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Howard University Journal

A WEEKLY PAPER PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Volume XI

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1913

Number 2

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America's Unsung Poet

AMERICA has produced, as yet, but one poet who, by his original and creative genius is worthy to be named with other great poets of the world. The white world, due to a blind prejudice that makes them cry as the unbelievers of old, "Can any good come out of Nazareth?" have failed to give his work the stamp of merit it deserves. And the black world, sad to relate, have too often been content to let the one page or half page or no page given Dunbar in

the books of white literary critics represent their own estimate of his genius. We love Dunbar and are bound to him by a common memory of days of degradation and despair. We, like him, are a part of those people who have stood in the mighty maelstrom of a barbaric and hideous custom and still stand within the shadow of the veil! We shall attempt in the few terse statements, which space will allow, to indicate the basis of the opinion that Dunbar is America's greatest poet by applying to his poetry the canons of true art.

We still bow before the genius that is Homer's rating him, to use the words of Quintillian, "As

the source of all eloquence." Why is this done? Is it not because the belief is prevalent that certain conditions are most favorable to the poetic muse? That is true, indeed; and one of these conditions is that poetry must be written in the childhood of a people who have suffered much, en-

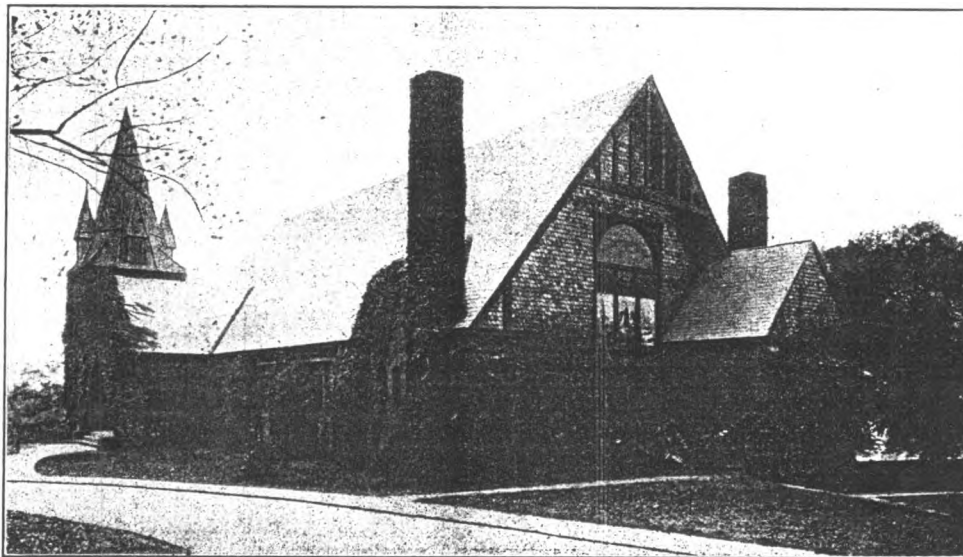
Dean Kelly Miller Addresses the Y. M. C. A.

ON Sunday afternoon, October fifth, the Y. M. C. A. assembled in Library Hall for its second regular meeting. On this occasion, the association was favored with an excellent address by Dean Kelly Miller.

At the close of the devotional exercises, President Waits, in fitting remarks presented the speaker to the body. Dean Miller spoke upon the subject, "The Function of Religious Exercises in the University."

At the beginning of his address, he pointed out the various religious organizations in the University, and remarked that they all were of the highest importance; but he especially emphasized the chapel exercises, the Sunday morning Bible classes, and the Y. M. C. A.

