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The Inauguration of President Gordon

Address of Dean F. W. Fairfield of the College of Arts and Sciences.

(IN PART.)

I have the honor to represent the four Academic facilities,—the College of Arts and Sciences, the Teachers' College, the Commercial Department, and the Preparatory Department. It is obviously impossible for me, in the time allotted, to give a history of the origin and growth of the several departments. I prefer to deal with present conditions. The College of Arts and Sciences, having recently adopted the so called "Group system," offers four years of thorough training, with or without the Classic languages, leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts. The Teachers' College has courses of two years and four years, respectively, affording, with its Practice School, ample preparation for teaching in grade and secondary schools. The four years course leads to the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy. The Commercial Department, recently organized, proposes to fit its students, graduates from secondary schools, by a three years course of study, for the successful pursuit of business and the practical affairs of life. The Preparatory Department, the secondary school of the University, has courses of four years, which fit for the higher departments. Graduates have gone from it to some of the best Colleges in the country. The University is prepared to take a boy into the Practice School at five years of age, and give him, in its Academic departments, fourteen, fifteen, or sixteen years of instruction. If professional courses be added, he can spend eighteen, nineteen, or twenty years under its fostering care.

On this auspicious occasion, when the honored gentleman is being formally inducted into the office, the duties which he has performed so ably and successfully for many months, among the many things on which the Academic faculties felicitate themselves, two stand out conspicuously. The one is of very great importance, the other of transcendent importance. We congratulate the board of trustees, because they have called to the presidency a man of experience not alone in affairs, not merely in the pastoral office, but a man of academic experience and training; a man to whom educational propositions can be presented, with the confident expectation that he will receive them appreciatively, and decide upon them with wisdom. It goes without saying that this is an extremely valuable attribute of a University president; but boards of trustees have not always had the wisdom to make such a selection.

But more important still to us is the firm belief that Pres. Gordon sympathizes most heartily with that for which Howard University has stood in the past, stands to-day, and, God grant it! shall always stand—Educational opportunity. We have no quarrel with industrial education—not every boy or girl, of any class or condition, shall seek a college training—but we have a quarrel, and shall always have a quarrel, with those who would limit educational opportunity to industrial training. The constituency to which the open doors of Howard University have appealed most strongly, in the past, and to which they will probably appeal most strongly in the future, needs leaders; not one great leader alone, nor half a dozen, but leaders in every state, in every city, in every hamlet. Shall these be "blind leaders of the blind"? Or shall the leadership be sane and conservative? I know of nothing which will secure such leadership save education of mind and heart. And this education must be offered alike to all who are prepared to receive it. In behalf of the Academic faculties, allow me to repeat their congratulations on the accession of Pres. Gordon.

The Henry A. Brown Prize Debate.

The seventh annual Henry A. Brown Prize Debate under the auspices of the Alpha Phi Literary Society was held on March 25th.

There was a large and appreciative audience. Every seat in the Andrew Rankin Chapel was taken. Each speaker was supported by a large contingent from his class. As a result of this much class rivalry was shown. In this respect the speaker from the theological department came in for more than his share. As there was but a single representative from that department, the entire department came out and rooted for him. That their man did not win is not due to any lack of interest on their part; for they did what they could to impress upon the judges the points put forth by their representative. Perhaps it is just to say here and doubtless what many of them did say after the debate, the medal last year went to that department.

The subject, Resolved: That the United States has
in it the elements of permanency, was well discussed. The affirmative side was well taken care of by Messrs. J. H. Dodd '05, and R. H. W. Pinkett '04. The second speaker Mr. M. A. Morrison '07 was unable to finish owing to a sudden attack of illness. For this misfortune he and the class have the sympathy of the entire school. Mr. Morrison was doing well and his classmates happily had picked him as a sure winner even though they knew he was contending against two seniors, a junior and a soph. Not only that but past experience should have taught them better. The medal having been awarded to a freshman but once, that was in '01, and the present senior class has the credit for that. Yet, according to their knowledge a freshman has never been so successful, for it would be a great presumption on our part to ever suppose that a member of the class of '07 knows anything about what took place in the college department three years ago.

The negative side of the argument was ably handled by Messrs. F. M. Morton '06 and D. M. Baxter '04, Mr. Morton putting up the best argument for that side.

J. H. Dodd, defending the affirmative, said: "The harmonious combination of liberty and authority is represented in the state and federal government. The power to abuse the government is given the officers who have short terms of office; the government has stood the test of financial straits and party strifes, of civil and foreign wars, of sectionalism and expansion. That this government is permanent because it is rooted and grounded in the nature of the people; for the spirit of free government can be traced back to the local government of the Teutonic race. It gives security for the good conduct of those in power and a safe-guard against the encroachment of authority upon liberty."

M. A. Morrison, defending the affirmative, said: "This government has the highest elements of permanency in fostering education for the masses. It gives free religious worship, and fosters industries for all its subjects."

F. D. Morton, defending the negative, said: "The inability of the government to regulate capital and labor is a tendency toward its destruction. The disfranchisement of its citizens is contrary to the principles of democracy."

