

## MR. HENRY DWIRE LECTURES ON CONSTITUTION AT HISTORY CLUB

### Interesting Account of Events Leading Up to Formation

On Wednesday evening, December 12th, Mr. Henry Dwire, Editor of the Winston-Salem "Sentinel," lectured to the members of the History Club on the subject of "The Constitution of the United States of America." The address was divided into four parts—first, a discussion of events leading to the constitutional convention, the actual formation and ratification of the document; second, its content; third, erroneous ideas regarding it; and last, what the attitude of United States is and should be towards this great masterpiece of governmental regulation.

As an introduction, Mr. Dwire briefly expressed his interest in history, not only as a science concerned with events in the past, but also as an incentive to optimism regarding national and world affairs today. Sometimes it seems that every project and scheme is destined to fall through, that the world totters on the very brink of ruin, but the person who has studied history and knows in what lines the currents of history run takes courage and believes that, just as in the past, things will be righted, and from the chaos apparent on every hand will come order and peace, in place of dreaded confusion and dissolution. History, as a study, is often neglected and the American constitution, although the best of its type in existence, is a subject concerning which Americans are sadly ignorant.

The American Revolution was fought to win freedom from a country which seemed dead to all ideas of individual liberty, a country whose rulers were so filled with arrogant stupidity and obstinacy that they could little appreciate the ideals of democracy which were fast forming in the minds of their countrymen across the waters. Freedom won and recognition as a nation among the nations of the world secured, there fronted the Continental Congress, established during the war, the grave necessity of providing some form of government which would bind together the various parties combining to form the new republic. It was a tremendous problem. The Continental Congress in itself was not strong and found itself unable to hold the various parts together. In 1777, the Articles of Confederation were presented to the people and two years later, after long contention on the part of Maryland, these Articles were adopted and became the official organ of government. The nation then started out to do the various things that a nation should do, but the government of the Confederation was unable to cope with the situation and meet the demands made upon it. It was ineffective in foreign affairs, as well as inefficient in solving domestic problems. The union was loose; Congress had too few definite powers granted it; there was no centralized authority; petty jealousies arising between states could not be settled; finances were in bad shape; and all these conditions

combined to prevent the Articles from becoming a governmental force in a real way.

In 1786, a convention met at Annapolis, which led to the decision that there must be some better form of government, and to the calling of a constitutional convention in Philadelphia the next year. The remarkable document formed by this body seems all the more remarkable when one takes into consideration the fact that means of transportation were of the poorest, and that even after the members had assembled, having braved the innumerable discomforts and hardships of travel, there was a decided lack of information regarding all parts of the country. The delegates included a distinguished body of men with strong, statesmanlike ideas—Davie, Spade, Williamson, Blount, and Martin, from North Carolina; Madison, Randolph, and Mason, from Virginia; Pinckney, from South Carolina; Morris and Wilson, from Pennsylvania; and many other men of tremendous influence and power, from New England and other sections.

Two plans were evolved by which the nation might be governed: One, designated as the Virginia Plan, which provided for a centralized form with a Senate and House of Representatives; the other, suggested by New Jersey, the representative of the smaller states, insisting on a Confederacy of States, a government of law makers who received all their authority from the states. The Virginia Plan prevailed after many dissensions and discouraging conditions. Gouverneur Morris and Benjamin Franklin, two prominent Pennsylvanians, helped to bring order out of confusion and wrangling, and in September, the document was submitted to the states for action. Finally, ratification was secured from all thirteen states, Rhode Island submitting only when she became convinced that otherwise she was to be regarded and dealt with as a foreign country.

The Constitution is divided into three parts—its preamble, the main body, and the amendments which have been adopted since its ratification. The preamble is a wonderful presentation of the aspirations of a country. It constitutes a charter of liberty and states as its purposes and ideals: the promotion of unity in government, the establishment of justice, the furtherance of domestic tranquillity, and the general welfare of Americans, and the securing of the blessings of liberty for "ourselves and our posterity."

The main body prescribes the machinery of government and provides the restraint necessary among all groups of civilized people. It has made two important contributions to political science. First of all, it is a unified government, strong and centralized, and at the same time preserving state rights and assigning to the states all powers not expressly delegated to

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## INTERESTING ADDRESS AT Y. W. C. A. MEETING

The regular Friday night meeting of the Y. W. C. A. was perhaps one of the most distinctive that has ever been held at Salem. The meeting was opened by the singing of two Christmas hymns after which the choir rendered "Silent Night." A short scripture passage was read from "Romans" and Mr. Heath led in prayer. Miss Lois Crowell then sang "Behold I Bring You Glad Tidings."

Following the singing of another hymn, Miss Watkins introduced Mr. Stephen, from Scarborough, England, who with Miss Bentham, is on a trip around the world in the interest of the Barnardo Homes, an institution for homeless boys and girls in England. Although this is a charity very familiar and dear to English people, few of the girls had ever heard of it and therefore welcomed heartily an opportunity to get the information from one so able to tell the remarkable story.

