to inspect the rooms every night. This duty was performed in differ-

ent styles by the various professors. It was currently believed that one of the professors wore slippers in his rounds and the students were not aware of his coming until he was at the door. Col. Ewell's manner of performing this duty was very different. He came thundering along in heavy boots, rattling his cane on the pavements and passages as if to announce his approach. He was the more popular of the two. The passages were not lighted and of course often very dark. This facilitated the playing of pranks on the visiting professors, a temptation which was not always resisted. The students took their meals either at the houses of various citizens of the town at the usual price of eight dollars per month, or at the College boarding house, which was a two story frame house which stood where the President's house now stands. Students furnished their own fuel and lights. Wood was the only fuel used, and was bought from country wagons by the half cord and was cut and split and ranked in the rooms. The light used was either tallow candles or camphene oil at one dollar per gallon.

(To be continued.)

## Field Day.

[Communicated.]

Year after year the annual elections of the Athletic Association officers come around and we hear of the election of a manager for field day. Just as often the year passes by and we do not have a field day. Why is it? Is it because no effort is put forth by those in charge? Surely this is the only reason. We have a manager now but no visible effort is being put forth either as regards the events or the contestants. The faculty has granted a day in May for this event, yet for several years this has not been used except for visiting Natural Bridge or Goshen Pass. I do not think that there is any one in college who would seriously say that we could not have a field day. It is possible and if some of us will only exert ourselves as we should we can have a good

field day. The material is in college and let us get to work and see what a success we can make. Even if we do not make a very great success the first year, still we can make a beginning which can be made to lead to much profit and interest.

STUDENT.

## At Chapel.

Mr. Wilson began his Wednesday morning lecture with the agreeable announcement that the students were invited to a reception at the President's house next Tuesday evening from 10 to 12 o'clock. After those present had expressed their appreciation of the invitation in a way that could not be mistaken, Mr. Wilson briefly sketched the political questions which were at present of interest to the world. First mentioning the conditions existing in Austria-Hungary where fear of absorption kept constant strife alive between the two peoples constituting that empire. Then he spoke of the opposition which is steadily growing in Italy against the temporal power of the Pope. This being in strong contrast with the conditions existing in France, where it seems as though the people are again ready to change their form of government to an Empire, as only a short time ago a play had to be suspended while they yelled themselves hoarse for Napoleon V. The liberal party in England also presents an interesting question, for it has been with Peel and Gladstone at its head the great party of reform and now without a leader it appears as though it were going to pieces.

Though the President considered these questions worthy of attention he said that the secret debate at present going on in the United States Senate was the most important question before the American people. Consequently he felt justified in taking the rest of the time to read and explain the seventeen articles of the treaty which is now under discussion.

Next Wednesday he will give the students the full benefit of all the information he can obtain in regard to the Philippines.

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The editor requests that every member of the editorial staff will meet in his room next Tuesday afternoon at half-past five o'clock. It is very important that every member be present if possible as matter of interest will be brought up and and it is desirable that a full meeting give a full expression of opinion on all questions.

The favorable comment on the suggestion that a dramatic club be organized leads to our calling attention again to the plan as presented two weeks ago. We are glad to have in another column a communication from one whose interest in college affairs is unabated.

If the suggestion does not end in "talk" it will bring about the organization of a club which shall be composed of students only, one in which the female characters as well as the male characters shall be presented by students. There are those here who are not only willing but are anxious to join such a club and, besides having the possibility—shall we say probability—of organizing a club there are friends of experience who will gladly lend what help they can in forming and directing the club.

If organized the club could have an entertainment as frequently as advisable but chiefly on the Saturday night before commencement when a handsome sum might be realized for general athletic expenses.

Can we not have an expression of opinion from still others—as to the advisability of having such a club?

We are glad to have a "student's" opinion on the question of Field Day. He is right, we think, in advocating the measure and we trust he will advocate it so fully as to bring about a good exhibition of field sports. He is in error in supposing that creditable exhibitions have not been held in times past. It is true that the day set apart for that purpose has not been utilized as such as of late but it used to be marked with enthusiastic displays in which many contestants took part. For a successful field day we need to begin now. The proper manager will do well to push the matter and make ample provision.

The behavior in the opera house last Tuesday was not as commendable, as it might have been and has caused some unpleasant comment. Students cannot be too careful as to their behavior in public places as oftentimes a little thoughtlessness on the part of one or two will bring discredit to the whole student body.

