

Pro L Campbell

THE RING-TUM PHI.

109

'BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS.'

Vol. II.

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No. 19.

Personal Recollections of Washington College.

By Prof. A. L. Nelson.

[Continued from last issue.]

Effort was made to continue college work during the war, and some thirty or forty boys and young men under military age were assembled and taught with considerable interruption. A federal force under General Averill frequently threatened to invade Rockbridge County, and Home Guards including the College were called out to repel these threatened invasions. Expeditions were made by the Home Guards, sometimes on foot and sometimes mounted, to Goshen, Cold Sulphur Springs, Alum Springs, Clifton Forge, Covington and Buchanan. Averill never made an appearance before the Home Guards of Rockbridge and Augusta.

Rockbridge County never was invaded by the Federals until in June 1864 General Hunter with a large army came up the valley from Winchester and Staunton. He shelled the town from the hills beyond the river without much injury. One ball entered the house of Prof. Campbell, now occupied by Dr. Quarles, and passed through the front room on the second floor. Gen. Hunter took possession of the town, burned the Virginia Military Institute and Governor Letcher's house, sacked Washington College, broke up the chemical and philosophical apparatus and scattered the library. The damage to college was estimated at over seventeen thousand dollars, and this amount without interest was paid by the government thirty years later, chiefly through the instrumentality and tact of our representative and friend, Hon. Harry St. G. Tucker.

When the war closed the College was a wreck, but the Board of Trustees animated by indomitable Scotch-Irish pluck determined to resuscitate it. It was announced that the Board would meet on the 4th day of August, 1865, for the purpose of electing a president. It did meet on that day and as that was the most important and memorable meeting ever held by the

Board of Trustees it will be well to mention the names of the members present. They were as follows: Judge John W. Brockenbrough, LL. D., Rector, Dr. Alfred Leyburn, Rev. Horatio Thompson, D. D., Hugh Barclay, Esq., Capt. David E. Moore, Hon. Francis T. Anderson, Rev. Wm. Brown, D. D., Maj. Wm. M. Tate, Col. Boliver Christian, Jas. D. Davison, Esq., John McD. Alexander, Maj. T. J. Kirkpatrick, Col. Wm. McLaughlin and Wm. A. Glasgow, Esq., with Col. J. K. Edmondson, Secretary. The members of the faculty were present by invitation as most interested spectators. The meeting was held in the present law lecture room. Several highly respectable gentleman and scholars were placed in nomination for president and their merits discussed. At length the Board seemed ready to take the vote. Just then Col. Boliver Christian arose and said in a somewhat hesitating manner that he deemed it his duty to make a statement, before the vote was taken, which might have some influence on the election. He then said that a lady friend of his, who was also a friend to Miss Mary Lee, daughter of Gen. Robert E. Lee, had recently told him that Miss Mary Lee had remarked to her that while the Southern people were willing and ready to give to her father everything that he might need, no offer had ever been made him by which he could earn a living for himself or family. A member asked Col. Christian if he nominated Gen. Lee. No, he replied, he would not do that, but he merely wanted the Board to know what Miss Mary Lee had said. Then various members of the Board said what a great thing it would be for the College if the services of Gen. Lee could be secured, and wondered if there was any chance of doing so. At length after repeated urging Col. Christian did make the nomination. All the other names were immediately withdrawn and the vote was called, and Gen. Lee was unanimously elected. Then there was a pause and silence prevailed for some moments. The Board seemed oppressed with the gravity of the situation, and seemed to feel that they had acted rash-

