

J. D. Campbell

THE RING-TUM PHI.

BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS.

VOL. V.

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1901.

NO. 12.

Football.

In the sundry brief reviews of the football season that I have seen so far there was one very important factor in this year's greater success omitted, viz, the management.

The retiring manager deserves great credit for his zeal and ability in placing his department on a firm financial basis and in particular for his constant efforts to secure the needed training for an efficient eleven. We all know under what disadvantages and uncertainties the athletic managers labor here for lack of any definite and assured source of income. We knew when Dr. Wertebaker was working on his man last fall that the football team was about to "land a good one." We were inclined to interfere at first, but as baseball had already cheated the pigskin kickers out of an excellent manager (Lauek) who had almost committed himself to them, we generously refrained from "bribery and corruption" for once. The result has been a better schedule, more games on the home grounds, a better team and a decidedly more successful season. It should be the first duty of a captain to get the catalogue, if need be, pick out the best man for the business and stick to him until he consents to accept the management and "put it through," otherwise all his efforts in running the eleven on the field will be thrown away by a badly arranged schedule, uncertainty in finances and carelessness or inefficiency in management.

The necessity of securing the service of an able, clear headed and businesslike man for this important office cannot be too strongly emphasized. "Anybody" won't do.

The team made an excellent selection for next year's captain. Perhaps we show a partiality for a first class second baseman, but Captain Smith is the only man we have noticed help a runner up when thrown and drag him forward; it may have been only for a few inches, but those few inches some time made it "first down." This is head work

and team work and the main kind of work that scores in modern football. If Captain Smith can drill this spirit into the rest of his team we prophesy, with certainty, the most successful season Washington and Lee has ever had on the gridiron. May we live to see it!

ROOTER.

Washington Society.

No special program was rendered in the "Wash." last Saturday night. But, in order that the society might not adjourn without having shown some of its literary ability, it was proposed that a voluntary debate be indulged in. This was carried as a motion by the society.

A question was then proposed and the whole society was requested to sit as judge.

The question proposed was, Resolved, That more students flunk on account of liquor than on account of love. The debate was a very interesting one. Quite a number of the debaters pled lack of experience along either line.

The Graham-Lees were present at the time of the debate and Mr. Mahoney was called upon for a speech. He responded very gracefully and made a very effective speech for both sides of the question.

Football Team's Picture

The pictures of the '01 football team of W. & L., made by Miley, have been finished, one of which is on exhibition in Newcomb Hall.

The likenesses are good and the picture well finished, thereby making it a valuable memento of a very successful football season.

They can be obtained from Manager McNulty at 75c. a piece.

Football Scores

Last Saturday West Point beat Annapolis by a score of 11 to 5 in a fiercely contested game.

Episcopal High School 54, Woodberry Forest 0.

Thanksgiving night the woodcock took to flight and since then has not been seen or heard.

Communicated.

Mr. Editor:

Some one has attacked me in a most vicious and unseemly manner in your columns, and applied epithets to me publicly which I would not use towards any man in college, unless I caught him cheating or stealing. I have a feeling of dignified contempt for the methods and language of the writer. They are beneath my notice, but the RING-TUM PHI is not, hence my reply.

I have already said why I wrote the criticism, that I was asked to review the article in question and I did it as my sense of its incongruities prompted me. I took it as a joke—can it be taken otherwise? It was written up as an editorial review. It was very apparent who was the author, and lest some one should further take offence, I will state that I was not even responsible for the heading.

The whole was done in such a manner that when I handed in my "acknowledgment" to the present editor-in-chief he returned it to me saying that he didn't "think it was necessary," meaning that no explanation was required by action so open and above board. The editor-in-chief of the Southern Collegian certainly informed me that he regarded the article as a serious composition, at the same time stating that the staff, including myself, had not worked up sufficient material to give any competition or choice in the matter.

