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Commencement 1906

The form of exercises to be held this year at commencement has been decided upon. Recently the faculties of the different departments met and though some objection to the joint commencement of the degree departments was met with that form was finally adopted.

Previous to the year 1905 each department held a separate and distinct commencement. It was in 1904 that the first departure from this time honored custom was made. The departure was a good one, for there is something imposing about the large united exercise which does not mark the separate department methods. It is a custom with the great universities of the East and West to have such and we were glad that Howard too had adopted that custom.

Until the meeting of the faculty there was some uncertainty as to just what plan would be followed. The Medical department with its popularity, prestige and host of friends favored the separate form while most of the other departments were inclined to the idea of union. It is true that the commencements of the Medical department were always most largely attended under the old regime. That department alone always filled the house, and under the new system it may not be able to accommodate all of their friends, but the object of the joint form should be to accommodate not only the friends of any one department, but the friends of Howard University. The part should not strive to be greater than the whole.

The commencement this year will not be held at convention hall. Several difficulties stood in the way of securing it. An option, it seems, had been given upon the hall, extending over the period during which the closing will take place. Then, too, while the Hall accommodates a large number, its acoustic properties are bad and can be only partially remedied by transferring the rostrum to the side. This would necessitate an additional expenditure of fifty dollars, making the total cost of the hall for one evening three hundred dollars.

Confronted by all these difficulties it was decided to use the First Congregational Church, and limit the invitations. A special committee will have to do with sending out all invitations and names will be submitted to this committee. The purpose of this is to prevent one person from receiving more than one invitation. In that way all space can be utilized.

Last year no address was delivered. This year an address by a noted speaker, to be announced later, will be the principal feature of the entire commencement.

'The date has been fixed for Friday, June 1st. This will be the last feature of the closing of the University. During that same week the exercises of the departments which will not confer degrees will be held. Class day exercises, too, will take place that week, and the grand climax will be this joint exercise.

Ambition

Ambition is a term popular in usage, yet obsolete in proper application. It is an aged word, whose golden meaning lies concealed beneath its hoary locks.

The latent spark kindled in human breast, causing man to look upward and work onward to his Creator was ambition. But now the expression seems to have lost its flavor. It is no longer the torch of inspiration pointing to greatness or grandeur. An illusory phantom, it has now become, whose fires only illuminate one's journey to the tomb. Ambition! Bad word! Synonym for heart pangs, anxiety, discontent, struggles, poverty, death. Whisper it softly, else the departed ghosts of Caesar, Napoleon or Alexander will frighten us for excitement. Pallow not its siren sound or else quench the enthusiasm. The world of fame, filled with the echoes of the past, now uses this word as a means of excitation. But we must refuse to listen to its call. Though others seek not the fervor of thy glow, to us a celestial beacon art thou, and to all earthly pilgrims a guide in the darkened path of life.

A man without ambition is a man without life. He may move among men, but he is only a walking corpse. He looks neither upward nor forward. He is like the traveler who begins nowhere and makes no progress. The eagle may cut the clouds in his upward movements, but the man devoid of ambition sees no lesson in sight. He is most truly the creature of circumstances.

As winds may blow or the tides bear him, he takes his course. He is at mercy of the elements, because within himself there is no impelling force. If the winds of adversity were to come, too, he would be too weak to stand against them. But the man with ambition overcomes the difficulties which arise. He is like the eagle, which, though the winds may blow, he is strong enough to withstand them.

Continued on fourth page...
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Students and Alumni of the University are invited to contribute.


The annual “Prom” given by the Council attracted one of the most elite gatherings that has ever attended any social function. The “Prom” has been commented upon by the daily papers in a very commendable way. They went so far as to go into details concerning the purpose of the Council and the decorations of the hall. Those who attended the reception had a most enjoyable time, and those who did not attend, when told by friends of the delightful time, regretted very much their absence. Among these present were: Mrs. L. B. Moore, Mrs. J. C. Waters, Miss Elizabeth Cook, Miss Robinson, Messrs. Geo. W. Cook, Posey, Joiner, Decatur.

It is pleasing to note that the annual “Prom” of the Council is not only attracting the attention of the Alumni and teachers, but is honored by their presence. This tends to give the students an impetus, for they feel greatly gratified to know that the Faculty and Alumni will not only encourage them by words, but by their presence. So should the students feel toward the Faculty and Alumni in every instance where they offer their assistance. Most of the conservative students feel that it is impossible for them to get along without the aid of the Faculty and Alumni, and we trust that assistance rendered by them will be accepted, for they can hope to reap nothing save what they will bring to their University and Alma Mater.

