- Nature Worship in China -

We hear much of the worship of their ancestors by the Chinese. Ancestor worship forms a large part of their religion; but the misguided orientals are too lavish in their adorations to confine themselves to their deified progenitors. When we recollect that each Chinese believes himself the possessor of six spirits and three souls, we readily understand how busy they must be, trying to keep them all in straight and narrow paths. It is not surprising that pantheism, which finds a god in everything, appeals strongly to the religious feelings of the Chinese. Nature comes in for a considerable share of their worship.

The ninth day of the first moon is heaven’s birthday, and the tenth is earth’s. Prayers written on rolls of silk are burned as an offering to heaven and buried as an offering to earth. In South China the peasants set up a clod of earth and lighting incense before it offer prayers in thanks for good harvests. The worship of the sun is a part of the state religion and the mandarins make their offerings to the sun tablet. To the moon, each family burns incense in a vase of gift flowers.

As among other untutored peoples eclipses are regarded with great awe. They explode fire crackers, beat tin pans and create noises of every kind to frighten away the monster that is trying to overpower the luminary. The ruler of the east sea is Wuming, of the west sea, Chohliang, of the south sea, Kyashin, of the north sea, Yachiang. These four handle the ocean. There are many river gods who walk on the bosoms of the streams. Myriads of gods preside over the hills and mountains; one for each peak. There is a god of the year, one of the month, one of the day and one of the hour. Each of the four seasons has a god. The five “elements,” fire, wood, earth and gold, have each its own deity. Thunder, rain and lightning come in also. Mr. and Mrs. Thunder and Mme. Lightning are dreaded gods.

Spring rules birth and autumn death. Tumluh, the snow god, favors the deer by keeping the hunters indoors. Every cavern is presided over by its guardian spirit. There is a tree god who presides over all trees, and there is an under god for every different kind of tree. Flowers, fruit and crops are not neglected, each receiving its own adoration.

The Chinese, however, like other people have among them many individuals who do very little worshipping of any kind whatever. Some travellers from the Orient have declared that the Chinese religion is irreligion in that so many irregularities are connived at. To the Chinese credit it may be said that two virtues are prominent, family integrity and honesty.

George Washington

WASHINGTON was born on the Virginia shore of the Potomac river. The record of his birth in his mother’s Bible reads:

George Washington son of Augustine and Mary his wife was born ye 22th day of February 1732/3 about 10 in the morning and was baptized the 3rd of April following Mr. Beverly Whiting and Capt. Christopher Brooks godfathers and Mrs. Mildred Gregory godmother.

Washington’s father was a country landowner in quite prosperous circumstances. Before George was twelve years old his father died and it became impossible for his education to be more than scant and simple. Due, however, to his mother’s good sense and sterling character, the youth was well trained in the necessary arts of life. He learned surveying and earned his first wages plotting out the wild country for Lord Fairfax of Virginia. After three years he was drawn into the militia taking the place of his deceased brother, Lawrence.

He showed himself a man well adapted for warfare, firm and courteous, commanding at all times the utmost respect. In the difficulties with the French, the Indians and the English, Washington uniformly exhibited characteristics of bravery and efficiency. Altho his first expedition ended disastrously, public confidence in his ability increased rather than diminished. When any dangerous and difficult task was to be accomplished, his countrymen turned naturally to him. So distinguished was his bearing and so cultured his manner that on his first political trip to New England, the colonists there were surprised, having thought that the Southerners were rough and unlearned. The successful issue of the Revolution elevated Washington to the highest place in the estimation of the people and he was unanimously chosen the first President of the United States.

He was rather fond of ostentation and did not hesitate to surround himself with all the pomp his exalted office afforded. Some viewed his so called undemocratic tendencies with alarm, but such alarm was groundless for Washington, as much as they, earnestly strove to found a government based on liberty and equality. It was merely the expression of his high conception of the people’s office. After serving two terms he declined reelection, thus establishing a precedent which remains up to the present time unbroken.
The University Journal

The leading institutions of the country are receiving benefactions in very large sums. The wealthy barons seem to be striving to outdo each other in giving to the cause of education. This is a splendid indication of the trend of culture which the present age is taking.

Our only criticism of the distribution of these gifts is that they do not go often enough to the places where the greatest need exists. The philanthropist often stipulates that the recipient of his bounty must have raised an amount equally as large, half as large or perhaps twice as large, according as he desires to place his gift in a moderately prosperous or wealthy institution. One notable instance of this occurred recently in the conditions regarding the disbursement of a large sum. Only those schools were eligible which could and did raise a sum twice as large as that received. It has been said with much truth that the institution which can double a large sum or even match it is not the one in greatest need of the money. We believe that some institutions should be pre-eminently wealthy, that they may be pre-eminently broad and scholarly. Such schools serve as an inspiration and support for the lesser lights. Broad research work and large scholarship are possible in the great, rich universities. But other schools of higher education cannot be on that exalted plane. It would not be well for them or for all. And these schools consideration should be given.