In analyzing the chapel exercises, he said that the pedagogical reason for these exercises is that they take us away from our various duties and bring us together in one body where our minds are focused upon one thing; that from these exercises we not only receive spiritual help, but by heartily entering into the spirit of singing the hymns, and listening



Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel

dured much, since the first expressions of the mysteries of life by a primitive people have been in poetry. America, then, cannot fulfill this condition. She was founded by Englishmen who brought with them English tradition, ideals and culture. American literary men have never forgotten this heritage of Chaucer, Milton, Shakespeare and Browning and have owed, for the most part, their inspiration, their treatment and their matter to England. There are but two peoples in America close enough to the soil and to nature to really create something new in poetry, and these peoples are the American

(Continued on page 8)

attentively to the reading of appropriate passages of scripture, we get fixed in our minds bits of the most choice literature of the world. He showed that Bible classes afforded the students a rare opportunity to come together as departments to study the Bible, and to discuss the various topics with perfect freedom. Dean Miller further said that the Y. M. C. A. has an important mission in that it is purely a masculine organization dealing with those problems pertaining to young men.

The address, on the whole, was helpful and instructive. It was masterly delivered, and was appreciated by all who were present. The Y. M. C. A. is indeed grateful to Dean Miller for this message, and it hopes to hear him again in the near future.

The Diaphanous Gown

(With Apologies to William Shakespeare)

"So may the outward shows be great themselves; the world no longer is deceived with hoop-skirts (thanks to the diaphanous gown.) In law, what plea so eloquent and rhetorical, but, being interrupted by the appearance of a '1914 Parisian Model' does not become immediately obscured by the show of evil? In religion, what scantily clothed vision, but some sober brow doth bless it, and approve it with a text, such as, 'Verily it is good for the woman to wear little and give free-

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dom to her limbs', thereby hiding the grossness of its indecency? There is no girl so simple, but assumes some mark of attraction when masquerading in a 'side-splitter.' How many cowards whose hearts are all as false as stairs of sand, wear yet upon their visages the snarls and frowns of Mars when they behold these sights, who, inward search'd have very pleasant sensations; and these men assume surprise while secretly they wish the sight redoubled! Look on beauty, and you shall see 'tis purchased by the possession of a 'pony tail' hat, a 'peg top' skirt, with tango draperies, and a split up the side, sufficiently high to permit a good manly stride; which therein works a miracle in nature, most of them most beautiful that wear least of it; so are those airy, waving 'balloon gowns', which make such wanton gambols with the wind, upon *supposed* maidens, often known to be the means of a second husband' the one that bought them in his sepulchre. Thus diaphanous gowns are but the guiled shore to a sometimes dangerous sea; the beauteous scarf veiling a hitherto unknown beauty; in a word, the "seeing" garb which cunning maids put on to entrap the "wisest". "Roman"

New Members of the Faculties

Again, Howard has been fortunate in having added to her faculties, this year, a number of men and women of the first rank. Both thorough preparation and distinction are especially characteristic of the newly added members.

In the College of Arts and Sciences, we have Mr. Carl P. Murphy, A. B. Howard University 1911, A. M., German, Harvard University, 1913, Instructor in German. Mr. Frank Burton, C. E., Cornell University, Director in Engineering; and Mr. William Coleman, A. M., Columbia University, Instructor in Physics.

In the Teachers College, we have Mr. Charles H. Wesley A. B., Fisk, A. M., Yale, The Teaching of History and Modern Language, and Rev. McLeod Harvey, A. B., Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Psychology and Education.

In the Academy we have added to the faculty Miss Hallie Elvera Queen, A. B., and Mr. D. M. Edwards, Ph. B. In the Domestic Science Department we have Miss Mable Jackson, Washington Normal School No. 2 and Teachers College of Howard University.

Heart's Tide

I thought I had forgotten you.
So far apart our lives were thrust!
'Twas only as the earth forgets
The seed the sower left in trust.
'Twas only as the creeks forget
The tides that left their hollows dry;
Or as the home-bound ship forgets
Steamers of sea weed drifting by.
My heart is earth that keeps untold
The secret of the seeds that sleep.
My thoughts are chalices of sand;
Your memory floods them and I weep.