“The Clansman,” a drama by Thomas Dixon Jr., which is being produced at the Columbia this week, was received amid a boisterous enthusiasm, groans and hisses. The condition of affairs tended to make the theater goers feel that they were in one of the minor theaters. “The Clansman,” as commented upon by critics, has no high artistic ideals while ethically it is an anachronism. It is predicted that in spite of its shallowness and lack of real sentiment and sympathy, it will be largely patronized, but we feel safe in saying that the play will not receive the support of the better element.

The music rendered by the Lyric Orchestra, composed of University students, at the Council “Prom” was all that could be hoped for.

The Debates

The series of debates which are to be held on the Hill beginning with Friday night, March 9th promises to be very interesting. As a rule the debates usually attract great audiences, and it is safe to predict that these will do likewise. There is a new feature introduced this year, which is the intercollegiate debate. This debate is to be between Union University of Richmond, Virginia, and Howard. The debate of the Theological Department, known as the Maynard Prize debate, heads the list, and is scheduled for this evening.

The debate of the departments leading to a degree, which is known as the Alpha Phi, is to be one week later.

The time of the intercollegiate debate though not definitely settled upon, is to be some time in April.

Action of the Faculty Unique

The recent action of the Faculty relative to the young ladies of Miner Hall attending the reception of the Council, was highly appreciated by most, if not all, of the upper classmen. The result is potent to the upper classmen for they feel that the Faculty is making distinction between the upper classmen and the lower classmen. Of course some will say it is not at all encouraging to the lower classmen, and undoubtedly the lower classmen are of the same opinion. But if they will stop and think, they will concur with most of the upper classmen who believe that privileges, not so much like the one recently granted, but others of more importance, serve only to inspire the students of the lower classes to reach the upper class where they can enjoy such privileges. Such nice distinctions made by the Faculty are appreciated by the upper classmen.

Announcements

The executive committee of the Council has begun its preparation for the reception of the “Sophs,” which will take place some time in April.

Out of respect to, and in honor of our late poet, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, the Alpha Phi is putting forth special effort for an elaborate program which is entitled “An Evening with Dunbar.” This program is to be rendered Friday evening, March 22nd.

Regular meeting of the Alpha Phi this evening at 8:15.

Vesper Services as usual on Sunday at 4:30.
**See Things as They Are**

Let us not be blinded to the true value and relation of things by the daily routine of duties to which most of us are subjected. Most of our lives are so crowded with prosaic rounds of living that we cannot see the forest for the trees—that is to say, we do not see the general scope of things for the multitudinous particulars. If we make it a practice to meditate each day on the large deep truths of existence many things which were unintelligible to us will resolve themselves into light and meaning.

For instance it is hard for the most philosophic of us to part with a valuable human personality without great poignancy of grief and without the thought that his or her taking off was a needless sacrifice; hard for the community or state and bitterly hard for the loved ones to whom he or she was bound by ties of blood and affection. But the Supreme Spirit in the awful majesty and depth of his eternal feeling of solemn love has never suffered through all time the beauty and harmony of the moral universe to be disturbed for one fraction of a second. Hence, after an individual nation or race has sufficiently contributed their share toward the maintenance of the moral order, He cuts them off, lest by their continuance they subvert the equipoise of His symphony.

This not only applies to the evil and apparently useless among men, but to the signaliy upright and illustrious. For good and evil are of the very essence of the moral universe. It could not exist without these two prime elements. It is as impossible for the sun of God's mighty love shining on and sustaining all forces of the absolute good without producing the 'negative evil,' as it is for the glorious physical sun to shine on a noble forest without casting a shadow. Or we may look at it with pagan eyes, as the matter of life and death.

Here is a beautiful skein of precious human life which the Fates are evolving in the weaving of that vast intricate and variably colored pattern which is human life in its totality. Perhaps when a certain length is reached, often unheeded of us, it is found rough or tangled. In this invincible evolution to delay is permitted to disentangle it: thus it cannot go into the make up of the fabric, hence comes the abhorred shears which cut the thin spun life. Or again it might be that this particular skein of human life has contributed a sufficiency of its special color towards this wondrous work piece, any more of which, however lovely in itself, would ruin the beauty and harmony of the color scheme; hence Atropas again uses the fell shears and snips the thin spun life.

We with our finite minds, however profound, and gross perceptions however fine, necessarily cannot see the justice of His measures and often inscrutable wisdom.

