The Semi-Centennial
Fifty Years Have Passed and we Celebrate. 1867-1917

On March 2, 1867, a bill was introduced into the Senate of the United States to charter an institution "for the education of youth." This charter was the result of the wisdom, foresight and philanthropic impulse of a group of humanists, of whom General Howard was the active leader. The immediate aim of the little band of seers was a Theological Seminary, and this they successfully established. As time went on, however, the need became greater, and out of the necessity for breadth and expansion has evolved the present Howard University.

Fifty years have passed and we celebrate. Fifty years and what a change, what a growth, what a transformation! Time has dealt kindly with us. We have been prosperous; we have been progressive; we have grown to be a large, no, a great university. To give here the briefest summary of the growth of the work is well nigh impossible. We must, therefore, be content with the mere suggestion of what she has done, what she is doing, and to forecast her program for the future.

Howard University has been doing more than filling the heads of men and women with information; she has been filling their hearts with humanity, and their lives with character. Or as President Thwing puts it, she has been "transmuting (Continued on Page 2)

Howard’s Semi-Centennial Hymn

Oh sing today of Howard’s glory,
And crown her with a deathless fame;
Rehearse to all her unique story,
Proclaim to all her classic name.

Let her crown be like ivy vernal,
Not of earth’s gold, nor time wrought gems;
But wreathead laurel of praise eternal,
And laud her in the nation’s hymns.

Crown her for worth and grace and beauty,
Let all the earth her motto span,
She loves to tread the path of duty
Seeking the lost birth-right of man.

Crown her with garlands all immortal,
In highest good she leads the van;
Her sons like stars in radiant portal,
Give out their all to inspire man.

Crown her with praise from every nation,
Crown her with chaplets ever new;
Bless her ye hearts in every station,
And bring your tribute so long due.

Oh sing today of Howard’s glory,
And crown her with most graceful lore;
And tell to all the love wrought story
Of how she lifts the worthy poor.

Topeka Industrial & Educational Institute.
—Topeka, Kansas.

The Ministry—A Great Opportunity

GNORANCE of personal aptitudes and a lack of stimulating influences too often lead college men to delay decisions as to their life work; open to them the influences of others’ success in a particular field, or the mere convenience of a particular choice; and result in irremedial mistakes, and a personal, racial, and general loss. The medical profession, especially, is the last resort of the undecided student. Reporting for 1910 the Commissioners of Education declared that for twenty-five years the over-production of uneducated and ill-trained practitioners had been enormous. This may be traced in a large measure to the personal inaptitude of students. Of all the professions, teaching excepted, the medical, in Negro institutions, is by far the most largely recruited. Careful inquiry would doubtless reveal convenience of decision, rather than real aptitude, as the cause.

Thus, the other professions suffer, the ministry especially. This may be attributable to a general tendency from the church, former abuses of the profession, absence of self-confidence, and the absence of an altruistic spirit. The ministry, as a result, forms the weakest of our professions, from many
standpoints, and is losing a most splendid opportunity for promotion. It is in the ministry that the leader can exercise the greatest influence. The teacher comes in contact with the child only, and is bound by the "system." The lawyer and doctor meet client and patient in a more professional way, and beyond that evince little interest in them. But the minister is the acknowledged and accepted public leader. He commands the largest numbers, he commands the confidence, co-operation, even the loyal obedience of these. And, for the minister the highest qualifications are essential.

Toward this profession the educated youth must turn. The ignorance of the past may be excused, but ignorance in this day of opportunity receives and merits unqualified condemnation. The time is too pressing to await the phenomenal "call." But a generation, it is said, witnesses such. But there are many college youths who upon a critical personal examination, would find themselves eminently qualified for this profession and the splendid work it may do in racial uplift. Moral goodness is, of course, fundamental. But a mere negative goodness is not sufficient. This already has filled the profession with the inefficient. There are obvious physical, mental and temporo-mental requirements. But there are many students tramping through our college halls exceptionally fitted to take up the Master's work, to stride forth into honest fields. The call is imperative; delay is costly; refusal is wicked.

Now, as never before, the world is in need of a profound spiritual leadership. From this the thoughts and eyes of the great nations are turned. War, commercialism, science, everything but the truly spiritual, engrosses the world's attention. For spiritual leadership the Negro is pre-eminently qualified. He belongs to an oppressed people, in whom the spirit life is most often manifested. He has not yet succumbed to the cold, practical doctrines of the age. And now, if with his spirituality, he can weld the highest morality and intelligence, it is entirely within the pale of probability that he should attain a world spiritual leadership. If attained it must be through the ministry, and the ministry must look for its strength to the educated youth, whose obligation to God and society makes the acceptance of the call imperative.