ly. How could they announce to the world that they had elected to the presidency of a broken down college, not only the greatest man in the South, but in many respects the greatest man in all the world. And yet it was only brave men who could seize an opportunity like this. "There is a tide in the affairs of men which taken at its flood leads on to fortune." At length a member summoned courage to say that having taken that step they must go forward, and moved that a committee of five members with the Rector be appointed to draft a letter to General Lee apprising him of his election and urging his acceptance. Another member suggested that it would not avail to send a letter through the mail, but that it must be conveyed and pressed by a personal representative, and that there was no one so well qualified for that mission as the Rector. Judge Brockenbrough was a large man of imposing appearance of courtly manners, a good talker and an eloquent speaker. He had been Federal Judge of the Western District of Virginia, and had for many years conducted a flourishing law school in Lexington. The Judge rose at once and thanking the member for his kind words, said that he could not go, and glancing down at his well worn clothes, said he could not make an appearance in Gen. Lee's presence dressed as he was and that these were the best clothes he had and that he had no money wherewith to buy others. Mr. Hugh Barclay, who also was a large man, replied that one of his sons who lived in the north had sent him a suit of broad cloth which he thought would fit Judge Brockenbrough pretty well and that if he would wear this suit he would be welcome. The Judge thanked him but said there was still another difficulty. It would be quite a journey to Powhatan County where Gen. Lee was residing and would necessitate some expense and that he had no money and that the College had none.

Col. McLaughlin who was ever active to the interests of the college and who knew everything that occurred in town, said there was a la-

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

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What about the Dramatic Club?

The Century Magazine Prizes.

Students everywhere of literary taste and ability should hail with delight the liberal offer made by the *Century Magazine* to give annually during the commencement seasons of 1899 and 1900, three prizes of \$250 each. This offer is open to any student who receives the degree of Bachelor of Arts from any college in the United States. The prizes are to be awarded as follows:

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Second, \$250 for the best essay in the field of biography, history or literary criticism, of not fewer than four thousand or more than eight thousand words.

Third, a prize of \$250 for the best story of not fewer than four thousand or more than eight thousand words. The manuscripts are to be submitted to the editor of the *Century* on or before June 1st of the year succeeding graduation.

This liberal offer of the *Century* is in keeping with her past policy of encouraging student literary work and is doubtless duly appreciated by college men, many of whom will show their appreciation by competing for one of these prizes. Why cannot one or more of them be won by W. & L. Students? W. & L. has long had an enviable place among colleges for the literary taste and ability of her students. The *Southern Collegian* has for years been considered one

of the very best college magazines in the South while the *Calyx* has won fresh laurels from year to year.

In the light of these facts one or more of the students of W. & L. should enter this contest with a determination to win.

Louise Brehany Concert.

The music lovers of Lexington will have the opportunity of hearing one of the best concert companies at the Opera House on March 2d, under the auspices of the Athletic Association. The Louise Brehany Ballad and Concert Opera Company is composed of musicians of recognized ability. It is only necessary to say that two of the number were in the Remenyi concerts at the time of his death. The people will recall with pleasure the splendid concert which Remenyi gave in Lexington. Subscribers will have the privilege of selecting seats a day before the sheet is opened for general selection.

Enthusiastic Mass Meeting.

Despite the inclement weather a large number of the students turned out to the mass-meeting yesterday afternoon. This had been well advertised by hand bills and it certainly was encouraging to see how many showed they had the real kind of college spirit.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. R. G. Campbell acting as chairman. The ball was opened by Mr. Crebs who read a letter from C. T. Smith resigning as Final Ball President. Under the circumstances the resignation was accepted. Mr. Witherspoon then rose and made a motion to elect Mr. Crebs President by acclamation, and this was seconded by Mr. Frierson. The motion was unanimously carried.

After the eloquent speech of thanks by Mr. Crebs, the chairman called in Mr. Farrar to read the petition. This was done and Mr. Farrar in a few well chosen words showed the benefit and necessity of such a petition. Others made speeches upon this subject, all favoring its imperativeness and so it was endorsed by the student body without opposition.

