The Negro Academy

The annual meeting of the American Negro Academy was held in the Lower Chapel on Wednesday, Dec. 26, 1906. The morning session was devoted to business, the afternoon and evening sessions to public addresses and discussions of topics concerning the economic condition of the Negro in the United States. At the afternoon session the industrial condition of the Negro in the North was set forth by Prof. Kelly Miller. Prof. W. H. Ferris read a paper dealing with the industrial condition of the Southern Negro. Prof. Miller's address was replete with wit and wisdom and commanded unstinted appreciation. But his perhaps too rosy optimism was objected to by Prof. W. Y. Tunnell and Prof. C. C. Cook. They would not subscribe unreservedly to the opinion that the best field for the Negro is the South with its prejudice and general lack of progress. Prof. Miller replied saying that there is a seed of health and liberty which is bound to germinate and break the sod of oppression. Most of his hearers, however, did not see the situation in that happy light.

At the evening session the annual address of the president of the Academy, the Hon. A. H. Grimke, was heard. It consisted of a careful study of the probable effect of immigration upon the Negro in the South. Prof. Roscoe C. Bruce, one of the supervising principals of the Washington Public Schools and formerly of Tuskegee, delivered an address dealing most thoroughly and painstakingly with the Negro of Central Alabama as a cotton producer. Prof. W. E. B. DuBois, of Atlanta University, who was expected to deliver an address, was unable to be present.

Invitation has been extended to the Academy to make Howard University the regular place for its yearly meetings. Certainly no more appropriate place could be selected nor one where a warmer welcome would be extended.

Development of the Calendar

In designating extended periods all divisions of time shorter than the year are found inconvenient. The ancients reckoned their time largely in months paying much attention to the new and full moon and busied themselves trying to adjust the incommensurable periods of the lunar month and solar year. The priesthood had charge of almost all matters of public interest and accordingly to them fell the duty of arranging the calendar. Even now the Mohammedans use a year made up of twelve lunar months, and their seasons consequently fall from year to year in different months.

The Romans based their year upon twelve lunar months with arbitrary intercalary periods of months and days made by the magistrates and priests to keep the year and the seasons together. The confusion finally became so great that Julius Caesar summoned the Egyptian astronomer Sosigenes to assist him in reforming the system and in 45 B.C. they formulated what is known as the Julian calendar. He inaugurated the three hundred and sixty-five day year with a leap year of three hundred and sixty-six days. He then commenced the new year on January first. Before this the year commenced on March first as indicated by the names of the months—September, seventh month, October, eighth, November, ninth and December, tenth month. Caesar then changed the name of the fifth month from Quintilis to Julius (July) in honor of himself. Augustus Caesar coming along later changed the name of the sixth month from Sextilis to Augustus (August) for himself and to make it as long as July he robbed February of a day. The Roman leap year was called bisextilis.

The Julian year is not absolutely correct. The equinox by this calendar comes three days too soon in every four hundred years. In 1582 A.D. the date of the vernal equinox had fallen back to the eleventh of March. Pope Gregory then by the advice of the Jesuit astronomer, Clavius, commanded that ten days be dropped from the calendar making the day following Oct. 4 not Oct 5 but Oct. 15. He then ordered that the century years should not be leap years unless their date numbers were divisible by 400. The Catholic nations immediately adopted this rule but the Greek Church and the Protestant nations, rejecting the Pope's authority, refused to accept the reform. The Protestant nations, however, gradually came over to accept the correction. In over-conservative England the change, which did not occur until 1752, was attended with riots in several parts of the country, the populace crying out to Parliament "Give us back our fortnight!" Parliament had carefully provided against injustice in the collection of debts and in all other legal obligations.

In different parts of Europe the beginning of the year has been variously at Dec. 25th, Jan. 1st, Mar. 1st, Mar. 25th, or Easter, which may come any time between March 22nd and April 25th.
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Students and Alumni of the University are invited to contribute.

WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY 4, 1907

The Accident at Terra Cotta

Nearly fifty lives were lost in the terrible railroad accident on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at Terra Cotta, D. C., last Sunday evening. A car filled with returning excursionists was run into by a swiftly moving express and completely demolished. Among those instantly killed were Dr. Edward Ovi-r Belt and his two young sons aged four and six respectively.

For a number of years Dr. Belt has been a member of the medical faculty of Howard University as professor of ophthalmology and otology and director of the eye and ear clinic. He was one of the most eminent eye and ear specialists of this country.

Such an accident on a railroad guarded by the block system is directly the result of carelessness and neglect. The number of railroad catastrophes through the country is far too large with all the safety appliances either in use or on the market. A most thorough investigation should be made and punishment heavily administered upon the guilty parties. There is danger that railroad officers and railroad operatives will forget their weighty responsibility for the lives continually entrusted to their care. This should prove an awful object lesson.

A splendid Christmas dinner was served in Miner Hall.

H National Athletic Association

BY PROF. WM. J. DECATUR.

It was my pleasure as Howard's delegate to sit with the colleges constituting the Intercollegiate Athletic Association of the United States, which met in convention at the Murray Hill Hotel, New York City, Dec. 29, 1906, Capt. Palmer B. Pierce, U. S. Military Academy, officiating. Thirty-two or more colleges and universities were present, representing various sections of the country. This body was born last year of the agitation against brutal football. The chief topic under discussion was the advisability of forming a national organization to control not only football but all athletics indulged in by colleges and universities.

Each speaker reported not only an increase in physical efficiency but also in mental attainments. Every man who rose to speak grew enthusiastic over the ethical development of sport in general.

The association felt that the strength of the larger universities of the East would add to the management of athletics through all the schools. A committee of three was appointed to confer with the Football Rules Committee to see whether there was a means of ascertaining if they would join forces with the committee of the minor colleges. By vote Dr. Babbitt, of Harvard, Dr. Williams of the University of Minnesota, and Capt. Pierce, of West Point, were appointed as a committee to win over the big colleges to combine with the smaller institutions.

(Continued on fifth page.)
The Leading Events of Nineteen Six

The year 1906 was an eventful one. The United States intervened to suppress the revolt in Cuba when President Palma and his cabinet resigned and declared they were unable to govern the island. American warships and American marines were despatched there to awe the revolutionists. Secretary of War Taft and Assistant Secretary of State Bacon were sent to sit on the lid. A provisional government was established and later Gov. Magoon was put in charge. This government assumed the burden of seeing that the elections in Cuba be honest and free from corruption. The elections, however, in Georgia and Mississippi and the rest of the Southern States remain one sided and farcical.

Secretary of State Elihu Root visited South America travelling on a government warship. He made speeches at Rio Janerio, Montevideo and Buenos Ayres.

Japanese children were excluded from the white schools of San Francisco and a war cloud arose. The United States government investigated the matter and announced its intention of seeing that the treaty rights of the Japanese are secured to them. The Californians are incensed against the Japs and President admires them greatly.

Perhaps the most warmly discussed matter was the dismissal by the President of the United States of one battalion of the Twenty-fifth Infantry for their alleged shooting up of the town of Brownsville, Tex., on the night of August 13th. Senators Foraker and Penrose introduced resolutions directing the President and the Secretary of War to furnish information relative to the affair. The President has sent to Texas to secure, if possible, information to strengthen his position. Senator Foraker is leading the fight against Mr. Roosevelt's position.

Congress past the railroad rate bill, the meat inspection bill, the pure food law, and other acts of more or less importance. Oklahoma was admitted to Statehood.

The necrology of the year includes president W. R. Harper of Chicago University, Jan. 10; David B. Henderson, former speaker of the House, Feb. 25; Miss Susan B. Anthony, March 13; Carl Schurz, May 14; Henrik Ibsen, May 23; Alfred Beit, South African diamond millionaire, July 16; Lady Curzon, July 18; Russell Sage, July 22; and Adelaide Ristori, Oct. 9.