W. S. X.

The Semi-Centennial

(Continued from Page 1)

Howard University has justified the hopes of her founders. Starting, as we have indicated in a bare room of a private house, and she has grown with amazing rapidity and soundness, and today takes her place among American colleges; starting with a faculty of three, she now has a faculty of one hundred twenty; starting with one school—the School of Theology—she now comprehends in addition, the departments of Law, Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Music, Arts and Sciences, Teachers College, Manual Arts, Normal, Commercial and Academy, all with their multitudinous divisions; and she is today beckoning for an Agricultural School in order that she may fit those who will with the training advocated in the philosophy of that apostle of the Negro race, Dr. Booker T. Washington.

Perhaps no other obstacle has offered as much hindrance as the scarcity of funds. The $100,000 annual appropriation by Congress is not enough and must be increased; buildings must be erected; equipment must be furnished and faculties must be enlarged. Howard University has

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over 1,500 students, all of whom command little or no income; hence fees must be small. Here then is the great need, the need of an endowment that will free our Alma Mater from embarrassment, and enable her to stretch out to her fullest capacity in holding out an equal opportunity to all for the acquisition of knowledge.

Located in the capital of the nation, surrounded by unlimited facilities for the highest educational purposes, the University stands open to every young man and woman of purpose and ability; to give courage in hours of doubt; strength of purpose in hours of weakness; and fortitude in adversity. To this task she has been devoted for the past 50 years; to this task she will continue unobstructed by time and circumstance. She has, more than any other agent, helped to demonstrate the possibilities of a race. Fifty years, however, is not enough; fifty years is but a moving hour in the day of a great institution. But in the light of what has been, and guided by what is, we can see visions of a greater future; a new day is dawning, a new sun must rise on her horizon, and Howard University will surpass the most sanguine expectations of her founders, and hold up the Negro before the search light of scrutiny and say "behold him."

—Thomas B. D. Dyett, '18.

**The English Chautauqua**

At the last meeting of the English Chautauqua the following officers were elected for this year:

- President, Mary S. Hundley;
- Vice President, Geneva Waugh;
- Secretary, Ethel Parnell, Treasurer, Maud Brown; Corresponding Secretary, Bernice Brooks; Reporter, E. May Harper; Historian, Jennie E. Mustapha.

The Chautauqua has been inactive this year but is now fully organized and prepared for work. The purpose of the club is to foster an interest in English, and to arrange for literary contests for the young ladies of the University. Membership in the Chautauqua is limited to those young ladies who have completed two courses in English or who have completed one course and are now pursuing one other course in English. The contest with Morgan College is now under consideration. The contest is to be held in the spring of this year at Morgan College. Further particulars concerning the contest will be announced later. All young ladies who are interested in the work of the English Chautauqua are cordially invited to be present at its next meeting to be held on the twenty-third of February in Library Hall at four o'clock.

—E. May Harper, '19.

**A Howard Man**

Dr. E. Clayton Terry, '16 (Medical), was recently appointed instructor in Physical Diagnosis in the Howard Medical College. Dr. Terry is also an interne in the Freedmen's Hospital. The work and success of this young man might well serve as an incentive to others to indulge in constant study. Dr. Terry is an alumnus of the College of Arts and Sciences of Howard University. The Medical College has done well to regard the ability and efficiency of her own product.

**Chi Delta Mu Fraternity Celebrates Fourth Anniversary**

On the evening of Washington's birthday, Thursday February 22, the Chi Delta Mu Fraternity of the Medical School of Howard University held its annual formal "At Home." The Chapter-house, in 301 Tea St., N. W., decorated with flowers and palms, was thrown open to the guests. Between the hours 6:30 and 8:30 P. M. courtesies were exchanged with more than two hundred friends of the organization.

After the reception the dignified doctors "to be" entertained special guests at a dance and supper. The time was enjoyably spent by all until the "wee" hour of one. The guests and escorts departed, and took with them fond memories of the Fourth Anniversary of the Chi Delta Mu.

**Phi Beta Sigma Entertains**

The Chapter House of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity was the scene of one of the most enjoyable social events of the season on the evening of Washington's birthday, Thursday February the twenty-second. The occasion was a formal reception given by the members of the Fraternity to a number of their friends.

From the hours of eight to eleven the guests were entertained at dancing, after which a delicious supper was served. The beautiful house decorations together with the other features of the evening made the affair one of continued pleasure. As each couple went his way, it was agreed that the Phi Beta Sigma's reception would be one long to be remembered by all.

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Howard University Journal
Howard University
Washington, D. C.