It is not a case of the survival of the fittest. All are equally fit to survive, for all administer to imperative needs and are doing valuable work in their several fields. The smaller colleges should come in for a proper share of the thousands annually given away. Nearly all can point to illustrious sons among their alumni and not a few schools are known only to the general public by the remarkable men who were trained there.

As long as institutions live up to their standards, serve a good constituency and strive for high and worthy ideals, they deserve and should receive encouragement. We trust that men of means may not forget the smaller colleges.

In the College World

Harvard has a fine new medical school building which is in use this scholastic year for the first time. It contains every possible improvement. Much of the money used in its erection came from the Collis P. Huntington fund.

The women's college of Brown University has a new gymnasium which cost $50,000. It is the gift of F. A. Sayles, a Brown alumnus. It was dedicated on January 26.

Professor Peck, of Columbia University, will soon complete his edition of the Satires of Juvenal, which has been in course of preparation for some time. It will probably be published in the fall.

Princeton University has been recently the recipient of a large sum of money which, declares President Wilson, will place it in the front rank as a school of research.

President Butler of Columbia has been made a member of the Legion of Honor by the French President in recognition of his services in bringing about a closer relation between the American and French universities.

Frederick Starr, Associate Professor of Anthropology of the University of Chicago has returned from Africa, where he has been conducting investigations in the Congo Free State. For this special purpose he was granted a leave of absence for sixteen months. The trip was successful. A great many photographs were taken, exhibits procured and facts compiled. Twenty-eight different peoples, each with their own language and customs, were visited. Much was learned about the Congo language. Professor Starr plans five publications as results of this trip: (1) A Bibliography of Congo Languages, (2) An African Miscellany, (3) A Series of 100 Stereoscopic Views with Accompanying Text, (4) Native Peoples of the Congo Free State, (5) A Year Among Congo Peoples.

During 1906 educational institutions received in gifts nearly $35,000,000. The following are the fortunate ones which received the largest donations:

University of Chicago, $2,850,000; Carnegie Technical Schools of Pitts-
Illustrated Lecture

On Monday evening 25th inst. Prof. Bailey Willis of the United States Geological Survey will deliver a lecture on China. This lecture will be illustrated by stereopticon views.

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Theological Literary

The election of officers in this society resulted as follows:

President - - J. S. Ellis
Vice President - - C. S. Harper
Secretary - - T. N. Austin
Chaplain - - F. F. King
Librarian - - J. A. Saunders
Sergt-at-Arms E. Fitzgerald
Critic - - Dean Clark

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Sydnor W. Bell

The University community was saddened on Saturday evening on hearing of the demise of Mr. Sydnor W. Bell, of the sophomore class of the College of Arts and Sciences. His illness was brief. The remains lay in state Sunday afternoon from 2 to 6. On Sunday night accompanied by his mother, who had come to Washington on learning of his critical condition, the body was taken to his home, Louisville, Ky. A large number of friends viewed the remains. Deepest sympathy goes out to the bereaved family:

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Prof. Miller's Recent Addresses

On last Sunday afternoon before a large audience of earnest and attentive young men, Prof. Kelly Miller delivered a splendid address on "The Greatest Problem."

On Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock he addressed the colored teachers of Washington at the M. St. High School on Concrete Geometry.

On Wednesday evening under the auspices of the Board of Education of the District of Columbia, Prof. Miller spoke most interestingly on his "Ten Thousand Mile Trip Thru the South."

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President Thirkield is at Tuskegee attending a conference of presidents of Southern Institutions. While in the South, he will renew aquaintances and visit several institutions of learning.
Books for School and College

Medical and Miscellaneous
School Stationery of all kinds
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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.

Flora L. P. Johnson, Librarian.

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Ease Hall Season Tickets
Season tickets for the baseball season of 1908 will be out Monday, Feb. 25. Each student should get one as soon as possible, as there are only a few hundred on sale.

The player who makes the highest batting average during the Departmental games gets a beautiful large Howard pennant, and the one who makes the highest batting average on the Varsity team during the season gets a Howard sweater.

The team intends to make a ten day southern baseball trip. All students on the Varsity team must be up in their studies in order to make this trip.

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The Thirty-ninth Annual Session began October 1, 1906, with a large number of new students. Most of them are graduates of a college or high school. Special students are admitted to all courses of the school.

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Secretary

Miner Hall Chat

After relishing a chicken dinner in Miner Hall on Saturday past the guests were served with mince pie which contained an ingredient that caused much discussion on account of its strange flavor. No pie was refused but extra pieces were sought.

The stationery counter has been built on forbidden ground as far as the young ladies are concerned.

Miss Elizabeth May Caroline Davage spent Saturday and Sunday at her home in Baltimore.

Miss Anna Harris, a last year's graduate of the Preparatory department is teaching near Annapolis, Md.

Much sympathy is with Miss Payne in the death of her aunt.

On Tuesday evening before the Faculty Club, Professor Kelly Miller and Professor C. S. Sylph presented reasons "Why Mathematics Should Be Required in Curricula".

Song Service March 3rd

The song service which was to have been given next Sunday by the University choir, has been postponed until the following Sunday, March 3, at 4:30 p.m.

