## THE ELON COLLEGE WEEKLY.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1911.

## FROM THE PULPIT.

We were much benefited Sunday as it was our privilege to listen to one of Dr. J. O. Atkinson's delightful sermons. The thought of his discourse was drawn from the first half of Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God." Many valuable and priceless truths were presented for our consideration. Man needs to think upon the Infinite more, and we deemed it a rare opportunity that afforded us a brief fifty minute consideration of the might and majesty of God.

"In the beginning God." This is a different beginning from the one with which you and I are acquainted. Our part in making some new thing is only to arrange and set in order the materials which God has given us. This beginning of which we speak was before the existence of material things, and before this beginning which it seems to us so inconceivable, there was surely something. We cannot think that these things of earth sprang up of themselves. But if we do not think of a Creator who created the world and all the wonders of the sky above us, then we must agree that these things created themselves. The atheist must either admit the existence of God or he must impute the creation of all things to those things themselves.

Back of all was God, the Psalmist tells us. "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." This is not contrary to science as something to begin with is necessary to all problems. No man ever saw an atom, yet our teachers of science use the word "atom" in explaining the organization of matter. So the teachen of Scripture must assume something to begin with. He knows there is some power behind this universe, and although he can never see with the human eye or explain with the mind the detailed outline of the figure from whence this power comes, yet this gives the opportunity to consider on the Infinite.

Faith is the anchor of the soul and

upon this idea of God the faith of all must be based. Faith is necessary to all, for it is the anchor-chain that runs out and fastens man to the Infinite. A fine ship on lake Champlain once encountered a storm. An anchorage had to be gained or the ship would be driven upon the shore and be wrecked. "Out with the anchor chain," the captain sternly commanded. But the anchor chain proved three feet too short, making an anchorage impossible and resulting in the loss of the ship. Just so the faith that stops short of God is a fatal faith.

Dr. Atkinson said that he did not think of God so much as finished product, but as a being filled with infinite possibilities, moving ever on things and bringing something to pass. God did not make the world and leave it. His creative work still continues and the world is yet unfinished. God is back of all the wonderful progress that man is making in the various paths of life. The difference between things and people is that people move and change while things do not: and thus we may understand the character of God as a character moving out and continuing His work, ever having in view the perfecting of man and his salvation. The character of Christ consists in its tendency and in the direction that that character is going. This is what Christ meant when he said to his disciples, "The way I go ye know."

Therefore the movement of God can be seen in three ways. First, out of the fullness of God flowed the possibility of all things. Out of His being flowed man, the sun, the moon, the world, and all things that are. We all ought to study astronomy in order that we might feel our own smallness when contrasted with the greatness of God. It is possible that other worlds may revolve around some of the stars which we see sparkling in the far off distance. And when we consider the many wonders of all creation the mind is staggered with their extent and with the thought of the unlimited power which brought all these things into being. God created the possibilities out of which created act we have the expression of His might and majesty.

In the second movement there came a change. God no longer said, "Let there be." but called a council in heaven. Here God said, "Let us make man in our own image." And so man was made in the likeness of God, a little lower than God the original text tells us, not a little lower than the angels as the translators have put it. Man was created to have dominion oven all other things in the world. To man was given the capacity to appropriate the good and useful to his own advancement; for as out of God had flowed all the possibilities of the earth, so out of man should flow the arrangement and order which we call creation. God never made a house. God never built a ship. But he furnished the possibilities of these in raw materials and gave men the powen to change these things into what we call realities. Civilization marks the distance man has traveled in making these changes. The primitive man lives on what nature has provided, but as man rises towards God he gives his heart and hand to the creative act, thus asserting his dominion over the things of the world by using them to serve his own end and purpose. The third movement of God is seen in

the establishment of the Church. In the Church God created an institution which should have to do with the impossible. The Church lives by dealing with the impossible for it was founded on the impossible. Peter conceived what he never could have conceived with the natural mind and rising to the impossible he cried, 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the livng God." Christ replied, "Flesh and blood have not revealed this unto thee, but my Father which art in heaven." "Peter, thou are a rock and upon thee I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Since then all the forces of evil and the demons of hell have beat against the Church founded upon the impossible, but in vain.

It is necessary that the Church today should undertake the impossible. Only the Church can invade the dens of robbers and thieves and transform their inmates into lovable characters. Man can't save the soul of his fellow; only the Church can change the leopard spots of sin. Miss Jane Adams has shown this by her work in the slums of oun cities.

Education does not lead the world; religion does, for many of our great institutions of learning were founded under the influence of the Church. Often we stand back in horror at the cesspools of sin and wonden if these things will cease. The Church has undertaken what to man seemed impossible in preaching the Gospel to all people. An insignificant fellow, though often laughed at, lays his heart on God's altar for service in the ministry, and God makes out of him a power for good. Yes, from out of the establishment of the Church there came the power to grapple with the impossible. Thank God for the Church and what it has done. Thank God that He gave man an institution which could deal with the impossible, transform the wicked into an angel and fit him for companionship with the Creator. "In the beginning God." E. L. D.

## DR. AND MRS. MOFFITT ENTERTAIN

One of the most delightful events of the season was the reception Wednesday evening, May 31st, given by Dr. and Mrs. Moffitt in honor of the graduating class. The hours were from eight-thirty to tenthirty, during that period of time the guests were delightfully entertained. Dr. Moffitt received the guests at the door and ushered them into the reception hall where Mrs. Moffitt, wearing an exquisite gown of white duchess satin trimmed with pearls, received and ushered them into the spacious parlors. The parlors and reception hall were decorated with potted plants and cut flowers. During the evening the guests were entertained with vocal solos by Misses Pitt, and Clements, and Mr. A. L. Lincoln, also with readings by Misses Clements and Lyerly. At nine-thirty the guests were ushered into the beautifully decorated dining room where delicious refreshments were served by Misses Moffitt, Pitt, Barnes, and Bryan. The refreshments consisted of chicken salad, saltine wafers, stuffed tomatoes, olives, pickles, and coffee, then followed a delightful course of ices, cakes, and mints. At tenthinty the guests departed, all voting President and Mrs. Moffitt a most charming host and hostess. Those in attendance were Misses Allene Patton, Sudie Lyerly,

Beulah Foster, Bessie McPherson, Lila Newman, Affie Griffin, and Mary Foster. Messrs. John Ingle, Jennings Lincoln, Marvin McPherson, Warner Wells, Howand Truitt, Rosser Walker, and Russell Campbell of the Senior class. Miss Clara Moffitt, sister of the host, Misses Pitt, Barnes, Bryan, Clements, and Mr. Liggett Lincoln of the faculty, Mrs. J. O. Atkinson, and Mr. S. M. Atkinson.

RECEPTION BY MRS. J. W. PATTON. The reception given by Mrs. J. W. Patton in honor of the senior class was delightfully planned and carried out in exquisite detail and pronounced a most charming success by the guests who were there between the hours of eight-thirty and eleven. The hall and front parlor were beautifully decorated with Marshal Neil roses while the back parlor was decorated entirely in crimson rambler roses The evening was made extremely pleasant by the hostess, a main feature being a Shakespearean contest. Mr. R. A. Campbell being the one to win the prize which was a handsomely bound volume of "As You Like It." The booby was won by

Dr. J. H. Brooks. DENTAL .SURGEON Office Over Foster's Shoe Store BURLINGTON, - - - - N. C. R. M. MORROW, Surgeon Dentist, MORROW BUILDING, Corner Front and Main Streets. BURLINGTON, - - - - - N. C.