Ways and means for baseball were next brought up and discussed. The action of the Athletic Committee was made known, this being that it was left with the stu-

dent body at large as to whether we should have a baseball season or not, this action being taken after mature deliberation under the present conditions. It soon became evident that everyone thought we ought to have a team to keep up our record of past years. After a lot of desultory talking the "Mighty Ox" (without "ashes") climbed to his feet and with his usual eloquence and fiery zeal informed the assembly that it was customary on such occasions to waste much useful time in useless rhetoric, but that now was the time for action and not words. After the applause had abated somewhat he proposed that someone make definite proposal as to the course to be followed.

His advice was taken and the students commenced subscribing to the baseball fund. It was done in good old Methodist style, the donor raising and stating the amount of his subscription. In a few minutes about \$150 was subscribed, but this will not be all as a good many who will subscribe were not present. The chairman then appointed Messrs. Farrar, Anschutz and Sloan a committee to collect the money, after which there being no future business the meeting adjourned sine die.

The meeting was a success in every way. It has made a good baseball season absolutely certain. It has showed that the old enthusiasm and college spirit had not disappeared, but had been only lying dormant for a while. It presages good in what is to follow in the future, showing that when called upon in the proper spirit rightminded students of W. & L. U. will come to the front and help in college enterprises. And now at last the confirmed grumblers and pessimists of collegewill have to retire to their holes for a season or will have to join the procession under what we hope is a new regime which is here to stay.

"Snowball" Last Night.

For weeks local amateur performers have been preparing the three act farce "Snowball" for presentation before the people of Lexington, last night saw the glorious combination of their efforts. The characters were all well sustained and should the results of careful rehearsing combined with apt talent. The selection of the young men and young ladies who composed the cast showed most

creditably to the experienced judgment of Miss Annie R. White, by whose efforts the success of the enterprise was assured. The students again return thanks to her not only for this particular enterprise but for her continued hearty interest in student undertakings.

The severe weather which necessitated the postponement from Tuesday until Friday had in a large measure moderated and the house was so comfortably heated as to make fans useful.

A well filled house saw the performance and showed their appreciation by generous and hearty applause. The pleasure of the evening was much increased by the delightful music made by an orchestra selected from the W. & L. Glee Club.

The whole occasion reflected the greatest credit upon all who took part in it.

The cast was as follows:

Felix Featherstone, Mr. F. W. King; Uncle John, Mr. J. D. M. Armistead; Harry Prendergast, Mr. R. W. Withers; Saunders, E. B. Pancake; Mrs. Featherstone, Mrs. S. B. Walker; Ethel Strauger, Miss Sue Wellford; Penelope, Miss Mary Preston Graham.

To praise one is to praise all, for all deserve the highest praise, yet possibly the best work was done by Penelope, Felix Featherstone and Uncle John.

The performance was probably the best amateur performance ever seen in Lexington.

Hypnotism.

To those who believe in hypnotism or to those who have not yet learned to realize its power an opportunity will be afforded during the whole of next week to see one who is considered one of the greatest living hypnotists. Santinella will be at the Lexington Opera House and will afford much fun and amusement.

Graham-Lee Society.

The Grahamites are to be praised for their loyalty and fidelity to the old society and their untiring zeal in fulfilling the duties placed upon them. On the fourth of this month they adjourned to go to the medicine show and last Saturday night they had an unusually large attendance of three. The orations and declamations were excellent

and the debate was very spirited. It is hoped that this zeal will be kept up and the old society be made a success.

Boys We Knew.

A. W. Webb is principal of the High School in Vienna, Md.

E. A. O'Neal, known as "Irish," is farming near Florence, Ala.

E. C. Palmer, B. L., '98, is practicing law at Orange, C. H.

Jay Oberlin, our great tackle, is teaching school at Winchester, Va.

P. S. Felder, better known as "Polly," is farming in South Carolina.

D. H. Hammat, "Reformed Tramp," is with a law firm in Indianapolis, Ind.

Bryan Conrad is a First Lieutenant in the volunteer army at Manila.