Friday, March 2, 1917

EDITORIAL
Howard's New Half-Century

Howard University is now beginning the second half of one-hundred years. She has been useful for fifty years and is now launching out on another half century of service to humanity. Her good work can be seen by the hundreds of useful men and women bearing the Howard stamp,—men and women who, in the majority of cases, are rendering efficient service to their race, county, and to the world. The world has seen Howard grow from a mere insignificant mass of matter, having for its sole purpose the redemption of a people. The task has been to teach a people that was fastened in ignorance, and superstition that there was a truth for them to learn. This has been Howard's one big task. How well she has performed it can be attested by her growth, both in size and influence. Howard men and women can be found in all parts of the universe teaching the truth, rendering a service, and helping the world.

The students who go from Howard in the second half century of her life, have a moral obligation upon them which demands of them services equal to, or greater than, those services rendered by their predecessors of the first half century. It is the duty of those students to herald truth to every man, to benefit humanity in a material way, and to promote the welfare of all mankind. It is the duty of the present and future Howard man to be a philanthropist. This does not mean that he is to be a giver of money; but it does mean that he is to make himself a servant for the world. He must be a supreme servant, a moral servant, an uncompromising servant. The future Howard man must go to the classes of people that need him most. He must learn to sacrifice himself for the good of the great human family.

This is the task, the duty of the forthcoming Howard men and women. This is the service that they must render in order to bring Howard successfully to the end of a century's existence.

Sunday Morning Lectures

That the students of Howard University are anxious and willing to devote a part of each Sunday morning to religious activities was clearly demonstrated last Sunday morning. At that time Dean Kelly Miller delivered before the student body, on the subject: "The Moral Opportunity of the College Bred Negro." These instructive lectures are given under the auspices of the University Branch of the Young Men's Christian Association. This organization is directing its efforts to meet the demand and supply the need for some phase of religious service on Sunday mornings, a service into which both men and women can be brought. The Young Men's Christian Association has made a successful attempt. The speaker and the theme are both attractive and interesting.

The need of and demand for such services have been great. Since we have them, it remains for us to enliven the efforts, to center interest upon the endeavor by attending these meetings in a large number. The tone and style of the first lecture indicate that it is the beginning of an extremely important and interesting series. We must fasten our attention upon these lectures, and receive the message that is necessary for our intelligence on a question of such vast import.

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STUDENTS’ OPINION

Editor of The Journal: For several weeks I have noticed that much of the valuable space in the Journal has been given to articles on the “Class Rush.” The article appearing in last Friday’s number reminds us that “Howard needs to discard the many cumbersome and unworthy activities of her student life.” The writer of that article does not stop with the branding of the class rush as a cumbersome and unworthy activity, but she goes further and asserts that there are other activities, equally as bad, that should be discarded. Now, I ask the question, what are the many cumbersome unworthy activities that should be discarded? The writer of last week’s article undoubtedly puts baseball, basketball, and football in the group of cumbersome and unworthy activities of our student life; for I am sure that “the savage instinct to defend our goal, football we fight ‘through thick and thin’ to defend our goal, just as the Sophomores fight to defend their flag at the top of the greasy pole; and quite often our players present a hundred times more brutal and savage appearance in a football game than the innocent freshmen and Sophomores who are struggling around the sticky pole.

I sincerely hope that this unifying event will not be eliminated from our University; and that the many freshmen classes that are to enter our University may have the pleasure of being unified by this historic event,—the most dramatic event of the college year.


The Manual Arts Notes

At the meeting of the House of Representatives, Wednesday February 21st., the discussion of the advisability of adopting the Honor System for all students in the School of Manual Arts was continued. The body decided to accept the Honor System, unrestricted, after it had been pointed out that self-reliance and trustworthiness were essentials of any group of people who are to be thrown absolutely upon their own resources, ability and honor in life. As has been previously explained, this system applies, not only to classroom life, but to University and home life as well.

The next business taken up was the election of officers. Mr. Percival Piper was unanimously elected president. The other officers elected were Miss Helen Brown, vice president; Messrs. Tomlinson, treasurer; L. K. Downing, journalist; Percival Piper, chaplain; Carey Perkins, sergeant at arms; and William A. Thomas, secretary. The officers were then installed by Mr. Backner.

Miss Waring, on behalf of the students of the upper classes, extended an invitation to the freshmen to be present at a “Get-Together,” to begin Saturday, February 24, 1917, from 2 o’clock until 4 o’clock.