Again, let us not bewail the state of things; for whatever is, is right; everything in the universe is relatively perfect, inasmuch as it contributes to the maintenance of the universe which is perfect. The present gloomy status of the colored man in this country should occasion no misgivings; his trials and tribulations are but the result of the invincible and not always patent forces of evolution.

**Maxwell Hayson.**

**Dr. Scurlock’s Lecture**

The Alpha Phi society enjoyed a rare treat last Friday evening when Dr. Scurlock came before the society with a lecture on water. The speaker was received with great applause by the large gathering of students, including many visitors from the city. This was the first time some of the students had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Scurlock as they left him last year after spending a very pleasant and helpful hour in his classroom. It was quite late when the lecture began, owing the fact that a very important matter relative to the Intercolligiate Debate held the attention of the house for quite a while.

So Dr. Scurlock did not touch upon all the phases of his subject, but the points mentioned were put forth in a clear and scholarly way. The lecturer spoke of the composition of the different kinds of water, how we quench our thirst at a sparkling mountain spring unconscious of the chemical processes going on in mother earth’s laboratory by which this mineral water is made; how water is found in nearly everything — in things which one would think that there was not an atom of H₂O.

Its various commercial values were explained at length, and how the water power of Niagara Falls, once allowed to go to waste, is now used to run large dynamos in large factories and to run street cars. A careful and minute description was given of the construction and operation of our filtration plant. This part of the lecture was made very attractive by stereopticon views taken of our plant at different stages of its construction. We can see the city plant just across the reservoir, but so few of us know anything definite about its workings.

Every body, I dare say, who heard the lecture has a clearer knowledge of the methods of purifying the city’s water.

The process of ice manufacture was touched upon. The chemical reactions involved were made simple and intelligible even to one who knows no chemistry. A number of views of the various parts of a modern ice plant which had been proposed, were used to great advantage, to illustrate the successive steps in the process.

After a few more instructive remarks the lecturer brought his discourse to an end much against the desires of the students who were willing to stay another hour. After much persuasion the officers of the society succeeded in getting the Doctor to promise to give another lecture some time before the end of the scholastic year.
Ambition

(Continued from first page.)

T

ty should strike his frail craft, he
would be unable either to luff his
bark or come about through turbu­
lent breakers. The simple desire
to rise above one's surroundings and
excel, is all that may be claimed
for ambition. That is not ambi­
tion which would wear a crown
soaked in human gore—it is
madness, blood-thirstiness. The
spirit which would exult in the
overthrow of another, or rejoice in
his downfall, so as to secure a
post or prestige, is not am­
bition—'tis envy, Satanic envy.

Such, according to Milton's version,
is imputed to the chief of fallen
angels, who not only refused allegi­
ce to heaven's appointed Ruler,
but warred against him and clam­
ored for the throne. Such i
it be ambition, is by no means laudable.
It is as despicable in men as in
devils. What invisible gas is to a
soaring air vessel, what puffing
steam is to a moving engine, that
ambition is to man. It not only
drives him onward, but lifts him
upward. Without it he could never
outride the winds of adversity.'

With it he can make even the
clouds of misfortune upturn their
silver lining. Give a man all the
ambition his nature can sustain.
Think no more of suppressing this
force of nature than you would the
mettle of a full-blooded courser. If
you disturb it at all, treat it as you
would your favorite horse curb,
regulate and control it. The proper
direction of one's ambition is as
important as its posess-ion. Better
none at all than be unable to con­
tral it. Many a man has stunted
his progress, or missed his mark,
or jumped the track of life or been
buried in obloquy, simply because
he didn't know what to do with his
ambition.

He that is unable to manage his
ambition will be managed by it,
and that badly too. It is all a mis­
take to suppose that this native
ardor of soul confers upon its pos­sessor the right to do as he pleases.

The right to do anything or every­
things has been wisely reserved by
the Donor of this gracious gift.

Has ambition, then, any limitsa­
tions? Its qualified bounds consist
mainly in faithfulness and thor­
oughness. The infinite domains
of the universe are outstretched be­
fore it and above it, but only to
those who have discharged all
trusts below is the invitation given
to "come up higher." One must
first be faithful over the few before
he is entitled to rulership over the
many.

J F. V.

Notice

The following named persons are
requested to meet in the Main build­
ing, in Mr. A. D. Tate's Room,
Saturday evening, March 10, 1906,
at 8:30 o'clock:

John Geary, Ocea Taylor, F. D.
Morton, J. H. Roberts, J. S. Carter,
O. Benj Jefferson, W. H. Washington,
A. W. E. Bassett, O. M. Randol­
ph, Allen B. Graves, N. E. Cashin,
H. Shorter, W. J. Ford, E. P. Davis,
Chas. A. Manns.