I plainly perceive in "Fair Play" the more prominent element of hurt feelings, and I cheerfully give my "critic" a little helpful advice: Never to judge others by himself when angry. To think twice before he acts. Perhaps he will not take this kindly, but his haste, temper and inexperience have led him into error, and we condone much that has been said in anger as "temporary aberration." * * *

Mr. Mahoney has expressed his criticism in a gentlemanly and highly entertaining manner. I enjoyed his charges of Celtic humor

immensely, and only regret that the same did not extend to "the weaknesses in detail" of the local literature to which he refers. M. P. A.

The Labadies at Chapel Tuesday Night.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Labadie of the Southern Lyceum company, gave their entertainment entitled "An Original Idea" at the University Chapel on last Tuesday evening, to the detriment of athletics. Not all of even the faithful few were on hand this time and the unfaithful showed no disposition to come into the fold. Consequently the audience that greeted Mr. and Mrs. Labadie was conspicuous by its smallness.

There was nothing small about the entertainment, however, and all present seemed to enjoy themselves. The first selection was taken from Shakespear's Richard III, being the scene in which Gloucester woos Lady Anne. The characters were well brought out and the scene dramatically portrayed. The second selection, being the trial scene from the Merchant of Venice, was presented in costume very vividly. Perhaps the most enjoyable was the third and last, Mr. and Mrs. Honeyton after their marriage, which provoked much laughter and applause. It was probably not untrue to life.

The Junior Law Class met on Tuesday and adopted a class pin, after examining designs procured by the committee appointed for the purpose. The design adopted is a wreath inclosing a four-leaf clover. Upon three of the petals are the letters W. L. U., and on the fourth '03, and the word Lex. on one side of the leaf between it and the wreath. The pin is gold and a very pretty emblem.

It is said that the members of the Fortnightly Club are spending all of their spare time in the perusal of the works of the Marquis of Queensberry in anticipation of pugilistic encounters between certain members of that august organization.

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The crises are at hand. Three times in a session do these banes of existence visit us, and every mother's son who wishes to get thro' has to cram, with the exception of the lucky bootlickers who rest on their laurels during exams. Fortunately there are few of the latter at this institution, and the men of the majority must cram, cram, cram, only to forget that which he has swallowed in haste with greater rapidity, until he goes away with an A.B. and the satisfaction of having bootlicked successfully for 66 points. Then he has to learn over a few things when he gets out into the world. We may add that he doesn't do it by cramming, and that a bluffer always comes to grief at a certain fixed point in his career.

Assuming that examinations are the best tests of training (necessity is the mother of invention) we do not think it inopportune to consider briefly what examination marks show. The following thoughts occur to us:

(1) Taking the marks of a whole class under one teacher and comparing them with another under a different teacher when the pupils are practically the same, it can often be noticed that there is a difference of 10 or 12 points between the general averages of the two classes. There is no other way of accounting for this than by the fact that some teachers mark harder than others. We believe this to be a fault of the marking system, for a student may

seem backward in a study when he is really proficient and doing good work.

(2) Taking the same example, and knowing that the teachers mark with the same degree of hardness, the phenomena may be accounted for in two ways: (a) The pupils had been doing some very poor work in one class, because the subject was uninteresting, or something of that sort; or (b) the teacher had been doing very poor work. In nine cases out of ten we find that the fault is with the teacher. If the class is uninteresting it is his duty to make it interesting, or quit his job, or mark easier.

(3) In any class of students there is almost invariably a large difference in the marks of the man at the head and the one at the bottom. The rule is that the students are marked according to the work they do; the exceptions that they are graded according to general impression made upon the teacher, in which bootlicking has its place. It is almost impossible to determine this by statistics with a satisfactory degree of fairness; so that we state a general opinion; the other conclusions are based on facts.

What a glorious thing it would be if marks and examinations could be swept away! A good student, it is said, ought not to fear examinations or think about marks. That is what the teachers tell us. But when some of them make our life in the classroom a bore, and astound us by arbitrary systems of marking, it is a wonder that even the best students will gaze at the bulletin boards, and go home and think of how he can please his professor—make a better impression—bootlick him—do anything to get a better mark.

Of course this is all said to encourage the freshman. When he goes thro' a few of these threshing times he will be like us—he won't care for marks, but will try to learn something, since he realizes he has to make a way for himself in the world. But we are not boasting, nor are we sour; just thinking a little.

