

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. Evrett 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.)

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

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 10 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 degree 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 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.

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[Continued from last issue.]

In those days every student was a member of one or the other of the two Literary Societies. The Washington Society held its anniversary celebration on February 22nd because it was the anniversary of Gen. Washington's birth; and it had been supposed that the 19th of January was selected for the anniversary of the Graham Society because that was the anniversary of Gen. Lee's birth. Previous to the session of 1947-8 the Graham Society celebration was held on December 19th because that was the anniversary of the birth of Rev. Wm. Graham, the founder of the College. During that session this celebration was changed to January 19th in order to allow more time for the selection of the speakers and to allow the speakers more time for preparation. By a happy chance it fell on Gen. Lee's birthday. I remember that after Gen. Lee became President he asked me how it happened that this celebration occurred on January 19th. I had to tell him the truth. It seems then that the Literary Societies took the lead in forshadowing the connection between Washington College and Washington and Lee University.

The campus was more circumscribed than it is at present. It was limited by an avenue which ran from the Institute gate to Nelson street in a straight course and passed in front of the present Chapel site. A line of trees grew along the fence on either side of the avenue, and many of the trees standing still will be recognized as the oldest trees on the campus. They continue to mark the position and limits of the avenue.

In 1849 Dr. Ruffner resigned the Presidency and was succeeded by Rev. Geo. Junkin, D. D., who had been president of Lafayette College, Pa. Dr. Junkin was a short heavy set man with keen black eyes which never required glasses; of ardent temperament, of quick temper and disposed to controversy. He held the office for twelve years.

At the beginning of 1849 Col. Ewell resigned the Professorship of Mathematics to become President of William and Mary College, Va., where he he remained to the end of his life, which occurred only three years ago. He was succeeded by Major Hill, afterwards Lieut. Gen. D. H. Hill of the Confederate Army, whose daughter and family are now living in Lexington and whose grandson is a student of this University.

After graduating in 1849 I was absent from Washington College for five years. I returned in 1854 as Professor of Mathematics. Dr. Junkin was still President. The rest of the faculty was changed. Prof. Jno. L. Campbell, the father of our two estimable officers of this University, was Professor of Chemistry. Prof. James J. White so long a prominent feature of the college was Professor of Greek. Prof. Junius M. Fishburne, brother of a present member of the Board of Trustees, was Professor of Latin.

The policy of inspecting students rooms at night was discontinued, and the conduct of the students became more orderly than under the former system. Prof. Fishburne died in 1858 and he was succeeded by the brilliant Prof. Carter J. Harris.

College affairs moved on quickly until the political storm of 1861. The first sensation in College was manifested by the students in placing a Southern flag on the top of College in the keeping of the statue of George Washington. As soon as this was observed by Dr. Junkin he made a servant take it down. Another was promptly put in place by the students. Dr. Junkin called a meeting of the faculty and demanded that they order this one to be taken down. Some objection was mentioned by a member of the faculty on the ground that the feeling of the students was natural under the circumstances. Dr. Junkin said at once that if the faculty would not order it down he would hand in his resignation, and he left the room. The rest of the faculty continued the discussion of the question and concluded that they would not pass the required order. Dr. Junkin did not after setting out his

ed with his daughter in a one-horse rockaway to Pennsylvania.

As the political excitement continued to grow the students organized a volunteer company with Prof. J. J. White as captain, and entered the military service, and remained in service from first Manassas to Appomattox.

In the battle of First Manassas six of these brave young men were killed outright and several others were desperately wounded. I see one of that company present to-day who carries the mark of his honorable wound.

It has been said that it was a pity that the students did not have a memorial day for the company. The answer given is that if every battle in which the company took part was set apart as a memorial day the College would have a holiday once in every week.

It would be well to set apart some day in the Spring as a suitable memorial day for the many battles in which the company was engaged.

(To be continued.)

Miss Rosa Tucker.

The affair was a success from beginning to end, was complete in every appointment and will long be remembered as one of the handsomest entertainments known to Lexington society.