The confusion attending the separation of church and state in France attracted wide attention. The Catholics claim that France's war is against religion more than against the Roman church. Others say that the Catholic church is not to be worse treated than the Protestant churches, and they are not complaining. Monsieur Clemenceau became the French premier on Oct. 23. President Fallieres took office on Feb. 18.

In England the opposition of parliament to the Conservative ministry resulted in its dissolution. The consequent election raised the Liberals to power and Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman became prime minister to succeed A. J. Balfour.

Russia has had a hot time with its bombs, bomb throwers' and duma. Many Jews were murdered by the Christians. The duma was radical and grew bold. Finally it became so obstreperous that Czar Nicholas fired it on July 21. Stolypin succeeded Goremykin as premier. Under his leadership a promise of better times appears. The news is less censured, meetings are more generally allowed and political liberties are being gradually extended. The edudation of the masses is making progress but movement along this line is slow for many reasons.

Matters warmed up between Germany and France concerning Morocco. A conference of the powers was held at Algeciras, Spain, for the purpose of settling the dispute. The conference adjourned on April 17 leaving everybody happy.

Lemons were exchanged between the President and the Storers.

Many serious earthquakes occurred with frightful loss of life. The San Francisco disaster, only one of many and by no means the worst, is still fresh in our memories. Great railroad wrecks happened the world over, but most of them occurred in this country.

It is reported that great prosperity prevails throughout the United States. Messrs. Carnegie, Rockefeller, Morgan, et al. say so, and therefore it must be so.

One afternoon the proprietor of an animal store said to his young clerk:

"Tom, I'm going upstairs to work on the books. If any one comes in for a live animal let me know. You can attend to selling the stuffed animals yourself."

About half an hour later in came a gentleman with his son and asked Tom if he could show him a live monkey. To the customer's amazement the clerk ran to the foot of the stairs and yelled:

"Come down, come down, sir; you are wanted!"

New Year Reception at Miner Hall

The young ladies of Miner Hall, assisted by Miss Jacobs and Mrs. Messer, received on New Year's day from 6 to 9 p.m. A large number attended including officers, professors and students of the University. Dainty refreshments were served to the callers.

In the receiving line were Misses Powell, Slowe, Kountz, Mondey, Thomas, Hutchins, Landers and Virginia Williams. At the door stood Misses Brooks Garrett, Lilian Jones, and Mabel Brown. Presiding over the refreshment tables were Misses Myrtle Mae Jones, Woolfolk, Hedge- mon and Anna Brown. Miss Williams entertained the visitors with piano selections.
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WANTED
A complete file The Voice of the Negro is wanted for the Library. Any copies sent will be gratefully acknowledged.

FLORE L. P. JOHNSON,
Librarian.
A National Athletic Association

(Continued from 2d page)

In this forward advance along athletic lines, Howard University should not be slow to join hands with the leading colleges to bring about a system of clean sport along all lines. The field of the association covers the United States divided into seven districts. How­ard would fall under the supervision of the second district, which comprises the Middle States and Maryland, including New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia. The representative of the second district is Captain Palmer E. Pierce of West Point Military Academy. By joining such an association we agree to the rules of eligibility of players, which will not only produce a better body of athletes but as well a representative student body playing who represent the highest mental rank and file.

A squire of Andover decided to take into his employ a brother of Patrick, his hired man. The terms were made with Pat before his brother's arrival, and the following conversation is a specimen of what they agreed upon.

Squire: "I'll pay your brother one-fifty a day, Patrick."  
Patrick: "Yis, sor, yis, sor; and will he ate himself or will ye ate him?"

The squire decided Mike had better eat himself.