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All South Carolinians are not Bad. Read This

A jury of white men in Spartansburg last Saturday acquitted a negro who was on trial for his life upon the charge of assault upon a white woman.

The fact is noticed and reassurance to the world that there still is due process of law in South Carolina, if the gentlemen of the mob will only permit its execution by the regularly constituted courts of justice. It is also evidence of the fact that Will Fair's innocence of the crime where-with he was charged was pronounced not only upon failure of proof of his guilt, but as the result of overwhelming evidence of that innocence.

This was the friendless negro whom Sheriff White of Spartansburg risked his life, as well as his political fortune, to save at the point of his pistol from the rage of a mob so determined that it resorted to dynamite in an effort to intimidate him. Had the hero of that mob attack been the ordinary garden variety of sheriff, he would have stood idly by and assisted at the murder of an innocent human being on the plea that the exercise of lynch law was "protecting the womanhood of the State."

In that event, there would have been no investigation; Will Fair would have been generally considered a brute who "got no more than he deserved;"—and murder would have grown in popular favor by one more instance of its licensed indulgence.

It is a sickening thing to spec-

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ulate on how many innocent blacks have been thus sacrificed in excitement, as affording the first tangible object to the wreaking of mob violence.

Two things in the general situation, as graphically illuminated by the specific instance, are clear:

1. That the theory of lynching as a preventive of the "one crime" has proved so utter a failure as to leave to mob law no excuse save that of its own passion and lust for blood.

2. That the red advertisement of a lynching, its noising abroad in detail, acts with powerful suggestions in two dangerous directions; it incites rather than deters the crime at which it is aimed; and, in the case of women nerve-broken to the point of semi-insanity, it invites the bringing of a groundless charge to form the groundwork of a sort of lawlessness speciously excused, that nevertheless can not but react disastrously upon respect for law in general.

As this newspaper has been candid enough to say before, it is true that the mobs that lynch, at times have not only the countenance, but the actual aid of an element of the population that, in every other respect, is peaceful, industrious and sane.

Without the moral support of this element, the supine sheriff, the deaf grand jury, the "shut-eye" sentry of the law when it comes to a murder spree of lynchers, would be impossible.

It is for men of this stripe who in the last analysis are, as responsible citizens, the sponsors of the lynch law, that the case of Will Fair—from his unfounded accusation, his narrow escape from death at the hands of the mob, to his final vindication in court as the result of the exceptional sheriff—ought to stand as the typical and complete demonstration of the folly of their course and attitude.

—From Columbia (S. C.) State

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Students and Alumni of the University are invited to contribute. Address all communications to

Howard University Journal,
Howard University,
Washington, D. C.

Friday, October 10, 1913

EDITORIAL

¶ Subscribe now that you may compile a volume of the JOURNALS of this year.

¶ The Board of Deans announced recently that, on the 15th of October, chapel seating would be arranged . . . Nevertheless, three cheers for the Deans.

¶ The President of the university has ushered in a new era of chapel

exercises. No longer do trivial and lengthy announcements usurp the time and lower the dignity of the exercises; no longer do class and school yells rend the air of the chapel while the students take their seats; and no longer does varied and chattering conversation cross the door of the chapel hall. Certainly, this is pleasing to all. It does not merely lend dignity to the services, but affords quietness, attention, and rest of mind, which are the essentials of any properly reverential and helpful meeting. Without one dissenting voice, the student-body join in with the President in making the chapel service a most pleasing and valuable asset to school life.

¶ The Seniors and Juniors of the College of Arts and Sciences and Teachers College are to be commended for their initiatory steps toward the control and management of the annual class rush between the Sophomores and Freshmen. In the first place, the two upper classes have begun early on the arrangement, and, at the same time, have handed down the dictum that neither of the two lower classes shall, in any way, make an attempt at rushing of any form. By this action, uncalled-for agitation and loss of time on part of the Sophomores and Freshmen will be prevented and repetition of the undignified and pell-mell scrimmages of former years will be relegated. In taking this step, the Seniors and Juniors do not mean, in the least, to quell the enthusiasm or repress the spirit of the Sophomores and Freshmen, but they do mean, emphatically, to eliminate all unnecessary and headlong procedure and to conserve the time of the rival classes that they might devote it to their studies.