Accordingly, on Saturday afternoon, a convenient number of students gathered in the parlor of the Manual Arts building bent on getting acquainted. Their hopes were realized. The earlier part of the time was spent in playing various games which kept the company in constant uproar. Miss Waring was the recipient of three heterogeneous love missives, written by the several people present. Mr. Carey Perkins soon began to show signs of hunger, and to divert his mind, refreshments were served. A god-send in the form of a Victrola furnished the means of completing the afternoon’s pleasure, and it was with regret that we heard the last strains of “Don’t Leave Me Daddy.”

—W. A. Thomas.
SPORT ACTIVITIES

The baseball squad soon will get out for its first work-outs. With the coming of warm days, Manager Hightower is hastening to get his men out for practice. There is a wealth of material here this year, and it is expected that an unusually good team will be produced.

Manager Morgan of the cricket team has issued a call for volunteers, because he is determined to wage several important contests this year, which he cannot afford to lose. Therefore he is hastening to select his team from the wealth of material before him, and fit it for winning.

These days, which indicate the rapid approach of spring, are arousing the track enthusiasts, and Manager Camper is preparing to meet the situation. Early next week he will doubtless begin his try-outs, and in about three weeks, he hopes to select his team. His schedule is unusually heavy this year; therefore, he is determined not to lose a moment of his valuable training time. Howard's supremacy must be reestablished, and Manager Camper has decided to contribute his share.

LEGAL PAPERS DRAWN UP AND EXECUTED

C. E. LUCAS, LL. B.
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OPENING SESSION OF THE SOCIOLOGICAL CONGRESS

The celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Howard was fittingly begun with the opening session of the Sociological Congress, presenting a study "Fifty Years of Progress by the American Negro." The Library Hall in which the Congress convened was crowded with earnest and enthusiastic alumni, visitors, faculty, students—all alert to the importance of the subjects under discussion and the possibilities of the Congress. The opening address was delivered by President S. M. Newman. He stated briefly that the purpose of the Congress was not that of oratorical or sentimental expressions, nor of prophecy but primarily of historical study. Dr. J. H. Waring, chairman of the opening session, stated as the purpose of the conference as that of setting forth information on the social progress of the Negro and of indicating the part that Howard has played in this progress.

The two phases of the general subject discussed were first, "Ownership of Rural and Urban Homes" and, second, "Business Enterprises." Because of illness, Dr. James H. Dillard, President of the Jeane Foundation, who was to have presented the leading paper, was not present. President N. B. Young President of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College, Tallahassee, Florida and Mr. W. R. Wright Jr., Editor of The Christian Recorder, Philadelphia, led in the discussion of the first topic. Particular interest was placed by both upon great progress that the Negro has made in home ownership within the last fifty years.

Mr. M. N. Avery, director of the Division of Records and Research Tuskegee Institute, presented the leading paper on the second subject. It was illuminating in many respects. As landmarks in Negro Business Enterprise, he named the adoption of the Fourteenth Amendment, 1868, the failure of the Freedmen's Bank, 1863, the beginning of the Negro beneficial societies, 1880, 1885, organization of the first Negro banks, 1884-1890, the organization of the National Negro Business League, 1900, and the organization of the first old line legal reserve insurance company, 1912.

Mr. W. A. Avery, of the press service at Hampton, urged the necessity of a practical program, and the danger of forgetting the weakness of our present organization. The bases of a progress program he pointed out, are the distribution of population, the movements of population school attendance, farm ownership, and good homes. Present deficiencies were frankly pointed out and a remedy for these urged as essential to progress.

Mr. Fred R. Moore, Editor of the New York Age spoke in a practical way on causes for the Negro's lack of greater progress in business and urged race loyalty as necessary to future progress.

From every standpoint the opening session of the Congress was a success and may be regarded as indicative of the splendid results possible to such a sociology study.

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Military Training Camp For Colored Men

An Open Letter from Dr. J. E. Spingarn

New York, February 15, 1917.

To Educated Colored Men of the United States:

It is of the highest importance that the educated colored men of this country should be given opportunities for leadership. You must cease to remain in the background in every field of national activity, and must come forward to assume your proper places as leaders of American life. All of you cannot be leaders, but those of you who have the capacity for leadership must be given an opportunity to test and display it.

There is now just such an opportunity possible for you, in case of war, to become leaders and officers instead of followers and privates. Major-General Leonard Wood, of the U. S. Army, commanding the Department of the East, has promised that if two hundred of you apply for admission, he will organize and maintain a military training camp for colored men, with just the sort of training to fit you to serve as officers of volunteers in case of war.

I do not believe that colored men should be separated from other Americans in any field of life; but the crisis is too near at hand to discuss principles and opinions, and seems to me that there is only one thing for you to do at this juncture, and that is to get the training that will fit you to be officers, however and wherever and whenever this training may be obtained. If two hundred of you do not send applications immediately, the opportunity may be lost forever.