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Freshman Medical Stag

To True Reformer Hall on evening of Washington's birthday went the Freshmen of the Medical Department to enjoy themselves. Doctors, Dentists and Pharmacists in embryo mingled indiscriminately. Not a heart was sad, not a head was heavy, not a face showed marks of care. But heart and head of each Freshman were bent upon contributing a share to the joys of the occasion and the faces of all were aglow with happy anticipation as they began to assemble early in the evening. Truly their countenances gave information to all that they had lived up to their motto: they had fleeced Lamb, baked Shadd and sailed by Seaman.

Until eleven thirty, games were played and enjoyed as only a crowd of jolly fellows can play and enjoy them. Four tables were arranged for whist, but for those who have not yet acquired skill at whist or have not yet learned to appreciate its beauty and the enjoyment it affords, modest checkers were in abundance which too, required great skill when rightly played.

At eleven thirty, took place the most unique feature of the entire evening. Nothing short of a "shirt sleeve" dance, held the joyous "Medicos" till twelve. The music which in low strains had been furnished throughout the happy evening by Messrs. Giles and Doullie, suddenly changed, jigs and other times suited to the dance, now filled the air; feet hitherto unknown to Terpsichore became restless and mingled in the elated throng shrill was not required. To move or not to move, was the only question, and no one could be still and refrain from such merriment.

At twelve, weary only from the dance and that only temporarily, but not worn, all the happy Freshmen assembled round the festal board, and posed for Starlock. While refreshments were being served the toast master passed round the query-box. The humorous queries and the side-splitting jokes need not be mentioned. Though some were sharp everyone was too jolly to be offended.

THE TABLE

In the center, the table extended the length of the room, upon which was an arch made of human bones and crowned with a large well developed skull. Leading from this arch and partly encircling it were numerous large streamers, of the class colors, gold and black. Floating above this and adding both beauty and dignity to the scene was a large Howard pennant.

While all were seated, the toast master arose and gave the following toast:—"Here's to the Dentists: may they bridge every obstacle, may they crown their future with the golden crown of success. Here's to the Pharmacists: may their motto be to let their lives be as free from error as their compounds must be. Last but not least, here's to the Doctors: may they prescribe happiness and joy to every home and may their own good health be their best testimonial." Responses were given by the members of the respective departments. Then the guest of honor, Dr. Thompkins, was introduced and gave a brief talk.

This led up to a well prepared programme which was next rendered.

PROGRAMME

"Old Howard," J. Horace Dodd
The Medical Department, J. S. Carter
Athletics. Harold Norwood
The "Sophs," J. S. Saunders
Class-Spirit, Haley Douglas
The "Pros," J. C. Bagley
Freshmen.
Cyrnce Hammond
Our Hopefuls, R. Thomas Ellis
The Fair Sex.

Music
A. J. Harris

MENU
Fried Oysters
French Rolls
Potato Salad
Cigars
Punch

Fleece Lamb, bake Shadd and sail by Seaman.

The Maynard Prize Debate to-night in the chapel.

WIT AND FUN
FROM EXCHANGES

THE DIFFERENCE OF A WORD.
"There's nothing so bad," said the optimist.
"But it might be worse," said the pessimist.
And moans and groans in prose and in verse.
"There's nothing so bad but it will be worse," she said.

VARIATION NO. 99999.
"Where are you going, my pretty maid?"
"Under the mistletoe, sir," she said.
"May I go with you, my pretty maid?"
"You are certainly slow if you don't," she said.

THE PROPOSAL.
They were seated side by side.
And she sighed, and then she sighed.
Said he, "My darling idol,"
And he looked, and then she looked.
"You are creation's belle," he said.
And she sat down, and then she sat down.
"On my soul there's such a weight," she said.
And he waited, and then she waited.
"Your hand I ask, so bold I'm grown," she said.
And he looked, and then she looked.
"You shall have your private gig," he said.
And she giggled, and then she giggled.
"I'll have thee, if thou wilt," she said.
And he wilted, and then she wilted.

PERSONALS

Miss Childers, instructor of Music in the Teachers' College, who was compelled to give up a few of her classes last week on account of sickness, has again taken up her duties.

Miss Olive Graves, who has recently recovered from a severe case of sickness, has been advised by her attending physician to leave Washington and seek another climate which is more favorable. Miss Graves' friends gave a reception last Wednesday evening in her honor, at which all of those who were present had a most enjoyable time. All of Miss Graves' friends wish for her a speedy recovery to her former health.
Howard University.

Incorporated by Act of Congress March 2, 1867.

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