The Upperclassmen's Prom

A Brilliant Gathering

The third annual prom of the Council of Upperclassmen occurred last night and the third annual prom was a glorious success. No detail that could add to the splendor and brilliancy of the happy affair or to the comfort and pleasure of the joyous guests was lacking. The dance floor was perfect, the decorations were magnificent, the music exquisite. No detail that would have marred or dimmed the joy or brilliancy was present.

Seldom has Odd Fellow's Hall witnessed such a gathering as assembled there last evening, in its glowing ballroom.

As early as seven thirty o'clock the merrymakers began to arrive. And such merrymakers they were! Matrons, motherly and full of grace. Men, manly and full of dignity; their mere presence lent such equilibrium and tone to the occasion that success was insured. Misses, rapturous and beautiful, and youth, with youth's own life and chivalry; blending their joyous mirth with the stately mirth of their sires and dames, were there.

Not often indeed has such a gathering ever graced and honored any function. As happy as was the throng, as brilliant the repartee, as dazzling the wit, as keen the wit, none was as happy or brilliant or dazzling or keen as the costumes were gorgeous. Chic creations of organdies, shimmering silks trimmed with valenciennes laces, delicate patterns of tulle and chiffon, dainty designs of lace, sparkling jewels and beautiful flowers made the scene one of unwonted splendor.

Reluctantly indeed, the Euterpe had been happily and heartily adored and worshipped, did they leave in the wee small hours of the morning.

A Library Chat

So much interest is expressed nowadays in library methods and work; the benefit to humanity; the broadening powers; the educational value; the relationship to school and school works, that it may not come amiss to tell some thing of the books, more particularly those termed "reference," in our own Howard University Library.

The student, who, given a certain topic, finds that he knows absolutely nothing of the subject, comes to the library for aid. Here he knows he will find a multitude of books upon his theme; for no one book ever tells all there was to be told on the subject it professed to cover, and the problem is how to find the books and use them to the best advantage.

For an exhaustive treatise on a subject, of course, every book at his command must be consulted; so he goes to the card catalogue, which gives him the list of books in the library.

The catalogue to the uninitiated seems to be a regular Chinese puzzle, but in reality it is very simple, as it is arranged alphabetically and is used as one uses a dictionary.

The catalogue is divided into three divisions according to author, title and subject, answering the questions, "Who is the author?" "What is the title of the work?" and "What does the library possess upon a certain subject?"

For example: a student may know that Richard T. Ely has written several books on different phases of economics; he, therefore, looks under Ely—Richard Theodore, and finds the list of books by Ely which our library contains.

Possibly he has read "Monopolies and trusts," and in his debate wishes to refer to it as an authority, for a quotation loses half its weight unless backed up by the name of the author. He turns to the "M's" and finds "Monopolies and trusts" by Richard T. Ely. Or, he may wish to look up the subject of economics and may know neither names nor authors of such books.

He turns, accordingly, to "Economics," where he finds a long list of books upon the subject. At the close of the list the reader will find a card bearing the words "See also Banking, Trusts, etc." By means of this system of cross references, one can get a complete list of all the books in the library on economics in all of its branches.

In the upper left hand corner of each card are two sets of figures and letters which together comprise the "call number" of the book. The upper set is the classification number, according to the Dewey or decimal system of classification and the lower is the author number.

For the benefit of those unfamiliar with the Dewey system, a general plan of the classification here follows:

0. General works (Cyclopedias, magazines etc.)
1. Philosophy.
2. Religion.
4. Philology.
5. Natural sciences
6. Useful arts.
7. Fine arts.
8. Literature.
9. History.

Each class is separated into nine divisions, each division into nine (Continued on third page.)
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Students and Alumni of the University are invited to contribute.


Query

We wonder what has become of the Teachers' College Bulletin?

This is indeed the age of "the survival of the fittest."

Intercollegiate Debate

From the few and unpretentious organizations in the various colleges of just a little more than a quarter of a century ago, to the modern college with its athletic and debating teams, its glee clubs and myriad other organizations, is quite a leap.

This change has made it almost impossible for any college to live unto itself alone, for as contests have created a desire for home honors, they have awakened a longing for honors from abroad, thus giving rise to intercollegiate contests, prominent among which have been the intercollegiate debate.

These debates are two-fold in value; besides the intellectual development which they afford their participants, they not only advertise a college, but tend to promote that greatest factor of college life, college spirit, and awaken enthusiasm among the alumni.

