

THE RING-TUM PHI

'BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS'

VOL. VI

WASHINGTON & LEE UNIVERSITY, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1903

No. 17

THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTE

Purpose of Institute and Methods of Appointment

Dean Pennington, of the University of Pennsylvania, has given out for publication a statement in regard to the purpose and aim of the Carnegie Institute at Washington, and the method of appointment of research students.

Among other plans of the Institute, it is the purpose of those in charge, to encourage ability along specified lines, by appointing a special class of students to be known as research students.

This class of appointment is not intended to include the class of students who generally come under the head of fellowships or scholarships, or to give preparation along the usual lines for the preparation of academic theses. "It is rather to discover and develop under competent scrutiny and under favorable conditions such persons as have unusual ability." *** Work of a more advanced and special character is expected of all who receive appointments.

The annual emolument will vary according to circumstances. As a rule it will not exceed \$1,000 per annum. No limits are prescribed as to age, sex, nationality, graduation or residence. Appointments will at first be made for one year, but may be continued.

Applications for appointments may be presented by the head of, or by a professor in, an institution of learning or by the candidates. They should be accompanied by a statement of the qualifications of the candidate, or by the research work he has done, and of that which he desires to follow, and of the time for which an allowance is desired. If he has already written or printed anything of interest, a copy of this should be enclosed with the application.

Communications upon this subject should be distinctly marked on the outside envelope, and on the inside, "Research Assistant," and should be addressed to the Carnegie Institute, of Washington, D. C.

Cornell has a University Club in England. The club is composed of forty graduates, and is known as the Cornell Club of England.

ANCIENT MARKING SYSTEMS

Is History Repeating Itself?

Several were heard to remark a few months ago, when the present marking system was adopted, that Washington and Lee was tearing itself away too rapidly from its conservative traditions. For their perusal we append the methods used in the early part of the last century. We quote from Dr. Ruffner:

"The trustees still attended at the close of each session as examiners and expressed their judgment of the performances. ** At this period they adopted a system of marking, to denote the quality of each student's performance. They assigned three degrees of merit; *bonus* (good), *melior* (better), and *optimus* (best); and three degrees of demerit; *malus* (bad), *pejor* (worse), and *pesimus* (worst)."

As to the prevalence of the practice below noted, each student would probably prefer to be his own judge.

"The continual tendency was to mark inferior scholars too high. Thus it came to pass that not half the bad scholars got *malus*, the worst almost never fell below it and *bonus*, though a mark of approbation came to be regarded as a disgrace, while *optimus*, which ought to have been reserved for scholars of the highest merit, was commonly bestowed on all who rose above mediocrity. *** But it is not trustees only who commit this error. When professors mark they are tempted to do the same thing and then the effect is the same or even worse. A temporizing professor, who loves popularity and desires, like the old man in the fable, to please everybody, is sure to be guilty of this fault, and, like many a politician, to sacrifice permanent good for temporary favor."

At the beginning of the next century when the history of the University at present is written, the original researcher will be proud of his discovery that the present system of grading is a revival of the method adopted in 1829. He will probably add, "the conservatism of the institution at this period of its history was extreme."

Dr. Ruffner wrote: "In 1829,

(Continued on Fourth Page)

STATE CLUBS

Marylanders and Mississippians Organize

Last Saturday afternoon the men in college from the "Old Live State" met at Mr. Kolb's room for the purpose of organizing.

Mr. Warner acted as chairman of the meeting and the following officers were elected: Trundle, president; Dawson, vice-president; Cramer, secretary and treasurer.

A committee consisting of Messrs. Dawson, Kolb and Trundle was appointed to prepare a suitable representation for the Calyx, while Mr. Warner was prevailed upon to act as muse of the club.

The idea of holding a banquet was discussed but no definite action taken and the matter postponed until the next meeting, which will be held about two weeks hence.

Gov. John Walter Smith, Senator Arthur P. Gorman, Admiral Schley, and P. Walker were elected honorary members.

Mississippians

The representatives of Mississippi in college, met on Tuesday evening and effected an organization by electing the following officers:

S. W. Schaefer, president; C. B. Howry, vice-president; W. B. Perkins, secretary and treasurer. The club will be represented in the Calyx.

University Assembly

The next meeting of the University Assembly will be held next Wednesday morning at 8:45.