Among those present in the earlier part of the evening besides the receiving party were: Dr. and Mrs. Reid White, Mr. and Mrs. Addison Hogue, Col. Hunter Pendleton, Dr. and Mrs. Hall, Dr. and Mrs. McBryde, Mr. Jno. L. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Witt, Major and Mrs. Mallory, Judge Letcher, Professor Willis, Mr. and Mrs. H. St. G. Tucker, Professor Stevens, Mr. Jos. Turner, of Roanoke, Professor W. R. Vance, Professor Chas. A. Graves, Mr. B. Estes Vaughan, Mr. Wm. M. McElwee, Major Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Corse, Mrs. Morrow, Mrs. Hill, Dr. and Mrs. Jas. Lewis Howe, Col. Wm. A. Anderson, Dr. Jas. A. Quarles, Mrs. Brockenbrough, Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Walker and Mr. William Glasgow. Later in the evening were Miss Nettie Houston, Miss Mary Moore,

gers to fill the deficit, get some lecturer or other entertainer to speak for the benefit of whatever cause it happens to be. The lecturer comes, speaks to a small house and goes bearing with him the lion's share of the proceeds, if not, leaving the manager in the hole. A dramatic club that exhibits, not for its personal aggrandizement but for some popular college cause would do away with the necessity of outside aid and give the manager, not only the little share that generally falls to his lot but the whole of the proceeds. Then, as home-talent is always a drawing card the houses would be fuller and so increase the revenues.

Apart from these pecuniary considerations a dramatic club would be most beneficial to its members, affording them occupation during the long winter months, giving them confidence before audiences, training their minds by the memory work, and bringing them together in a most pleasant social way. Therefore, Mr. Editor, I hope you will use the columns of your paper in forwarding such a beneficial undertaking.

Sincerely,
G. C. P.

At Chapel Wednesday.

Dr. R. J. McBryde was present and conducted the devotional exercises after which President Wilson briefly discussed the most important points about the Philippines.

He said there are twenty-five or thirty different dialects spoken on the islands, and the government up to recent years, especially since the opening of the Suez canal, when hungry Spanish adventurers rushed to the country, has been run solely for the purpose of benefitting those in power. Naturally this state of affairs brought resentment on the part of the Philipinos and in August, 1896, they rebelled, being led by Aguinaldo, a young man with high ambitions, decided military ability and a strong love of country. Spain in 1897 agreed to assent the demands of the rebels and to pay them \$800,000 if Aguinaldo and the other leaders would leave the country. The rebels kept their part of the agreement aside from paying

it is impossible to state whether the islanders would submit to the desires of the U. S. or not.

In concluding President Wilson said he believed that for good or evil the treaty agreed to last Monday by the Senate was one of the most important acts of government in the history of our country.

Mass-Meeting.

All students, having the success of athletics at heart should come to the mass-meeting to be held at four o'clock Monday afternoon. We sincerely hope that all come under this class and therefore that everybody will be there. Matters of general athletic interest will be discussed as well as the petition already referred to.

We don't know why it is but there seems to be lack of college spirit among the students as a whole. Lethargy seems to be the order of the day instead of enthusiasm for all things pertaining to college affairs and something must be done. To remedy this restore the old time enthusiasm and interest.

Therefore let every student in college come, and come prepared to say something in regard to these subjects.

Law Debate.

The Law debate last Thursday night, involved a question in corporations, the great case of Case vs. Kelly was ably argued, on appeal by Messrs. Harrison and Nowlin for appellant and Shipp and Hamilton for appellee. The case was well sustained on both sides and the arguments brought forward to bear upon the subject showed good work and an ability on the part of the speakers to clearly and concisely state difficult points of law that was highly creditable. The Supreme Court decided on the merits of the cause in favor of the appellee.

The Yale Literary Magazine is the oldest college publication in America. It was established in 1836. *The Yale Banner* (annual) is almost as old, the first issue being printed in 1841.

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[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-

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should enter this contest with a determination to win.

thought we ought to have... to keep up our record of pas... After a lot of desultory talking "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.

for her continued in student under-... weather which ne-... the postponement from Tuesday until Friday had in a large measure moderated and the house was so comfortably heated as to make fans useful.

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.

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.

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.

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 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 college will 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.

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 Stranger, 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.

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-

"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

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

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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.

Phi.

EVERY SATURDAY.

ribe.

the assistance of the Alumni, as
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y week in the University and
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