Overdue

In looking thru a University catalogue one is puzzled to know just what it is intended to be. If it is meant to be a catalogue, wherein may be found those things which the name catalogue implies, why not adhere strictly to those things? If it is to be a year book, why not call it one and make it one exclusively? If it is to continue neither one nor the other, why continue to give it a misnomer? Surely our language offers some name by which it may be called rightly.

Evidently the adage once so familiar, "A place for everything and everything in its place," seems either to have become obsolete or its dictum impractical.

Like a handbook of any institution or place of interest, the catalogue opens with pictures of buildings, or to use handbook phraseology, "points of interest," then, too, like handbook, appear illustrations, scattered thru to the end; but unfortunately, unlike handbook scenes, these illustrations seem chosen not from an aesthetic viewpoint, nor even with the desire to exhibit things as they actually exist, but rather, seemingly just to fill up space.

Who does not tire seeing those same faces year after year? If the University is growing, if its enrollment is increased yearly, are not its classes increased? If pictures must appear, would it not be well to have them made yearly or biennially, that at least the increased attendance might be indicated?

Again, is it "for old time's sake," the appreciation for excellence of work done in happy days gone by, or as a drawing card to music lovers that that picture of the Glee Club, non-existent at least six years, remains year in and year out? Perhaps 'tis to keep their memories green; but, if that be true, had they been so famous, would it not be that their works had lived after them, monuments by which continually they would be known and recognized?

It will be said that the catalogue is put up with a view to advertisement, but what better advertisement is to be had than the football and baseball teams of the last few years? We often wonder if the University does not apprehend that we are indeed humiliated that our efforts and abilities are of such little consequence that the same pictures must be run in the catalogue for six years and one of them at least being non-existent for years.

We have sometimes been led to believe that it is too expensive to make plates each year. If so then why not eschew the photograph gallery and have a catalogue to gladden friends and well wishers and not mislead strangers and prospective students?

Menarchee

Mrs. Abby Snell Burnell, the niece of Prof. E. S. Snell of Amherst College, in the character of a high caste Hindu woman, delivered the University lecture for March.

Mrs. Burnell, having spent years in India, adopts this novel method of impressing the civilized world of the needs of the heathen millions of India. Dressed in the brilliant and graceful costume of a native, she presents graphically and with telling impression the degradation and the hardships of the women of India.

Telling the story in the first person, as "Menarchee," she reaches a wonderful climax when her boy, her first boy, educated in the British University at Madras, renounces forever the soul destroying darkness of idolatry for the soul saving light of Christianity.

Besides impressing us with her rare genius and wonderful dramatic gift, Mrs. Burnell left no heart unmoored by the great need of India's millions, many of whom could be saved by "the money that the noble American men smoke up in cigars."
A Library Chat

(Continued from first page.)

sections. Thus: 332 means class 3, Sociology—Division 3, or Political economy—Section 2, or Constitutional law.

As the books of a given class are to stand in alphabetical order, the "book marks" or "author numbers," made up of the first letter of the author's name and certain figures, are added to the class number.

For those wishing a brief account of some subject, a short sketch of the life of some man or woman, or a criticism of some noted book, the general cyclopædias, biographical dictionaries, etc., will double-give all that one wishes.

The library contains a new set of cyclopædias, the "Americana," issued last year, besides older sets of the "Britannica," Johnson's, Chamber's, Annual. Most of the sets are arranged alphabetically, therefore the material may easily be found.

A valuable set of books which all English classes will find useful is "Moulton's library of literary criticism," containing a short biography of every noted author with a criticism on his principal writings. The material in this set, as well as in other sets of reference books, is arranged chronologically with an index in the last volume.

The Century dictionary with its supplementary volumes, "Atlas and Proper names," is almost invaluable "Poole's index" supplemented by the "Reader's guide to periodical literature," in which all of the magazines to date are indexed, opens to the investigator a mine of untold wealth of material in the magazines.

For subjects such as "Municipal ownership," "Trusts," "Graft," etc., which have come into prominence during these last few years, the magazines will, in all probability be the only references on the subject in the library. Beside these, Learned's "History for ready reference," Allibone's "Dictionary of English authors," the "Dictionary of music and musicians," are all useful in looking up particular references.

"Who's who in America," issued each year, is a handy little volume for biographies of noted men and women who are now before the public eye.