The camp will be conducted on exactly the same principles as the military training camp held at Plattsburg, N. Y., where thousands of men have received intensive training in military service. It will be under the direction of United States Army officers. It will last four weeks. The date has not been fixed, but it will probably begin early in June. The status of every student at the camp will be that of a cadet, just as at West Point.

I understand that transportation to and from the camp will be defrayed by the government, and that the subsistence and training at the camp will be free. It is probable that every man will have to pay his own fare to the camp, and that after he arrives, his travelling expenses will be refunded, and his fare borne by the government. The only expense will be the cost of the uniform, which each man must furnish himself. This consists of a khaki blouse, khaki breeches, two olive drab shirts, web belt, campaign hat and cotton leggings, costing in all about eight or ten dollars. Any good russet walking shoes will do. The outfit may be purchased on arrival at camp, or better still, from the Army and Navy Co-operative Company, with branches in New York, Washington and Philadelphia. Almost any sporting goods store can furnish the outfit, which must be of the regular army pattern. Those who wish to do some study in advance are advised to read Moss's Manual of Military Training.

Candidates must be between the ages of 20 and 45, in vigorous health, and of good moral character. Men who are graduates or undergraduates of colleges, high schools, normal, agricultural, or industrial schools, or other institutions of learning, are preferred; but any man of intelligence, character, and ability may join. Previous military experience is not necessary. If you are not a graduate or undergraduate of some institution, it might be advisable to have a letter of recommendation from some person of repute.

Send in your own application immediately. But that is not enough. Go out among your friends, and persuade them to do the same. We must not let this chance slip. We must have as many colored officers as possible, if war should come.

Sincerely yours,

——— J. E. Spingarn ———

N. B.—Applications should be sent to Dr. J. E. Spingarn, 9 West 73rd Street, New York. A brief letter, with a few details about yourself, will be sufficient for the present. We must persuade General Wood that over two hundred men want to join immediately.

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The Commercial College

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Sunday Lecture

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was addressed by Professor G. David Houston, head of the English department of Howard. Professor Houston is an honorary member of the Fraternity. He addressed his fraternity on the subject "The Manly Elements in the Christian Religion." Professor Houston pointed out the four principal elements in the personality of Christ. These elements were patience, unselfishness, forgiveness and love. He placed special emphasis on the element of love. He asked the young men, in a striking appeal, to study themselves and ascertain whether or not they have those four manly elements which are characteristic of Christian religion.

The message brought to the Fraternity by Professor Houston will long be remembered and felt by the members.

The Varsity Debating Teams

On Tuesday evening, February 20th, the final competitive was held for the selection of members for the Howard Varsity Debating Teams. The first competitive was held on the previous Friday evening. On that evening eight men qualified for the final.

Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock the final arguments began. The question was "Resolved, That the United States should make compulsory arbitration the method for the settlement of all disputes between Capital and Labor." The contest was filled with keen rivalry and great enthusiasm. A large audience heard the contestants propound several plausible and illustrious propositions.

The judges selected: Messrs. T. B. D. Dyett, '18; Jesse S. Heslip, '17; Maxey A. Jackson, '18; and W. S. Nelson, '18; as members of the varsity teams Messrs. H. I. Wilson, '17, Arthur Payne, '19, C. C. Johnson, '19, and R. E. Carey, '18, were selected for Alternates. These men will represent Howard in the annual triangular debate with Fisk and Atlanta Universities on April 13th. Mr. W. S. Nelson, '18, was awarded the James M. Gregory Debating Prize for giving the best individual argument in the trials.

Our Undergrads

Mr. Percival R. Piper, '17 (School of Engineering), is an instructor in wood-work.

Mr. Charles C Polk, '17 (Arts and Sciences), is an assistant instructor in Botany.

Mr. H. D. Dismukes, who resigned a high salaried position as clerk in the Railway Mail Service to pursue a course of study at Howard, was appointed to tutor delinquent pupils in English for the mid-year examinations.

Sage Sayings

"Great men are good servants."

"To avoid mischief keep busy."

"Thrift is a companion of common sense."

"A wise man never boasts of his wisdom."

"Good people obey law without enforcement."

"Gambling is simply a form of robbery, keep it up, if you are a robber."

"A true friends never wishes you to become a victim of misfortune."

"Whiskey leads you into dark places where no light of truth can burn."

"Marry when you feel that the world has enough of your single-handed service."

"Plenty of sleep, food, recreation, work, and prayer will cure the devil's soul."

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