H. H. Lyle and "Micky" Moore have been in Colorado for their health for some.

W. K. McClung, who has been spending some time in Colorado, has gone to San Antonio, Texas.

H. V. Canter, A. B., '97, is at Johns Hopkins University studying for his Ph. D. in the Romance languages.

G. C. Powell has recovered sufficiently to be able to go from his home in Washington down to Winchester, Virginia.

The friends of John Johnson will be glad to hear that he has almost recovered from his recent attack, and is now convalescing at Old Point Comfort, Va.

P. H. Hamilton is farming in Edwards, Miss. He hopes to return after the March "exams" and complete his course in civil engineering, from which he was suddenly called away.

The many friends of John W. Davis, former assistant professor of law here will be pleased to learn of his great success. He is chairman of the Judiciary Committee and the leader of the Democratic party in the lower house of the West Virginia Legislature.

Personal Mention.

Miss Marie Lewis, of Clarke county, is visiting friends in the city.

Miss Lizzie Brown, of Arrington, Virginia, is a guest at the home of her uncle, Dr. R. J. McBryde.

The unusual spell of weather prevented President Wilson from attending the Rouss banquet in Winchester, where he was to be one of the speakers.

Miss Duval was the hostess of the Friday Night Club at its last meeting. This was the fifth of a series of delightful entertainments and proved to be no exception to the rule.

Mrs. J. Sheppard Clark, of New York City, is in town on a visit to her son, Cadet Paul Clark, and is stopping at the Lexington. She is accompanied by her daughters Misses Antonia, Lucille and Mildred Lee Clark.

The young gentlemen of town have organized a "Club" which has delightful rooms in McCrum's hall and which proves a great source of pleasure to them during their spare moments. Prominent among the members we notice several of our alumni.

Mrs. John Carmichael has issued cards of invitation to the marriage of her daughter Miss Laura Tucker Carmichael to Mr. Oliver Perry Alford, Jr., of Lexington, Ky. The ceremony is to be performed in the Grace Memorial Church on the evening of the twenty-eighth. Mr. Alford is a former student of Washington and Lee.

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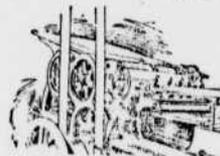
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(Continued from First Page.)

dy living in Lexington who owned a farm in Buckingham county and who had recently received the money for a crop of tobacco and that college could borrow some of it.

Judge Brockenbrough thus equipped and supplied went on his mission. When he returned he reported that Gen. Lee was willing to take the matter under consideration. On the 24th of August Gen. Lee wrote that he would accept the office of President of Washington College under certain conditions, one of which was that he could not undertake to give instruction to classes but could only undertake general supervision. The conditions imposed were readily accepted by the Board and the announcement of Gen. Lee's acceptance was made public.

Money was borrowed and every effort made to put the College in working order. On the 18th of September Gen. Lee rode into town on Traveler and drew rein in front of the hotel.

Y. M. C. A.

The day for universal prayer for schools and colleges was duly observed by the Association. The meeting was conducted by Mr. T. J. Farrar, the president of the Association.

The prayers of college men for college men is being recognized as one of the most significant facts of modern evangelization. The movement is more momentous in its possibilities than anything else in the history of the church.

Mr. Farrar in the course of his address called attention to the fact that this day of prayer was observed by 55,000 students in thirty different countries, including France, India, China, Japan and Australasia. It is perhaps true that on this day, so recently observed, that a greater volume of prayer was raised than ever before in the world's history. To those who believe in the power of prayer, and keeping with the promise of where two are three are agreed in asking anything, what must be the answer to the prayer of this mighty host, and how great must be its result on the college men of every country, and how vast their possibilities became of it.

Let it be what it may, we cannot see anything short of great progress in the Christianization and civilization of the world.

To-morrow Prof. H. St. G.

Tucker will address the Association on the subject, "An Unrepealed Law." It is hoped that many of the law students particularly will be present to hear Mr. Tucker.

Good fires make the room comfortable and an attractive address will amply repay those who come. Four o'clock in Y. M. C. A. Hall, basement of Chapel.

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