English, French, German, Greek, Latin and Hebrew dictionaries are on the tables in the Reading room, so that a student has his helps near at hand.

Some Don'ts for the Reading Room

Don't mark in any book not your own.

Don't rumple the pages or turn down the corners.

Don't open a book so wide that you break the binding.

Don't bend books in order to use them for book rests.

Don't forget that your neighbor wants to study.

Football

As a result of a mass meeting of the students of Howard University which was held in December for the purpose of discussing methods of improving the status of the football team, it was voted that steps be taken to employ a coach and a committee was appointed to devise a method of raising the necessary funds for this purpose. This committee has now put into the hands of certain students, representing each class in every department of the University, subscription lists. These students are to wait upon the members of their respective classes and get their pledges of money to be paid or sent to the Treasurer of Howard University on or before Sept. 1, 1906.

It was supposed that the greater number of students would be in a better position during the summer vacation to pay the amount which they pledge; hence this arrangement by which it could be sent to the Treasurer of the University; but if anyone wishes to pay his subscription between the 1st of March and the 1st of June the money can be turned over to Messrs. O. B. Jefferson of Law School, W. H. Washington of Medical School, and C. E. Smith of College Dept., who will give receipts for same and turn it over to the Treasurer of the Athletic Association.

Every student in the University could easily give one dollar and some two or three dollars in the summer time and not feel any the worse for it. With the average of a dollar from every student of the University in the treasury as a working basis together with what the alumni, faculty and friends contribute and what can be raised from entertainments, the athletic teams of Howard could be as thoroughly equipped as those of any school in the south. If the athletic interests of a school are not fostered and supported by the student body that school will soon take a back seat. Every student of Howard should feel that he is personally delegated to keep her from taking that place. Some can play on the teams; some can root, some can beat the bass drum and all can contribute a small sum toward her success. There is hardly another institution in the country where the students are not taxed so much for the support of each branch of sport recognized by that institution. Collectors are appointed by the managers of the various teams who canvass their classes and there is always a strong rivalry to see which class has the best percentage of paid taxes.

The committee has not designated any amount which a student must give but leaves it to each student to give according as he is able, but the committee earnestly hopes that any man having put his name down for a contribution will feel morally obligated to remember it and to pay it to the Treasurer next summer.

ALLEN B. GRAVES, M. '08.
Mgr. Football Team 1906.

Spring fever catches everybody except those who do not stop to think about it.
"To Be or Not to Be"

Since that time when first Scholasticism so stirred up that inherent yearning for knowledge in men, what is known to-day as the College of Arts and Sciences—which stands for broad culture and a liberal education, as a means of satisfying this longing of the soul both in point of yielding a great influence for good and demanding the greatest attention, has stood first.

No one can successfully refute this. For no one can deny that Harvard and Yale and Penn and Princeton are known by their college graduates; nor will any affirm that either Harvard or Yale or Penn or Princeton could have attained to any semblance of their present greatness and present efficiency and present doing of good without the College of Arts and Sciences. Too, does it not overwhelmingly establish this fact—and nowadays it often becomes if not necessary yet desirable to point out to some even the great shining sun—that the college finds a place and a foremost one in every university and institution of consequence. Post graduate schools? Sweets to be tasted by college graduates only.

Since this is so and since the other thousand and one institutions are straining every nerve to improve and perfect the college, and since here at Howard this is not being done, is it a sign that the rest of the world is wrong?

Howard stands to-day as the leading institution for the uplift and education of the Negro. The other colored colleges, being, with one exception, in a more hostile territory, already feel the death-struggle has begun—for, alas! Gov. Vardaman of Mississippi has many peers. If then there is any promise for any of the colored schools, then it is for Howard. How, now, can we best become that Moses? By carpentry or tinning? By music or sewing; the world's history indignantely refutes the idea.

The effort should be to build up at the expense and even destruction of some of the other vestigial and primary departments, the college.

The University boasts of ten distinct departments—yet the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences holds the chair of Economics as well as the chair of Greek and is also instructor in International Law and at present is acting president of the University; the professor of History is also professor of English, teaching all the English in the College Department and also teaches logic; the professor of Mathematics is also professor of Sociology.

It is needless to say that neither of these gentlemen have assistant instructors.