It was expected that Dr. Dickerman, of New Haven, would deliver the address; but he cannot be present. It will, therefore, devolve upon the undersigned to take his place.

Attention is called to the fact that prompt attendance is required of all the students.

GEORGE H. DENNY,
President.

The wealth of American fraternities is estimated at \$115,000,000. There are thirty fraternities with chapters in representative schools, with 670 active and 390 inactive chapters and a total membership of 115,000.

THE PLAY

On Tuesday night in spite of the bad weather, there was a packed house for the first show given by the W. & L. Dramatic Club, under the management of Miss Annie White. The stage was tastefully fitted up, in the recess at the back part of the reading room, the doors leading into the library making it a very suitable place.

The entertainment opened with "Box and Cox," a one-act farce. Mrs. Bouncer was greeted with universal applause. Mr. Glasgow, with whose histrionic talents we are acquainted and Mr. Tarr, who appeared before us for the first time, were both all that could be desired.

During the intermission there was a little song and dance given by 'Teddy an' hiz friends,' (Goat, Flap, Sally and Puck). Teddy, the end man, was in the middle and the unanimous "wish my color would fade" has been gratified, as far as can be seen. "First Aid to the Injured" another one act farce, came last. Miss Mary Moore, Miss Ridgeley, Miss Tucker and Miss Dunlap deserved the hearty congratulations which they received. Mr. Farrow and Mr. Waddell starred in this play last season.

This is the first of a series of plays to be given by the Club.

"A Box of Moukeys" comes next, which will be a more pretentious affair, both as to staging and the number of players. Miss Hume, Miss Dunlap and Mr. Farrow will take the leading parts. Considering the Tuesday night performance as an earnest of what is to follow, there is much pleasure in store for the future.

An interesting announcement has to do with the engagement of Dr. Cyrus W. Strickler, of Atlanta, well-known here as the son of Rev. and Mrs. G. B. Strickler, of Union Theological Seminary, to Miss Annie Williams, of Atlanta. The wedding will take place February 25, at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. Martha Amorous, of Atlanta.—*Richmond Times-Dispatch.*

Ohio State University has a course of lectures upon educational subjects by college presidents. Among the speakers are Presidents Hadley, of Yale and Schurman, of Cornell,

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EDITORIAL

A narrow, uncalled for, and ungrateful attack on the University, without any reasonable foundation, in fact or provocation, appears in the current Baltimore and Richmond Christian Advocate, as emanating from the present occupant of the Lexington Methodist pulpit. The burden of the article lies in an exhortation to those of the Methodist faith in the state of Virginia to rally to the support of their own institutions, the necessity of this action being exemplified with pessimistic incidents of the manner in which the cheerful, exhorting, enthusiastic followers of Wesley are converted into the staid, psalm-singing, predestinating disciples of Calvin, upon their entrance into the University life, and abounds with picturesque descriptions of the ungodly generation which infests the shades of the campus and parade ground, where "Hops, Germans and Balls" occur with almost as great regularity as breakfast, dinner and supper; where the graduate forsakes his sheepskin for the pleasures of Terpsichore and where the ambitious seeker after truth receives his highest reward in being elected to the presidency of the Final Ball. When we consider the viewpoint of the author and the fact of his daily intercourse in the lecture-room with this evil and perverse generation,

we cannot but be surprised that he has not exploded before this unpropitious time, but we would prefer that he would limit himself to the example of the Master in giving us "the sign of the prophet Jonah," and not assuming to himself the role of a Jonah to the University, or in other words, as a writer of injurious articles. We are more than surprised, however, when we reflect that the fees of ministers and ministers' sons are remitted by the University, and then note that the author of the article asserts that 45 per cent. of the students at Washington and Lee are "bought patronage." We also suppose that the Calvinistic, indoctrinated souls of the members of the Board of Trustees will be mildly shocked when they read "that Washington and Lee advertises itself as a non-sectarian institution and makes capital out of the allegation." They are doubtless unaware that they are obtaining money under false pretences. We are also shameless enough to confess our ignorance in not being able to detect any basis for the author's charge of Presbyterianian dominancy in the faculty for it is a matter of fact that out of eight appointments made by the Board in the last five years, including two elections to the Presidency, only one appointee has been a Presbyterian.