Professor Kelly Miller spent the holidays in Virginia speaking before the Y. M. C. A. of Norfolk and the Y. M. C. A. of Petersburg. On Dec. 31 he addressed the faculty and students of Hampton Normal and Industrial Institute, Hampton, Va.

It is reported that Mr. F. Fielding Bowlar, Col. '06, is teaching in the High School of Cairo, Ill.

I Didn't Go to Mass

Some folks allus a-blamin' you  
Fuh evah little thing you happen t' do.  
Jis' ez of th'ath souls was safe  
An' heaven was thaiah a' jus' all its place.

Ef you happens t' neck one bludnah  
An' you kin' o' leave th' way,  
Evalbody jis look au' woundah,  
An' haiv some differen' 'vice' t' say.

And jis' t' git a chance yo' character t' mar,

Widout knowin' what yo' motives are,

Dat you's sho' a simial man.

An' jis' what good t' dem is dat,

I'd like t' see .

Fuh ef you'd pull thaiah kiv'rin' back
You'd see somethin' you'd hate t' be.

Dat I done wrong I know,

Dat I shouldn't been thaiah, is sho.

But ef you jis want t' laf,

I'll tell you right out—1 d.la' go t' mass.

C. S. C., Col. '09.

To the Editor:

The following lines, composed impromptu, were suggested by the topic given for toast at the banquet of the '07 Senior Medical Class of Howard University held on December 21, 1906.

PASTORAL REMINISCENCES

Looking on this festive board  
With its varied dainties stored,  
Seeing there the task assigned  
By some friend who was so kind,  
I began to scan the past,  
Of which you have dared to ask,  
And assuredly I'd say  
Now, and any other day,  
Not with a feeling of regret  
If my pastoral sublet,  
But to further aid mankind  
I to Medicine was inclined:  
In "reminiscence" held dear,  
Chaplaincy of '07 class appear,  
Thus for two terms have I served,  
E'er at post and ne'er ummured,  
Classmates, to your health I toast,  
May our future be How'rd's boast.

C. P. JULIAN, Med. '07.

Profs. Dyson and Logan at Clark Hall on Wednesday afternoon entertained the young ladies of Miner Hall.

The Rev. Dr. Henderson of New York, a speaker of marked power, addressed the faculty and students this morning.

Societies

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR

The Christian Endeavor Society elected the following officers to serve during the ensuing term:

President  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  Mr. Titus  
Vice-President  -  -  -  -  -  Miss Brown  
Secretary  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  Miss Mondey  
Treasurer  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  Mr. Sabo  
Librarian  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  Mr. Brooks

Y. M. C. A.

The meeting of the Y. M. C. A. on Sunday at 6:15 p. m. will be led by Mr. E. P. Davis.

PESTALOZZI-FROEBEL

The Pestalozzi-Froebel Literary Society held its Christmas meeting on Friday afternoon, December 21, 1906. The subject was "An Afternoon with Shakspere." The program was as follows:

Coronet solo  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  G. W. Hines  
Quarrel between Brutus and Cassius, Messrs. Waiton and Overton  
Recitation, from Merchant of Venice, Miss McKinney  
Vocal solo  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  Miss Woodson  
Scene from Macbeth, Miss Stewart, Miss N. Williams and James E. Hayes  
Piano duct, Miss Peary, Miss V. L Williams  
Scene from Hamlet, Miss P. Brooks, Messrs. J. O. Morrison and Fred Norton  
Vocal solo  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  Miss Brokenburg  
Recitation  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  Miss Eloise Bibb

At the True Reformers' Hall on Friday, January 18, a number of Charades will be presented by local talent under the direction of Mr. Nathaniel Guy. The entertainment is to be given under the auspices of the Young Women's Christian Association for the benefit of their building fund. Music by the Lyric Orchestra.

At the meeting of the Alpha Phi tonight the committee on the annual prize debate will report. Aspirants lor positions on the intercollegiate debating teams will discuss the election of United States Senators by popular vote.
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