Marvellous it is indeed that they have for so long covered such great fields of work and so thoroughly and that they have been so long allowed to undertake such (Continued on fifth page.)
The Vision

Away from the city's crowded street,
Far from the trampling of busy feet;
Weary from sorrow, deep-stained with sin,
I came to the church and entered in.
Tenderly sweet as an infant's prayer.
The roll of the organ filled the air.
I thought of the time so long ago,
When with souls unsaddled and pure as snow,
We worshipped together, when life was new.
Side by side in the high-backed pew.
I looked through the aisles so long and dim,
As the choir boys sang the holy hymn.
My heart gave a leap that sight to see.
For in her old seat, there was she.
Pale, pale her face, so sweet and meek
(My heart would burst if I did not speak.)
"Have you been with me through good and ill?
Have you come to tell me you love me still?
When you died, did we drift so far apart
You could not cheer my lonely heart?
With bitter tears, I prayed each night
For a word of comfort, a gleam of light.
A thousand times in storm and sleet,
I warmed our grave with kisses sweet.
But never till now from the bliss above,
Have you brought me token or sign of love."
Not a word she spoke, in the twilight gray
She beckoned to come, then faded away.
My soul grew calm, devoid of fear
I felt a sweet peace, that dried my tears.
Be still, my heart, for I know that she
Is none whom I love, now waits for me.
—DEAN ROBERT REVERBURN, M. D.

Constitution Adopted

Now that the constitution of the Upperclassmen is adopted, anoth er means of bringing about a closer relationship with all the students of the various departments, has been added to the list. It was one of the paramount objects of the ardent supporters of the constitution to provide the means whereby a permanent union of all the students might be perfected, and to instill in them a more fervent love of the organization. In adopting the constitution, this has been done to all intents and purposes. It was erroneously thought by some who either had no power of visualization or else did not exercise that power, that in the heated discussions which took place every department wished and endeavored to gain ascendancy over every other department.

The framers of this constitution attempted not only to frame it so as to meet the present needs and requirements of the present members of the Council, but also to meet the needs and requirements of those who are to shoulder the burden in days to come. And having in view the necessity of such a condition, the honor and credit it would reflect on their dear old Alma Mater if preserved, supported and protected, they did not recognize students as being from the Hill, from the Medical or Law School, but regarded all as students of Howard University. And it was for their interest and welfare, and not for those of any one department.

So far as the framers of this constitution are concerned their task is done. They have many grateful recollections of the past, and many anxious thoughts of the future. The past is secure. It is unalterable. The great seal of eternity is stamped upon it. The wisdom displayed by them cannot be obscured, neither can it be debased by puerile folly or infirmity.

The future is what may well awaken the most earnest solicitude for both the honor and permanence of the Council of Upperclassmen.

In theory, an organization may promise the most perfect harmony of operations in all its various combinations. In practice the whole machinery may be retarded or thrown out of order by mal-adjust ment. In theory it may seem deficient in unity of design and symmetry of parts, and yet in practice it may work with astonishing accuracy and force for the general welfare.

Whatever then has been found to work well by experience should not be hazarded upon by conjectural improvements. Time, and long and steady operation are indispensable elements for the perfection of all social institutions. Every change disorders for a while the whole arrangement of the system. What is safe is not always expedient, and what is new is often pregnant with unforeseen evils, or attracts only by imaginary good.

If then this organization shall but inspire those students who are to carry on the work in the future with a more ardent love for Howard, with an unquenchable thirst for closer relationship with one and another and with a profound reverence for the constitution, it will have accomplished the desires of its founder and the framers of its constitution.

"To Be or Not to Be"

(Continued from fourth page.)

Here are the Herculean tasks is also marvellous. Certain it is, however, that somebody is the loser by this distorted arrangement. And that not until more attention is paid the College, not until it can be in a position to offer curricula as broad as the needs of her students, not until she makes it possible to provide more professors and more instructors in its chief department will Howard stand for what that broad and beneficent wisdom of her founder meant that she should stand for; not until then will those to whom the power is, be doing their duty by that people that Howard represents, seems equally certain.

THE ALUMNI

Mr. Charles Darden, Law '04, is practicing in Los Angeles. It is reported that Mr. Darden, who was well known in the University and throughout the city, is doing exceptionally well.

Dr. A. S. Maxwell, Med. '04, has an extensive and lucrative practice in Sumter, S. C. Dr. Maxwell, it will be remembered, was the first secretary of the Council of Upperclassmen.
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