

THE ELON COLLEGE WEEKLY

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TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1910

BIBLE STUDY.

One of the hopeful tendencies of the times is that toward compulsory Bible study in the schools. No man can really be learned and cultured without a knowledge of this book, and college men most especially should remember this. Not only should the Bible be studied for its spiritual truths and moral precepts, but it should be studied for its literature. We read the love poems and nature poems of Wordsworth with pleasure; why not the lyrics of the Psalmist? It is no harm to read the Bible for mere pleasure and pastime. If we are rather gloomy why not read the poem of the dejected Job, rather than Gray's Elegy? We might find in Absalom a character as ambitious and ungrateful as the wicked daughters of King Lear, and in Ruth a woman as sweet and noble as Cordelia. Solomon was as wise and foolish a man as the poet Shelly, Keats, or Byron. In Saul we have a man made sick by power and unscrupulous by jealousy—a man who visited witches and believed in sorcery—witheral, a man of Mcbeth's character and one as interesting as Shakespeare's great creation. Joshua was as great a military genius as Napoleon, and the wandering prophet, Elisha, was as great a preacher as the German Luther. And in the New Testament, what orator can we name that will surpass the impetuous Peter—who man more lovable than John—and what more learned than Paul of Tarsus? The language is clear and easy, simple, but how suggestive. There is no poet to compare with this poet of poets, and there is no literature so poetic. Read the New Testament, if not for moral aid then for it's diction, for Christ was a divine poet, who spoke and speaks in the sublimest figures of the human tongue. He is a Shelley, a Keats, a Byron, a Wordsworth, a Tennyson, without their imperfections—and He is a Shakespeare

plus a divinity that makes Him a greater poet than all, a perfect one.

SOCIETY IS BREEDING FROM THE BOTTOM UP.

Whether scholarship is growing worse or not we do not know—we are inclined to think it is growing better—but we do know that society in general is breeding from the lowest class up. Observation alone will sustain this statement. We may go into any city or town and we will find that the great majority of the people are of the lower class, and in the homes of this class we will find also the greater majority of the citizens of tomorrow. Among the poor and low classes children are in abundance—and these children will have no advantages of education and will simply live the life of their fathers, while among the higher classes of society and among those more able, there are few, if any children. The socially low home is always prolific in offspring. The parents have no thought for their children, without it be a thought of gain through their labour. And in the socially high homes there is an exactly opposite condition. Hence society must breed from the bottom up.

THINK HAPPY THOUGHTS.

The poet says a man may "in his mind make a hell of Heaven or a Heaven of hell" and the psychologists affirm the statement, for they tell us that our thoughts have a direct influence upon the body. They say that different thoughts act differently upon the several members of the body. They tell us that all unpleasant or vulgar or unhappy thoughts act disastrously on our physical mechanism. So we have another care, we cannot even let evil or unhappy thoughts fly over our heads, much less let them build in our hair. So, too, it becomes a sin and a harm against ourselves to think anything but happy thoughts.

Gratitude.

Gratitude is true appreciation for favor received, and once it is in the heart it cannot be concealed. Most of us like it. Many of us lack it. How often do men who are highly favored by a friend go their way forgetting the favor? Often the favor has cost the bestower self-sacrifice, time, money and pleasure, but the recipient looks upon it as the others duty and fails even to give thanks. Lend some people money when they are in a strait, and when they have the means to return they forget the kindness. Some folks will buy things to-day on a credit that is necessary to sustain life. Tomorrow they are spending cash foolishly with another merchant. Some are friends to their neighbor so long as their neighbor is able to do them a kindness, but let hard luck befall him and they are his enemies.

Sir Walter Scott is said to have had few equals as a big hearted man. When he was almost crushed by heavy debt,

Old Peter, who had been for twenty five years a dignified coachman, became an ordinary plowman. Scott's big heart was filled with gratitude for Peter's faithfulness and he was heard to exclaim, "If things get round with me, easy shall be Peter's cushion."

Ministers, after passing through many struggles to prepare themselves to preach, having gone to the church and preached the best they could, often receive little encouragement, either complimentary or financially. Only a few days ago I heard a minister, who had been preaching for several years make this remark, "That which has discouraged me most in my ministry is the lack of gratitude on the part of church members."

Students are not as grateful as they should be for the earnest work of the teachers, who often make sacrifices and put themselves to extra trouble in order to be of most benefit to the student. And how little gratitude does the student show to father, mother, brother, sister or friend who is making sacrifices at home that the boy or girl may be kept in school. But rather they show ingratitude by idleness and often by mischief and misconduct that cast reflections on relatives and parents. And they who would damage college property or turn the stage into a vehicle exhibit and the halls into calf stalls, have not the proper gratitude for those who made the college possible nor for those who send them there. Parents who have done the best possible for their children, to make them men and women, are often crushed in mind and heart at the waywardness of son or daughter, and all for the lack of gratitude.

The world is in need of such gratitude as David had for Jonathan when he said, "Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness."

Oh! gratitude thou art a jewel.

J. L. J.

Charles Lamb as an Essayist.

The qualities which go to make up the successful author are, like human nature, from which they originate, elusive and hard to define. In Lamb however there are several qualities which are easily recognized and defined.

First among the peculiar charms or

characteristics of Lamb is his familiarity. In his very introductions he addresses us as if he were writing to us alone. His cordial, "Reader," makes of him at once a living personality and arouses an interest in what follows. His writing also is characterized by naturalness or ease. He is quite unaffected and does not strain for language or effect. His quiet and never failing humor also lends a charm to his productions. He seldom evokes more than a smile, but the frequent ripples of humor which he arouses, enlivens for us the pages of his essays.

He posess a vivid and fertile imagination with which is allied extraordinary descriptive power. As a result he can lead us into any field or scene of thought, or imagination, however unreal or fantastical, and hold our attentions while there.

His writings savor strongly of antiquity and reveal a love of the past. Not only by expressions and entire essays does he endeavor to carry us back into times long past, and to present to us their beauties and superiorities over the present. There is sometimes present in his writings an oddity or grotesqueness of expression which lends to them a certain distinction and charm. His writings are also characterized by a sprightliness which enlivens and fascinates.

The essays of Lamb are noted for their force, along with the other qualities before mentioned. He secures this force by certain mechanical means such as the use of the short sentence, the parenthesis, the dash, the frequent use of appositives, and his superb phrasal power. He also uses many long and compound words in his writings.

He displays a profound knowledge of literature; references to Shakspeare, Milton, Bunyan, and the Bible being especially numerous. He is noted for his keen, common sense, and his philosophy is of a sound and satisfying type.

J. W. Barney.

DR. J. H. BROOKS

DENTAL SURGEON

Office Over Foster's Shoe Store

BURLINGTON, N. C.

DID YOU EVER STOP TO THINK

Of the many cases where DISEASE has been contracted by having your LAUNDRY WORK done in the same room that is used for eating, sleeping, and the using of Opium?

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