The editor-in-chief begs to call attention to a contribution in this issue as regards "zeal in criticism" which appeared in these columns last week. Since the author has mentioned the editor-in-chief in connection with the article, it is not

unfair to the rest of the staff to take note of it in the editorial columns. The author did not wish to know the name of the author of "Zeal in Criticism," but since he has publicly explained himself, the editor-in-chief feels that he cannot do less than acknowledging its authorship and taking the burden of blame upon himself, as he wished to do by not inserting it as an editorial at first. Furthermore, the article was not written with any heart feelings or vindictiveness; it was a statement of fact as it appeared to the writer and a denouncing of what seemed, and still seems, to be a dishonest method employed in criticism according to the writer's calm—not hasty judgment. Lastly, since the author of the review explains it as a joke and not a criticism, the writer begs him consider his harsh words unwritten, for it had never occurred to him that it was a joke. He cheerfully acknowledges himself lacking in a sense of humor. Practical jokes some times have the practical side more prominent than the funny side. The contributor does not know why the editor-in-chief considered his acknowledgment in last week's RING-TUM PHI unnecessary. Frankly, because he acknowledged nothing. Everybody will grant him the right to criticize unfavorably, even if he is on the Collegian staff, but not to betray, brow-beat and ridicule the author of "Nebuchadnezzar's Reinstatement," showing in this way a desire to injure the Collegian. But since he meant it in fun, the editor-in-chief assumes the blame, personally of course, and acknowledges himself to be a stupid, dull-brained, etc., ass for not recognizing the brilliancy of the joke, and the exceeding depth of humor displayed.

This will be the last issue of the RING-TUM PHI before 1902. We wish luck to everybody on exams, and a merry Xmas and Happy New Year to all.

The gross receipts of the Yale Football Association this year were \$70,000. This sum is much larger than that realized in any previous season.

The December Monthly Chronicle of the Episcopal High School contains an editorial commenting on the beauty of Tucker Hall and the appropriateness of such a memorial to the services of a great man.

Professor Tucker.

The following is a dispatch from Washington city to the Richmond Dispatch of last Sunday:

"Hon. Harry St. George Tucker of Lexington, Va., was in the city last evening. He said to a friend that he intended to practice law in New York, and it is believed that he will probably form a co-partnership with the Hon. John G. Carlisle, of Kentucky. Mr. Tucker met a great number of his old friends, by whom he was warmly greeted. He left for New York this evening."

It is to be hoped that there is no ground for this statement, as Washington and Lee cannot afford to lose so valuable a member of its faculty. Mr. Tucker is not only needed as an instructor in the law department but his influence is also needed to maintain the present position of the University and to insure its future success.

All of Mr. Tucker's friends wish him all manner of success, but they hope that it will be attained by his connection with Washington and Lee, and not elsewhere.

Gymnasium Class.

The gymnasium class was last week organized for the winter by Dr. William Wertenbaker.

The number enrolled this year exceeds that of last, while there will no doubt be more men to come in within the course of a few days.

The gym class as conducted by Dr. Wertenbaker is one of the most important in college, for beside the great physical benefits derived from the exercise, it counts one point on the degree of those who attend regularly.

The class meets at 5 p. m. and all who wish to make the point must attend on three alternate days of each week.

The Red and Black of the University of Georgia, has the following to say in regard to the RING-TUM PHI for Nov. 23rd:

"The RING-TUM PHI of Washington and Lee is filled with severe criticisms of the Southern Collegian, the admirable magazine published by that University. To the outsider it seems that the many critics who have aired their opinions could have employed their time better in aiding the Collegian to get out a more commendable issue than in tearing to pieces the work of those who are doing their best for the University." Next!

Personals.

W. R. Allen, B. L. '01, is practicing law in Indian Territory.

Miss Reba Bridges, who has been visiting Miss Sue Davidson, has returned home.

Misses Mish of Staunton, and Potterson of Baltimore, who were here for the Thanksgiving german, have returned home.