R. H. W. Pinkett, defending the affirmative, said: "The government is an organized structure with life, power and expressive power. It is permanent because the constitution can be adapted to the will of the people. It is able to check and maintain the balance of power in its co-ordinate departments. This government has stood the test of wars such as have destroyed other governments."

D. M. Baxter, defending the negative, said: "The present form of government will not endure because there is a tendency to dishonor the family. There is a tendency of injustice of the strong toward the weak. There is a tendency toward corruption in politics, because trusts are sending men who do nothing for the welfare of the poor, to vote for their benefit."

The judges decided that Mr. J. H. Dodd '05 was the successful contestant.

The judges were Rev. Wm. J. Kerby, Catholic University, Justice E. M. Hewlett, Prof. W. A. Wilbur, Columbia University. In a short but complimentary speech, both to the speakers and faculty, Rev. Kerby presented the medal.

The Inauguration of President Gordon.

The Inaugural exercises at Howard Wednesday, March 30: Who can aptly describe them? Just imagine yourself in an auditorium with seating capacity of eight hundred, filled to overflowing, with arched ceilings, stained glass windows on the sides, and glittering sunlight. Now look up over an audience thoroughly representative of everything worthy of a race, through colors, flags, flowers, and banners towards the rostrum where Dr. Gordon sits surrounded by a corps of college workers, deans, and learned doctors from other institutions, who like himself are attired in cap and gown, and you have a picture of the preliminary features of the inaugural in the afternoon, at the University Chapel. Imagine this scene transported to a church, a much larger edifice, with gas light and galleries, and a large number of representatives from a friendly race, and you have the picture of the concluding exercise, the real ceremonial, in the First Congregational Church. It was amid such scenes that Dr. Tennis S. Hamlin, President of the Board of Trustees, handed the keys and charter of Howard University to Dr. John Gordon its lately elected President.

But if there were not another act in this play, if lips had not found language in expression of praise and policy, it is doubtful if it would have been half satisfactory to the University's thousand students. Like an old English audience at the coronation of a king, they expected and listened for guarantees and encouragement, which they received in abundance.

Said Dr. Croghan of Clark University, Atlanta, Ga.: "In all of my years of training and service, I have failed to find what is high and what is low in education. The negro race not only needs its thousands of bread winners, but its Shakespeares, Miltons, and Newtons as well." Dr. Needham of Columbia University expressed the hope that "Howard would never take a backward step in the matter of maintaining the high standards it has set." Dr. W. T. Harris, U. S. Commissioner of Education, declared that "Howard University is established by the Government as a symbol to express its desire that all the inhabitants within its borders should have opportunities of access to the highest education."

Those were utterances at the afternoon exercises. The following were delivered in the evening. In speaking on Education, the venerable Dr. R. E. Hale said:

"We are in this world to be co-workers with God. He
President Gordon's Inaugural.

'Twas saturated with good taste;
Nothing was in it to go to waste.
It was like a piece of honey comb,
Filled from bottom to top of dome.
It makes one feel somewhat elated
To hear such truths so nicely stated:
It makes a man feel like trying too
Something good for his people to do.

But one need not be a president
Before some of his efforts are lent
To raise his brother from low degree,
And uplift him where he ought to be.

But oh my! was it not grand that night,
When President Gordon turned the light
On great ideals within him planted,
And to us by the Savior granted?

My mind turned to the noble martyr,
To whose efforts we owe our charter
Of this university of ours,
Developing all our latent powers.

I thought of the sage legislator
Henry Clay, "the great pacificator,"
When to his motto he thus gave vent,
"I'd rather be right than president."

But, this is the thought which I conceive,
And which I'm persuaded to believe
Every student here will give assent,
That Gordon is right, and president.

J. B. A.
An Algebraic Similitude.

(Prof. Kelly Miller in the Y. M. C. A.)

"In algebra," says Prof. Miller, "we have several ways of eliminating an undesirable quantity. When possible, the simplest way to eliminate is by addition. Students when first confronted with the commission of sin, try to get rid of the sin by telling a lie. Thus they add to the first sin, a second sin. But this does not destroy the first sin.

A second method of elimination, in algebra, is by comparison. People of the dominant race in the south try this method when charged with illtreatment of a weaker race. They point to the north. 'You northerners', they say, 'are doing the same thing we are doing.' They try to get rid of their sin by comparison. Even we in our individual wrong doings try this method. But this comparison does not destroy our sin. These algebraic methods of elimination do not apply to questions of morals.

A third method of elimination in algebra is by substitution. In this we put a desirable quantity in the place of the undesirable one. This algebraic method of elimination is the only one applicable to questions of habits and morals. We drift into bad habits and bad morals through our lack of self constraint, thus it would be risky to rely on our self-constraint to deliver us from these bad habits. Nature abhors a vacuum; and when we try to leave a vacuum in our life we will soon find that this undirected energy is exerting itself in some other harmful way. But when we realize that we have a bad habit, and replace it with a good one we are certain to become better citizens and better men."

M. M. M.

The Chaff That Flies.

When he was shown the recent report commending the Washington Police Department, Hon. Dorsey Poulitz declared "It is to laugh."