The sincerity of the reverend author we would not for the world impugn, and his zeal and energy is to be commended, but we cannot but think that his charge against the University is a species of the "sour-grapes" malady.

That we are living in a Scotch-Irish Presbyterian community, there can be no doubt, where the Presbyterian church is dominant and the gradations of society are laid down upon the basis of church membership. This latter fact is a matter to be deplored, but the former presents no startling dangers, and is the case in most University towns. There is absolutely no foundation, however, for the assertion that the Presbyterian community, or the members of the faculty who hold to this branch of the faith, indirectly or actively seek to drive the student body into the Presbyterian pasture. We hesitate to state it, but we are afraid that the lost sheep of Wesleyanism have

strayed into the Calvinistic confines because the prospects are more alluring, or in other words they are better entertained, hear a better sermon, or for neither of these reasons, but because there is some saintly Ruth in the congregation, whom the prodigal student wishes to "worship from afar off" in the gallery. We are also of the opinion that certain lost sheep of the Presbyterian and other folds, are inflicted in like manner toward the members of the Methodist congregation.

This is the truth in a nutshell, but even were it otherwise, why all this furor. As the Roycrofter philosopher says, we are all making the journey together, and why not go hand in hand, helping one another. When we reach bottom rock, as both Presbyterians and Methodists, we have the same object in view, not the building up of a special sect, but a kingdom that is not of this world. We would respectfully recommend to the reverend author that he get acclimated, adapt himself to his environment, and preach good sermons, and he will have no ax to grind.

Seriously considered, the article in its local application and influence is harmless, but when it is published broadcast on the outside, in the daily and religious press, to be seen by thousands of thoughtless readers unacquainted with the real conditions of the University life, it has the tendency to place the institution in a false position. We predict no greater harm for the University, however, than a goodly amount of free advertising.

We would say in conclusion that owing to the stress of University duties, the article has come to our notice too late for an exhaustive critical analysis and refutation, which, if it seems proper, space will be given next week.

MOOT COURT

"Oyez, oyez, oyez, silence is commanded under penalty of imprisonment, while the Hon. Martin P. Burkes is holding the February term of the moot court. All persons having any business please enter, or any other business, come forward and be heard. God save the commonwealth!"

The stentorian voice of sheriff Thomas is beginning to make the above court house yell very famil-

iar to the denizens of Tucker Hall. Several terms of the moot court have been held thus far, and the lumbering machinery of the law is beginning to creak and rumble and move after an idleness of about six months. The sonorous old common law jingles that used to sing the judges to sleep in the time of Edward the Confessor, are being sung as of yore into the ears of the patient court. (All the harmony of the law seems to be personified and embalmed in the music of those graceful phrases, "That heretofore, to-wit," "of him, the said C. D.," and the like.)

Clerk Gibbs and Sheriff Thomas, "being elected by the qualified voters of Rockbridge County, State of Virginia," to their respective positions, were duly sworn into office on the code of Virginia, there being no Bible in the court room. Heavy bond, of course, was required of these gentlemen, which they promptly produced.

The first matter which came up after the organization of the court, was the probate of a certain writing purporting to be the last will and testament of John Smith, deceased. Farrow succeeded in proving to the satisfaction of the court that there was no question as to the validity of this important document. Massie, who was named as executor in the said will, duly qualified for that function, being first required, however, to give a bond in the penalty of \$10,000.

A very interesting proceeding by motion was next taken up, the learned counsel in the case being Shields and Harvey. Neither side requiring a jury, all matters of law and fact were submitted to the decision of the court, and after hearing sundry witnesses and the argument of counsel, the court took until the next term to consider of its judgement. At the next term, both attorneys being present, the court rendered a very instructive opinion in the case, dealing with the various questions raised therein.

The court docket is becoming crowded with numerous other cases in various stages of development, and the "dusty repositories" of the clerk's office are being rapidly filled with sundry legal documents, deeds, wills, conveyances, leases and releases, liens and mortgages, writs, returns, bills, declarations, replications, demurrers, and pleas. Among the papers filed was the following release, executed by one John Marshall (not C. J.). We reproduce it here thinking it might be found valuable to some impecunious debtor who is looking for a good legal form in which to entrap and forever silence his pestiferous creditors.