It is far from our purpose to condemn hearty applause, but there are other annoyances which are not excusable. It is true that the nature of the entertainment Tuesday evening was not such as would demand the respect that some of the entertainments would, but still we need to be careful. We know that a word to Washington and Lee students will be sufficient.

Within the next ten days an entertainment will be held for the benefit of baseball. The play, Snowball, will be presented by a cast consisting of those who have already for the most part had a favorable reception from Lexington audiences. As it is for baseball it is hoped that the students will bear it in mind and patronize it liberally.

A communication has come from the Athletic Association of the University of Pennsylvania announcing an Intercollegiate Relay Race Meeting in April. It will be published next week and will set forth the conditions of the meet.

Through the kindness of Prof. A. L. Nelson, we will be able to publish an outline of that portion of the earlier history of Washington College which fell under his

personal observation. Because of its length it will occupy a part of our space for several weeks and will prove useful and entertaining to many whose memory does not run so far back.

My Dear RING-TUM PHI:

In one of your recent numbers I read with much interest a long editorial in regard to the purpose of a college paper and absolute necessity of its being interesting; and there is one point on which you did not touch, that I think should be emphasized. It is that the paper should be as interesting as possible to the *alumni*.

Now of course the very meagerest bit of news from old alma mater is recreation to the busy alumnus. And the RING-TUM PHI certainly contains all the College news, and this is, no doubt, eagerly devoured by every far away subscriber, but the point is to have in that list of subscribers the name of every alumnus.

As a partial means to that end I want to make a suggestion, which I think will be approved by you as well as all the class historians—both past and future. It arises from my experience as historian of the class of '95 combined with my interest in the RING-TUM PHI, and may be taken for what it is worth. In the first place, let each member of the graduating class understand that it is duty to do his duty. That is, he is to notify the historian of his whereabouts and "whatabouts" once every year. Then, let the historian send this collection of sketches to the RING-TUM PHI, at various times during the session, with the understanding that it is to have its own heading, and not to be crowded in with personals or laid on the table (alias waste basket). There is a double advantage. It adds interest to the paper and it enables the members of the graduating classes to keep in touch with each other.

If this suggestion meets with your approval and that of the class of '99, I hope that class—both officers and privates—will realize the importance of carrying it out after they have once undertaken it. I would further suggest to you that copies of this issue be sent to graduates (of recent years) who are not now subscribers, and that they be urged to write to their several historians promptly.

In conclusion, let me say that there are no fifteen minutes in the week that bring me more real joy

than the "minutes" of old Washington and Lee, as recorded in the RING-TUM PHI.

Faithfully yours,  
HUGH M. BLAIN.  
Searcy, Ark., Jan. 30, '99.

### Athletic Association.

Yesterday was the time for the regular meeting of the athletic Association but a quorum was not present and no business was transacted. A called meeting will be held later on and due notice of it will be given so that a full meeting may be held.

### Obituary.

Louis A. Witz.

Louis A. Witz died at about 7 o'clock last evening at Aiken, S. C., whither he went in the early winter for the benefit of his health. He was 26 years of age, was a young man of great promise, and had a fine mind which he cultivated assiduously. After completing the course at the Staunton Public High School he went to Washington and Lee University at Lexington, where he took the degrees of A. B. and B. L. At the University he not only stood high as a student, but personally he was popular among professors and students alike. With a bright face, affable manners, a ready wit and good conversational powers, he made friends wherever he went. His was a welcome presence in every gathering and in every household. His habits were pure, and both by nature and by training he seemed cut out for an honorable, useful and distinguished career. His death is a severe blow to his family and to the community. Louis' health had not been good since his graduation, and he had travelled considerably in the South to restore it but without success.—*Staunton News*.

### Grahamites.

The Grahamites have been taking great interest in the society since the holidays. The debates are engaged in by all and the attendance is good. Last Saturday night was the appointed time for the election of officers for the coming term. Mr. W. P. Ott, of Virginia, was elected to fill the dignified office of president, having won the heart of the society and shown great ability as an executive

officer. Mr. J. A. McCluer was unanimously elected vice-president. After the regular program had been gone through with a committee was sent to invite the Wash. into joint-session for the purpose of electing an assistant editor on the *Southern Collegian* staff. The Wash. has a large enrollment, and the Grahamites had moved their seats to the rear of the hall to make room for them, but most of the members of our sister society seemed on this occasion to be conspicuous by their absence. The President of the Wash. took the chair. Mr. Mosby G. Perrow, who is the president and also the constitution of the Wash., was unanimously elected as Mr. Farrar's successor. For lack of other business the joint-session then adjourned and the Graham-Lee continued its regular business.