O Myrtle, Myrtle,
With long, luxuriant hair,
If as yours my brain were half so fertile
Then I would be "there for fair."
In Physics I'd solve every problem
And sweep aside the vexations of Client—
If my brain were half so fertile
As is yours O Myrtle, Myrtle.
Howard at Richmond, Va.

Our team played two games with Union at Richmond, Apr. 21 and 22. The first game we won with a score 15 to 11; the next game we lost, by a few costly errors and the ruling of the umpire, who gave all close decision to Union. The score was 10 to 8.

The boys have nothing but praise for Union and Richmond. And the manner in which they describe the treatment accorded them is calculated to make any mouth run water and every one to wish "I'd been there."

A New Move.

Because of the need of better organization to improve the financial condition and to give impetus to Athletic pursuits, an advisory board which shall be known as "The Athletic Council," is being organized. This council will be composed of President, Vice-President, and Managers of the Baseball and Football teams from the Athletic Association. Two members of the faculty to be appointed by the President of University. And two members of the Alumni.

It is more than probable that Mr. W. L. Smith and Prof. C. C. Cook will be appointed by the President; since they have displayed greater interest in Athletics than any of the other professors. As to the Alumni representatives, it has not been decided.

Blackstone Club.

The Blackstone Club of the Law school appeared on the Hill Saturday evening, April 9th, under the auspices of the Council of Upper Classmen. The organization under Prof. Williams, as President, has its membership from the members of the Junior class.

On Friday evening the club presented an example of the work it is doing in the Law school. A very interesting case, involving the right of a woman to pledge the credit of her husband was argued. The facts as cited were such that the weight of authorities was pretty well divided as to different phases of the subject, so that neither the defence nor the plaintiffs had any great advantage of each other on that score. The members of the Law school acted as judges on the merits of the arguments presented, while Prof. Williams passed upon all the law points involved. The decision was in favor of the defence in point of argument, and considering the legal aspects of the case, the President awarded them the decision also.

The Medical College.

As the closing of the Medical College approaches there is much weeping and gnashing of teeth among the students of this department of the University. Long before the hour for recitations and examinations, which are now in progress, crowds of students can be seen gathered in the halls and on the steps of the old building which has made many a glad or sad heart. Among the most inquisitive and restless men on the anxious seat at this time are the seniors of the different departments of the college. No one of them will put up a wager on his graduation, although in less than a month the successful candidates will receive their diplomas and degrees.

Much anxiety is experienced by our brothers in the Medical College especially those who are being weighed in the balance before commencement day. As to the lower classmen and especially those who have to take final examinations under Professors Seaman and Lamb, who have become famous for the sort of examinations they put up, I say that because of this the lower classmen are now having many quizing parties and excursions. From early morn till late at night with only time for meals these men are losing no time in packing up for the long and hard journey which they must travel during the progress of their final exams. On April 28, which is the time for the closing of the college, many a heart will be made glad or sad when the results of the examinations are made known. "Work for the night is coming" is the song which all of the men of this department are now singing.
The Association's Problem.

So precarious is the situation of the Athletic Association that unless rescuing hands are quickly put forth to snatch it from its dire peril it will be hard to estimate the depth to which its sinking condition now tends. Not only has it dimmed the bright prospects of the baseball season, but scarcely leaves room to hope for a season of untrammeled success in foot-ball. While it has in part resulted from uncontrollable circumstances, it has been mainly due to a lack of support on the part of the student body. The officers sought to ward off this financial plight by a series of entertainments but the first of these were so poorly patronized that their faith in student loyalty has been shaken considerately. Their clamoring for games reminds us of some of our learned and far-seeing advisors urging the revival of the literary yet withholding the means.

That its burden has been carried for years upon the shoulders of a few loyal men, an acquaintance with the history of the association will show, but now when it has become too heavy and they stand tottering under its weight their appeals for help are drowned in cries of poor management. It is indeed piteous to note that these men, whose judgment and foresight have acted as a restraining influence upon the impetuous element of the association, and whose persistent efforts have time and again saved it from greater complications and embarrassments, have by so doing brought down upon their heads an avalanche of abuse.

We are aware that we have a few loyal students and we are proud of them but it is folly to suppose that they can support the athletics of the school. They are always ready with their donations while a number of others meet the request with trifling excuses but can always find the price of a box of candy or the theatre, yet these gallery gods are the first to set up a howl and wonder why we don't have more games.

If this season prove a failure in baseball it will not be the fault of the manager nor that of the Athletic Association but of the entire student body. If you have not patronized these endeavors in the past, the opportunity will be yours to do so very soon, and we trust that when an entertainment is given or a subscription list presented you will feel it your duty to make a few trifling sacrifices in the interest of the association.

Not only do we appeal to the student body, but we also extend the pleasure to instructors and alumni.

That this condition has been more or less true for years we will not deny (and all the greater reason why it should not be more so now), but in order to gain recognition and secure a status in the inter-collegiate contests we must be supplied with the necessary impetus. With a good financial backing to properly fit and maintain strong teams who can tell what great honor and glory await us in the athletic world?
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