"Know all men by these presents that I, John Marshall, in consideration of the sum of one dollar, lawful money of the United States, to me in hand well and truly paid by X. Debtor, have remised, released, and forever discharged, and by these presents do for me, my heirs, executors and administrators, remise, release and forever discharge the said X. Debtor, his heirs, executors and administrators, of and from all and all manner of actions, suits, debts, dues, sum or sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, specialties, bails, covenants, contracts, controversies, promises, agreements, variances, damages, judgments, extents, executions, claims, and demands whatsoever, in law and in equity, which against the said X. Debtor I have had, now have, or which my heirs, executors or administrators hereafter can, may, or shall have for, upon or by reason of, any matter, cause or thing whatsoever, from the beginning of the world to the date of these presents. In witness whereof, I hereunto attach my hand and seal."

Tournament and Ball

A movement is on foot to arrange for a horse-tournament during the coming spring. It is desired to have the tournament on Field Day, and to conclude the day with a tournament ball.

By charging a riding fee and selling tickets to the ball, it is thought that a considerable sum may be realized for the benefit of athletics.

The faculty will consider the matter at the next meeting, and it is hoped that they will give their consent to the plan.

DANCE AT THE GYM.

A Pleasant Affair

The students gave a very informal but pleasant dance at the gymnasium Monday night from nine to twelve o'clock. The chief feature was the numerous kinds of music. To an outsider it would have sounded as if there were at least three orchestras present, each taking its turn to make melody for the gay followers of Terpsichore, who seemed to enjoy it thoroughly.

Those present were, Misses Claytor of Bedford City; Miss Dunlap of Roanoke; Miss Hume of Chapel Hill, N. C.; Miss Dunnington of Charlottesville; and Misses Tucker, Haskins, Howe, Brockenbrough, Lee, and Prof. and Mrs. Vance; and students Bagley, Price, Conrad, Haw, Gill, Lauck, Campbell, Barclay, Baker, H. S. and N. Osburn, Smiley, Duncan, Pancake, Arbuckle, Witherspoon, and Capts. Stockdale, Cabell, and Peyton.

The chaperones were Mesdames Howe, Stevens and Kern.

PERSONALS

Dawson has the grippe.

Dr. Crow has been sick this week, and on Tuesday was unable to meet his classes.

Miss Gwendolen Howe, of Randolph-Macon Woman's College, returned to Lynchburg Wednesday.

Misses Susie and Marguerite McPheeters, of Raleigh, N. C., are guests at the home of Miss Glasgow.

The Sigma Nu's have moved their quarters to the McCrum building.



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(Continued from First Page)

when the writer was temporarily charged with the chief management of the institution, he got the board to change their system of marking degrees of scholarship, by substituting for the old system the three distinctions of 'Disapproved,' 'Approved,' and 'Distinguished,' the last to be reserved for scholars much above the ordinary degree of merit. He thus hoped to cure the evil just spoken of. But alas! within two or three years some bad scholars were approved and good scholars were nearly all distinguished. * * It is hard to resist it [the above evil (?)] and if one professor yields to it, the rest must ultimately yield more or less, to save themselves from the clamor and hatred of the negligent and the inferior scholars, who are encouraged by the indulgence of the popular professor. Such is the course of human nature."

On The Outside

The Ohio Wesleyan Transcript is advocating an Intercollegiate Press Association.

According to the Yale marking system, cuts count double just before and after the holiday recess.

An exchange tells this story of a Yale Senior, who had just proposed to a young lady.

"Yes, I will be yours on one condition."

"That's all right, he responded, unabashed, 'I entered Yale with six.'"

The oldest law college at present under the stars and stripes is in the city of Manilla. This college existed one century and a half before the Harvard law department was endowed.

An exchange comments as follows on the segregation of students at Chicago University:

"The good results obtained are summarized as follows in a press dispatch from the Windy City: 'Lowering of the dress standard, many young men now wearing sweaters instead of starched shirts, and many young women wearing 'any old thing' instead of dainty shirt waists and neck ruffles. Less formality in classes; instructors of the young men illustrating their teachings with lively stories. More concentration of mind on their studies by the girls. Acquisition of a new slang word — "seg" — a noun, viz, "She is a seg." No more "rubberology." When the classes were mixed the boys used to take the back seats so as to have a comprehensive view of the girls. Gratification of those professors who prefer to teach boys to girls.

A bill has been introduced in the Virginia House of Delegates, providing for the election of a president of the University of Virginia.



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