The choir has shown marked improvement under Miss Childers' direction, and no pains will be spared to make this song service one of special interest. All are invited to attend.

The second day drew to its close with the twelfth juror still unconvinced.

"Well, gentlemen," said the court officer, entering quietly, "shall I, as usual, order twelve dinners?"

"Make it," said the foreman, eleven dinners and a half of hay."

—New York Press.
**Societies**

**Alpha Phi**

The Alpha Phi Literary Society met in regular session last Friday evening. Mr. E. P. Davis, chairman of the committee on arrangements of the Alpha Phi Prize Debate, presented the final report of the committee. Mr. M. A. Morrison, chairman of the committee on the Intercollegiate Debate, read a communication which he had received from Virginia Union University. After consideration of the same by the society, it was decided to request Virginia Union to submit another subject. At the next meeting, on Thursday, 21st inst., another preliminary debate is scheduled. Professors Kelly Miller, C. C. Cook, and W. V. Tunnell are acting as judges of the prelims. On Thursday, 21st, the semi-annual election of officers occurs.

**Christian Endeavor**

The meeting of the Christian Endeavor Society was held last Saturday by Mr. E. P. Davis. Next Saturday Miss Titus will lead. The society is growing. At almost every meeting new members are entering.

**Eureka**

The Eureka Literary Literary Society met in mock congress on last Friday afternoon. A very interesting session was held. The society is arranging its annual debate.

**Law Class Entertainment**

Under the auspices of the class of '08 of the School of Law, an evening of patriotic exercises was spent in the Andrew Rankin Chapel on Friday, 15th inst. A splendid audience greeted the speakers. The platform was tastily decorated with the national colors and the insignia of the class.

**Sirenous Finish**

"So they blackballed Miss Spice when proposed for membership in the club?"

"Yes, indeed; when her name was proposed they tore her up."

"And then?"

"Then they turned her down."

—Balto. American.

**Dangerous Locality**

"I like the house so well," said the prospective tenant, "that the exceedingly low rent seems to me a bit suspicious."

"Well," said the agent, "the last tenant died rather—er—suddenly. He was a cornetist."

"Good day. I'm a cornetist myself."

**The Vesper Service**

On last Sunday afternoon the weekly discourse was delivered by Dean F. W. Fairfield, of the College of Arts and Sciences. He based his remarks on the words found in James 4:17. To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth not, to him it is sin.

Sin is negative in its nature and is the absence of holiness, just as dark is the absence of light, cold of heat, and death of life. Light, heat and life are positive, vital terms. Holiness consists in fidelity to duty and we are under obligations to treat everything according to its nature. Sin is the refusal to do duty; it is a purely personal matter. There is no such thing as original sin, fixing blame upon us for the errors of our progenitors. Each man is responsible for his own actions and not for the actions of those over whom he had no control. Sin exists in yielding to temptation not in being tempted. Training and environment present different standards to different individuals, so that what for one is sin for another is not. No one is condemned for lack of knowledge. There must be a sense of duty neglected where sin exists. Following the light as one sees it and striving conscientiously to obey God's law constitute right action, with which God is well pleased.

ings and poems on Douglass and kindred subjects were the order of the evening. The program was interspersed with music.

Y. M. C. A.

At the meeting of the Y. M. C. A. the Rev. Dr. W. V. Tunnell addressed the organization very eloquently and impressively on "The Justice of God's Retribution to Man."

Next Sunday Mr. VanLoo, president of the association will speak. The yearly election will take place about the middle of March.

Dr. A. E. Beatty '05, now located at Haskell, Oklahoma, reports that he has a rapidly growing practice and is much encouraged by the outlook.

Professor Kelly Miller delivered an address on Tuesday evening and the "Negro Education" before the Alumni Association of Morgan College, Baltimore, Md.

Mr. O. B. Jefferson, Law '06 was in the city several days during last week and the week before. He is on his way to Arkansas where he intends to put up his shingle.

Mr. J. G. Logan, assistant instructor in physics and chemistry, spent the 12th in Baltimore attending the alumni reunion of Morgan College, of which school he is an alumnus.

Mr. P. J. Clyde Randall, Law '08 has composed a sacred song entitled "Ethiopia's Christ Song." It has been set to music by Mr. Clarence C. White. Mr. Randall is the author of a number of poems.

"I want to be an angel." That We heard a fat man say.

"I'm growing weary of this fat. I would not live all weigh." —Philia Press.
Howard University

Rev. Wilbur P. Thirkield, D. D., LL. D.,
President.

Mr. Geo. H. Safford,
Secretary and Treasurer.

Rev. F. W. Fairfield, D. D.,
Dean of College of Arts and Sciences.

Rev. Isaac Clark, D. D.,
Dean of Theological Department.

Robert Reyburn, A. M., M. D.,
Dean of Medical Department, including Medical, Dental, and Pharmaceutical Colleges.

B. F. Lighton, LL. D.
Dean of Law Department.

Rev. Lewis B. Moore, A. M., Ph. D.,
Dean of Teachers' College.

George J. Cummings, A. M.,
Dean of Preparatory Department.

George William Cook, A. M.,
Dean of Commercial Department.

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