In this control and arrangement of the rush, the Seniors and Juniors have their honor at stake and, should acquit them-

selves like men in sustaining this honor. The two upper classes managed well last year with the exception that they permitted too much interference from the other two classes. Why can not the Seniors and Juniors of this year exercise fairness, manliness, and strictness in supervising the rush? Let the class that wins win; let there be a clean, reasonable, and hotly contended match; and, above all, let the victor have the spoils, whether it be that the Sophomores occupy the seats of the Juniors and Seniors or that the Freshmen go in the front door of Main Hall and wear red neckties and turned up trousers.

The Sophomores and Freshmen, also, are to be commended for the conduct and willingness already exercised in leaving all arrangements to the two upper classes. The vying classes should maintain this attitude throughout the contest that the benefits afforded might be properly gained and the participants practiced in making unity out of separation in exercising self-control in the midst of excitement, and in employing thoughtfulness in the time of confusion. Also, above every thing else, the two classes should bear defeat or victory with the right spirit.

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**The Advantages of the
Dramatic Club**



Of all college agencies which offer unsurpassed opportunity for self-intellectual development, the Dramatic Club stands pre-eminent. Although its origin is of recent date, yet its effect upon the members is remarkable, its result very obvious. This statement is verified both by newspaper and other comments which have been made yearly since the organization of the Dramatic Club.

Unlike the members of the literary organizations of the University, the members of the Dramatic Club must, and do, play an active part. In fact this is the only way by which their membership can be maintained. If the members of the club are students in Public Speaking, they find ample opportunity for practice; if, on the other hand, they are not members of this class, they acquire a liking or love for oratory. Moreover, they develop a keen appreciation for both classical

and modern literature—an appreciation which they are unable to develop in any other society of the university.

In addition to merely acquiring a love or developing appreciation for the English, classical and modern literature, which is emphasized by the dramatic clubs of most colleges of the country, the members of the Howard Dramatic Club have an opportunity to build a strong moral character. "No branch of art", says Mr. Augustus Thomas, an eminent playwright, "has so much to do with character as the dramatic art." We do not mean to say that the same opportunity is not offered in the other organizations, but that the Dramatic Club is unsurpassed in this respect. The delineation of the characters in the drama offers an opportunity for the members of the club to view human life and human society. Thus they shape their own lives accordingly.

It is indeed strange to say that although there is so much to be obtained from the Dramatic Club, yet there are only few students who show any tangible appreciation for the club. That is not all, the authorities themselves show little or no appreciation for the club. We shall not, however, enumerate instances in which their attitude toward the club was not what it ought to have been; but rather we are only hopeful that it will be more encouraging this year than it has been in the past.

In the other universities and colleges of the country, the Dramatic Club is looked upon not as a needless society, but as an indispensable organization of student activity, without which student life would be monotonous, and, too, the lack of which very little, if any, self-intellectual development can be obtained. It is, therefore, incumbent upon us as college men and women to raise the Dramatic Club, this year and all succeeding years, above the level supposed by su-

perfcial minds, and make it excel, as it ought to, all the other organizations of the university.

The club this year has undertaken the most gigantic task in its history—the presentation of Sir Bulwer-Lytton's "Richelieu." The competitive contest will be held on Saturday evening October 18th, at 7 o'clock. The staff urges every student who possesses dramatic talent, in the slightest degree, to compete for parts.

—A. H. TAVERNIER, Col. '15,
Manager

Little Surprises

"You're perfectly right, sir; I remember you got that counterfeit half-dollar here."

"Oh, George, if you want me to marry you, why don't you spunk up and say so?"