Miss Fanny Gay Catlett of Staunton, who has been the guest of Miss Nettie Preston, returned home on Wednesday.

Mr. Richmond Kimborough of London, is visiting Mrs. M. W. Pratt. Mr. Kimborough came over to witness the Thanksgiving game between U. Va. and Sewanee.

How some of the lovely Christian characters of Lexington have fallen from grace.

We wonder whether the sport and easy going fellow feel much more uneasiness over the result of exams than the inveterate pluggers.

Every other week extra men should be added to the usual number of the police force in order to keep the peace.

The following men in college have a right to wear the University monogram on their caps and sweaters for valiant service done on the athletic field: Whipple, Laird, A. M. Smith, Allan, Haw, Walker, Glasgow, Fielder, Dotson, Crockett, Trundle, Hutchison, McNulty, Swartz, Hall, Ellis, Oberlin, Stone, Pendleton, Keeble, J. R. Tucker, Coe, McCrum, Bagley, Boogher, Anderson, Crawford, Spencer and Breckenridge. Several others, who are being considered by the committee, may be allowed this privilege.

New Books

Over \$100 worth of new books have been received for the library. As the selection was made by Dr. Currell it is needless to say that it is a good one. The selection is made up of history, biography, fiction, sociological works, etc. Some of them are Geo. W. Cable's Works, Cardinal Newman's Works, Darwin's Life and Letters, by his son, Huxley's Life and Letters, by his son, Souder's Life of Lowell, and Balfour's Life of Robert Louis Stevenson.

Some of Mr. Wilson's books have also been moved to the library.

Y. M. C. A. Hall.

The last service of the term was held in the lower chapel Sunday afternoon with an average attendance. The lecture, delivered by the Rev. Mr. Sydenstricker, was on the subject of China missions. He rehearsed the Boxer trouble in China and showed what effect this had upon the mission work. It was a testing time. Every inducement, was offered to make the natives recant. It was also a sifting time. All those who had weak faith were easily won over. This left the pure gold fully refined; and the followers of Christ, although not so many in number, are better, stronger than ever before. Therefore, this trouble has left the Mission of China upon a firmer foundation and has added many opportunities for the spread of the Gospel. This was an instructive lecture, and all who were interested in missions could receive much benefit from it.

The bulletin board in the library containing a list of readable articles in the current magazines is a very good idea, and in order that some may see it, who do not frequent the reading room. We print a partial list here:

- Literary Digest:
- Roosevelt's Appointments.
- Chinese Exclusion Law.
- Shakspeare-Bacon.
- Fortnightly Review:
- Shooting.
- Madame de Sevigne'.
- Munsey:
- Santos-Dumont and his Air Ship.
- The Strong Men of Great Britain.
- Nineteenth Century:
- Can the Sea be fished out?
- Great Britain and Russia.

Students of chemistry will be interested, from a scientific standpoint, in learning that one of the most valuable reactions of ammonia is not to be found in any of the ordinary works on Qualitative Analysis. A careful perusal of the foot notes in the works of a great Russian chemist revealed this remarkable property, that a few drops of this reagent in water taken internally will render a drunken man rapidly sober. A few more discoveries of this sort will cause the disappearance of the bottle marked "litmus" from our desk shelves.

Conner and Worthen are down with the gripe.

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Baseball Team:—Manager, W. S. Robertson, Jr.; captain, R. W. Crawford.

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Graham-Lee Literary Society:—President, W. G. Pendleton; secretary, D. V. Guthrie.

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Fraternities: Phi Kappa Psi, Phi Gamma Delta, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Kappa Sigma, Sigma Chi, Phi Delta Theta, Kappa Alpha, Sigma Nu, Phi Kappa Sigma, Mu Pi Lambda, Delta Tau Delta, Theta Nu Epsilon, Pi Kappa Alpha.

Student Publications: The RINGTUM PHI, published weekly by the students; J. R. Tucker, business manager; B. D. Causey, editor-in-chief.

Southern Collegian, published monthly by the students; W. G. Pendleton, business manager; E. D. Ott, editor-in-chief.

The Calyz, Annual, published by the students.

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