#### Personal Mention.

Mr. John L. Campbell, who has been absent on business, has returned.

Mr. R. G. Mitchell was in town this week and was present at the cake walk.

Misses Nannie and Margaret Graham left this week for a visit to Baltimore and Philadelphia.

President and Mrs. William L. Wilson have sent out cards inviting the students to a reception at their home next Tuesday evening from ten to twelve o'clock.

Misses Pattie and Mildred Myers left last Monday for New Orleans where they will spend some weeks as the guests of the Misses Percival.

The snow this week brought out a good many sleighs. A merry party met with a disaster the other afternoon while enjoying a pleasant ride. They left town in the best of spirits, but shortly afterwards several young men of the party returned on horseback to procure a tongue for their sleigh which had broken. The rest of the party had to wait by the roadside until the return of the messengers. After making the necessary repairs the party continued their sport none the worse for the accident.

**Washington Literary Society Program, Feb. 18, 1899.**

Orators: Bledsoe, T. A.; Smith, E. C., and Seig, J. McC.

Declaimers: Bledsoe, E. P. and

Joliffe, W. P.

Debaters: Affirmative—McNulty, C. S.; Brown, V. M., and Allan, J. P.; Negative—Lee, J. W.; Ott, E. D.; Goshorn, F. W.; Theobald, J. M.

Question: *Resolved*, That a universal language would not help attain more rapidly the "perfect civilization."

M. G. PERROW, President.

H. B. GRAYBILL, Sec'y.

#### Clubs Attention!

All Clubs, such as State, etc., wishing representation in the *Calyx* are requested to organize as quickly as possible in order to get their matter in suitable shape. For any information see

EWING D. SLOAN.

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The *Calyx* Board announces that it will present a copy of the *Calyx* to that student who will contribute the best story for this year's annual and also offers a copy to the author of the best poem.

#### Graham-Lee Program, Feb. 11, 1899.

For Orations: McPheeters, Ott, Moore, Parish.

Declaimers: Bryan, Caffery, Deacon, Gish, Huff, Preston, Holmes.

To Debate: Affirmative—Lind, Keeble, Lakin, Lauck; Negative—McNeill, Lofton, Lord.

Question: *Resolved*, That Commissary Gen. Egan should be expelled from the army.

W. P. OTT, President.

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### A Society Cake Walk.

A pleasant entertainment was given Tuesday evening at the opera house under the auspices of the ladies of the Daughters of the Confederacy. It was a "Society Cake Walk," and was introduced by a musicale in which excellent music was furnished by ladies and gentlemen of the community. The opening song was "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground," sung by a quartet composed of Mrs. Samuel B. Walker, Miss Margarat Graham, Mr. F. H. Anschutz and Mr. B. E. Vaughan. Mrs. Walker sang a solo, the "Angels Serenade"; Mr. G. B. Capito played "Il Trovatore" on the violin and Miss Margarat Graham sang a solo, "Sunset." The accompaniments were played by Miss Mary Preston Graham. The audience showed their appreciation by encoring most liberally.

Students of Washington and Lee University made up the couples in the cake walk, acting the female as well as the male parts. They were led by Mr. Fred A. Goshorn, and their manoeuvres very much entertained the spectators, though the female representatives were hardly the most skillful skirt handlers. The couples were: R. G. Mitchel and E. Moore (lady), S. McPheeters and T. Robinson (lady), D. M. Barclay and R. W. Withers (lady), H. B. Chernside and S. Robinson (lady), S. B. Mason and H. Carmichael (lady), E. Arbuckle and J. H. Heiter (lady), J. W. Garrow and John Dillon (lady), and L. Cafery and S. T. Crebs (lady).

Colonel J. D. H. Ross, Professors Willis and Vance were the judges of the skill of the couples and awarded the cake to David M. Barclay and his lady, R. W. Withers; the second prize, a stick of candy of unusual dimensions to J. W. Garrow and Jno. Dillon.

The entertainment was under the management of Mrs. Gertrude T. Logan. The evening was one of the worst of the winter and kept many from attending. — *County News.*

### The Petition.

It is gratifying to see the earnest manner in which the men are considering the petition which is being circulated among the the students. Not one man who has seen has failed to sign it. What may come of the effort it is impossible to foresee but we can lose nothing by trying. Last year the petition was gotten up but too late to have the matter

fully discussed but it is hoped that this year it will come forward early enough to have the fullest expression of pros and cons. It will be presented to every student within the next fifteen days.

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