Mr. Stephen began with a short sketch of the life of Dr. Barnardo, the founder of the Homes, who, about sixty years ago, went to London to study medicine with the intention of becoming a medical missionary. While still a student, realizing the unspeakable conditions of the poor children, he managed to save a few sixpence each week and rented a little stable in a East-end street where he founded a club for the purpose of instructing these children and teaching them a better way in which to live. And so it was one night, after all the rest had left, there still remained one little boy who seemed reluctant to stir from his place by the side of the fire. When Dr. Barnardo suggested that it was time to go home, that he would have to lock up, and asked him where he lived, he received the astonishing reply, "I don't live nowhere!" This seemed incredible to Dr. Barnardo at the outset but, when he had heard little Jim Jarvis' story of his ill treatment at the hand of Swearin' Dick and his running away, he was convinced of the truth of the story and began to wonder how many other homeless and destitute boys there might be such as the one whom Fate had led to him. However, he did not have to wonder long for late that same night, Dr. Barnardo followed little Jim Jarvis down a street known as Petticoat Lane to a large dark building on the roof of which lay sleeping eleven other boys seemingly in the same plight as this one. Standing there alone in silence of the night, Dr. Barnardo felt that a message had come to him and so he resolved to devote his future life, with God's help, to the rescue and training of boys like these. How it was to be done and where the necessary funds were to be found, he had faith enough to leave in the hands of Him who cares for all.

So in a little house which could only accommodate about twenty-five boys, Dr. Barnardo began humbly the work of the great Homes which now bear his name and of which there are one hundred and four at the present time. Soon after their founding the Homes were opened to girls as well as boys and never, since little "Carrots" had to be told to wait a fortnight for admission

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## The Old, Old Story

While all the peaceful earth in quiet slept,  
And countless stars were twinkling in the sky,  
Out on a grassy hill three shepherds kept  
An eager watch above their flocks close by.

And lo! they suddenly beheld a light  
Which brighter shone than any other star,  
As though it beckoned them into the night  
To seek some unknown prodigy afar.

They counseled long o'er this strange sight,  
And wondered at the stars magnetic rays.  
Soon there appeared an angel robed in white  
Which hovered near within a radiant haze.

It spoke and bade them leave their flock and go;  
That strange bright star kept always just ahead,  
Until it stood above a stable low  
Wherein the cows and oxen oft were fed.

'Twas there upon a lowly bed of straw  
The Son of Man lay in the shadows dim;  
A baby wrapt in swaddling clothes they saw  
And fell down on their knees and worshiped him.

—Mary Wilder, '27.

## SECOND ADDRESS DELIVERED BY BISHOP RONDTHALER

### Tells Story of Wise Men's Visit to the Infant Christ

On Wednesday morning at the expanded Chapel Service, Bishop Rondthaler delivered the second of his Advent season addresses. Last week he explained what the birth of Jesus meant to the humble shepherds. This week, he gave a view of its effect on the wealthy, splendidly educated Magi. Thus, he clearly showed that Jesus Christ came to save all men.

In his inimitable way, Bishop Rondthaler invited his audience to join him in an imaginary trip to the faraway country of Persia in the time just preceding the birth of Christ. One of the first places of interest in this country is the site of the magnificent palace of Shushan, a large portion of which still remained at that time as a reminder of the former splendor of the Persian court. Here the visitor sees a number of Persians. He is especially interested in the religion of these people who, although they are Heathen and worship the sun, especially love Aura-Mazda, their God of Life, and hate Ahriman, the God of evil. He is also impressed with a people whose chief idea of education for their boys is to teach them to ride well, to shoot straight, and to tell the truth.

However, he suddenly finds that while he has been thinking about these things, he has unconsciously watching a group of men who are standing just across the court. These men are evidently strangers to the court, but judging from their dress, they must be wealthy. After a short time, the visitor finds himself very near them, and soon he finds the means of opening a conversation with them. He learns that they are Magi or wise men from the East. They spend their

time in watching the Heavens, and use their knowledge to tell others what events the stars are foretelling. During their conversation, they say that the Bible speaks of a new star which shall announce the coming of the savior of the world, and although others have failed in their predictions concerning it, they believe that the time will soon come when this star will appear.

Then suddenly a bright light shines over the palace scene! Looking up, the men behold a miraculously wonderful star—a brilliant comet meteor. The wise men announce that His star has come.

Immediately, the wise men desire to follow the star and to seek the new-born babe. Without delay the visitor joins them, and soon they are enabled to join a caravan which is traveling toward Jerusalem. Even in their haste, they dare not travel alone, for they are already familiar with the many dangers which one must face in traveling over the sparsely settled country.

After several weary months, they reach the great city of Jerusalem where the wicked king Herod's rule is supreme. Herod too has heard the prophecy concerning the birth of Christ and calling his advisers to him, he asks them concerning it. They glibly read what Micah has to say about it, but assure the king that they think it will be a long time before the Christ shall come. However, after some time, the wise men reach Herod. When they have told their story the hypocritical king bids them hasten to find the child, and then to return with tidings for him in order that he may also honor the new king.

Much disappointed with the wickedness and lack of interest in

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