"I can see, Mr. Smith, that you don't need any shampoo, eyebrow-trimming, or hair-singeing. Next!"

"No, old man, I haven't any old clothes to give away, but if you'll come with me to the clothing store around the corner I'll buy you a new suit."

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"By Pink"

Editor's Note.—Your attention is called to this column, which will be filled from time to time with selections suitably chosen for your scrap-book. If you have not one, begin now. For the accumulation of a library of rare facts, the scrap-book affords an excellent means.

YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST

(By Paul Blake)

If you have left a happy home,
Where you were luxuriously
nursed,
You'll find when sent to a board-
ing school
Your little habits are reversed;
Console yourself, you are not
the first.

You find it goes against the
grain
By other boys to be coerced;
You hate the way your tasks are
scanned
And biting comment intersper-
sed:
But never mind, you're not the
first.

You're plunged head first in
Latin lore,
In which you're totally unver-
sed:
You feel like one who cannot swim
In dark, unfathomed depths
immersed,
Remember, though, you're not
the first.

Irrevocably you decide

Of all known schools your
school's the worst.
But wait—and when you lead
your class
Your old opinions are reversed,
You find 'tis pleasant to be first.

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FOURTEEN ERRORS OF LIFE

The 14 mistakes of life, Judge
Rentoul told the Bartholemew
club are:

To expect to set up your own
standard of right and wrong and
expect everybody to confirm to it.

To try to measure the enjoy-
ment of others by your own.

To expect uniformity of opin-
ion in the world.

To look for judgment and ex-
perience in youth.

To endeavor to mold all dispo-
sitions alike.

Not to yield in trifles.

To look for perfections in our
own actions.

To worry ourselves and others
about what cannot be remedied.

Not to alleviate if we can all that
needs alleviation.

Not to make allowances for the
weaknesses of others.

To consider anything impossi-
ble that we cannot ourselves per-
form.

To believe only what our finite
minds can grasp.

To live as if the moment, the
time, the day were so important
that it would live for ever.

To estimate people by some out-
side quality, for it is that within
which makes the man.

—*London Evening Standard*

Odorless Onion is Here

Eat your onion soup, munch
your scallions without stint, dash
oil and vinegar on your Bermu-
das and go right ahead. After
which you need not fear—call on
your best girl; receive your best
fellow. You're safe. The odor-
less onion has been found!

Former County Commissioner
W. N. Miller, of this place, de-
clares he has in a triumph of hor-
ticulture hybridizing achieved an
onion that needs no cloves for a
chaser. Its a combination, he
asserts, of the Bermuda and the
Golden Yellow, having the flavor
of the first, the hardness of the
second and the combined color
of both.

—*New York World*

Raise Board of Students

Wellesley Girls Must Pay for Advanced
Cost of Living

The effect of the high cost of
living will be felt by Wellesley Col-
lege girls this year. Beginning
Monday, when the college opens
for the year, students occupying
campus dormitories must pay \$50
a year more for board and lodg-
ing. An official statement an-
nouncing this change, says:

"On account of the increased
cost of living the trustees of
Wellesley College are obliged to
announce that the charge for res-
idence in college houses will be
increased from \$275 to \$325, mak-
ing the total annual charge for tu-
ition and residence in a college
house \$500 for all new students
entering in September, 1913, and
thereafter."

Closing of registration showed
a total enrollment of more than
1,400 students. —*Washington Post*

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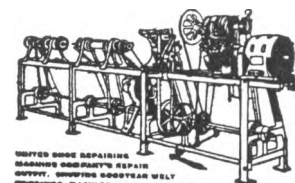
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Interpretation of Headlines

Found in Recent Papers

"Beef or Vegetable?"—Both preferred, please.

"Perils of the Bathtub."—Well, this wont frighten some of us at least.

"A New Gas Discovered."—One would think that "Bull" Terry had been at work again.

"Ex President Taft Has Lost Eighty Pounds."—No wonder, he misses the White House cuisine.

"Hotter Hell Needed Nowadays, Says Pastor."—Evidently he has never spent a summer in Washington.

"Millionaire Dies Suddenly."—What's the difference? He'll soon own all of H----. (H---- etc stands for Heaven.)

"Found Short in Accounts."—A very time-worn story, referring usually to individuals who try the "get-rich-quick" schemes.

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"Target Records Pleasing."—It's according to who was being shot at. Maybe somebody was just shooting "Bull."

"Young Man is Shot; Assailant Flees."—Last part really unnecessary. We did not expect gentleman to wait to receive the "cops." —"Roman"

University Notices

SUNDAY

Prayer Meeting, Spaulding Hall.

7 a. m.

Bible Classes, Main Building, 9 a. m.

Y. M. C. A., Library Hall, 3 p. m.

Vespers, Rankin Chapel, 4:30 p. m.

Y. W. C. A., Miner Hall, 6 p. m.

TUESDAY

Prayer Meeting, Library Hall, 6:30 p. m.

FRIDAY

Pestalozzi-Froebel, Library Hall, 3 p. m.

Alpha Phi, Library Hall, 8:00 p. m.

Eureka Society, Main Building, 8:00 p. m.

Moot Court, Law School, 8:30 p. m.

SATURDAY

Kappa Sigma Debating Club, Library Hall, 8:15 p. m.

Blackstone Club, Law School.

8:30 p. m.

Regular Chapel Exercises daily at noon, except Saturday and Sunday.

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America's Unsung Poets

(Continued from page 1)

Indian and the American Negro. The Indian has produced no work of exceptional distinction, while it is a well known fact that the only music that can be called truly American is found in the motifs of the sorrow songs. Also it is evident that the only exponent of real American poetry is Paul Laurence Dunbar.

He saw poetry in the life of his people and recognized, on the one hand, that poetry must be realistic in its truth to life—first as to human motives and second in fidelity to the manners of a given time and place—and on the other hand, that it must be full of the ideality of passion. He had the eye to read and the heart to understand the infinite longings, small acquirings, ever thwarted, ever renewed endeavors and the unspeakable aspirations of a race of people oppressed by its fears and hopes and perplexed by the mysteries of brightness and gloom.

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According to Mill, "Poetry is emotion expressed in lyrical language." Dunbar sings of a race who have run well the entire gamut of human emotion. Where can you find among American poets expressions more simple, sensuous and joyous, better in picturesque quality or characterization than this bit from "The Party!"

"Y' ought to seen dat man a-scrambling f'om de ashes and de grime

Did it bu'n him? Sich a question, why he didn't give it time;

Th'owed dem ashes and dem cindahs evah which-away I guess."

Negro slave life was apparently the meanest and rudest of lives; yet Dunbar became a poet in it. These are not trivial things of which he speaks, although homely. Rather does he show the inner life of a people—how they sang or danced or sighed:

"Dese eyes o' mine is wringin' wet."

Horace says, "Be true if you would be believed." Sincerity is indeed Dunbar's. Read his patriotic appeal in, "To the South."

"Is it for this we all have felt the flame—

This newer bondage and this deeper shame?

Nay, not for this, a nations heroes bled,

And North and South with tears beheld their dead."

Bear, if you please, one more bit of a different vein of haunting

melody and sentiment.

"Thou art the soul of the summer's day,

Thou art the breath of the rose
But the summer is fled

And the rose is dead

Where are they gone, who knows, who knows?"

The purpose of this article will have been attained if it starts even a few people in the reading of Dunbar with open mind for themselves. Dunbar should be dearer to us black folk than Burns is to the Scotts. Perhaps America will yet come to honor this her son, as he says,

"When all is done, say not my day is o'er

And that thro' night I seek a dimmer shore:

Say rather that my morn has just begun—

I greet the dawn and not a setting sun,

When all is done."

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