

PATRONIZE
OUR
ADVERTISERS

The Tattler

FOR A BIGGER, BETTER OXFORD

LET'S ALL
BOOST
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GEOMETRY

The Nemesis of the Senior class, namely geometry, has come in for much criticism from the various members of said class. It seems just at present that the criticisms may be classified under two heads. The first class would give the opinion that geometry is the simplest, the easiest and the most beneficial subject in the curriculum. Needless to say this is the opinion of that portion of the class which is optimistic enough to believe that they have attained the astounding grade of seventy-five on the late exams. But the opinion of the other portion of the class, which entertains no such high expectation, is entirely opposite. To make a long story short this latter opinion is that geometry should be stricken from the curriculum, immediately and without reservation.

Although I am, through circumstances, a sharer of this latter opinion, my conscience prompts me to say something in defense of this most obnoxious institution. Many of the malcontents voice the objection that they do not need to know that vertical angles are equal or that consecutive angles of a parallelogram are supplementary because they are going to be preachers or cooks or millionaires. We hope they will attain their ambitions, but if they don't learn to appreciate geometry they will make mighty poor millionaires. We agree that the subject matter of geometry will not be of much practical value though even that is well worth the time we give it, but it is the after-effects that make geometry of benefit. One has to exert a certain amount of brain-power to solve a geometry problem and it is this which makes geometry beneficial to us, or at least to those who study it. If you don't believe this look at the folks who are most proficient in geometry, or in any mathematics, for it's all built on the same plan. If they are normal in other respects they are, in the large majority of cases, highly successful. We don't mean that they are always great poets or bankers or statesmen, although this is often true, but they are successful as men count success, whatever their occupation may be.

Consider for a moment the faculties that go into solving a proposition in geometry: First, the power of organization to keep in mind what is given and what is to be proved, of analysis to decide what known truths enter into the proof; of imagination when a supposition is to be proved and of concentration to focus all these powers on the question at issue.

Surely if we can learn to exercise all these powers by devoting a reasonable amount of time to the study of this one course, then geometry is well worth all the effort it costs.

(Signed) A SUFFERER

William Pace was heard to remark a few days ago that he had bought a couple of clocks guaranteed not to run.

"What," demanded a puzzled friend, "do you want with clocks that won't run?"

"Prefer 'em that way on my socks, old dear," drawled said William as he disappeared around the corner in the direction of the bank.

EMANCIPATION DAY

Why is the first of January a national holiday? If you don't know, your cook can tell you that it's Emancipation Day. Lincoln emancipated the negroes on the first of January, 1863, but why let emancipation end there? Let's emancipate a little ourselves. This is the best time of the year to do it. Pick out the fault which you would most like to get rid of and then concentrate on the task of overcoming this fault. I know a boy who is very absent-minded. If this boy goes to a store to get three articles it usually takes him about three trips to get everything he wants. The boy in question has decided to emancipate himself from this fault. If he forgets anything which he wants to remember he is going to stop right where he is and try to kick himself. You may be able to think of a better plan than this and if you get rid of one fault this year you can get rid of two next year, and unless you pick up new faults mighty fast you ought to get to be a right dependable sort of a person after a while. Anyway, it won't hurt anything to try, so why not pick out your pet fault and start right now to emancipate yourself from it?

IVEY ALLEN

THE AFTERMATH

Holidays are fine things. There is no doubt on that score. As one member of our faculty has remarked, "There are rays of light in the universal darkness." We students should rise up in protest against this base insinuation but just at present we feel too crushed in spirit to resent.

We have eaten and slept until we are not good for anything else. Lying in bed until eleven o'clock in the morning is very pleasant while it lasts, but it is hard to realize at the time that it's not going to last. It is literally a rude awakening on the day school opens when we are hauled out of bed in the morning in time to go greet the rising sun. When we get to school we walk around in sort of a dazed fashion until by the end of the day we are somewhat normal. Then we begin to realize that holidays are over. When we get back home in the afternoon the Christmas decorations which we had come to consider as fixtures seem surprisingly out of place. They jar us continually with their suggestion of our recent good times. If we have energy enough we begin to take them down. Right there is where the hardest job begins. It is easy to get ready for something to which we are looking forward with pleasure but when it's all over and gone, the tearing down is a different thing entirely the morning after the night before, to express it in technical terms and cleaning up is a bad job anyway. But the sooner we realize that it is necessary and get it off our hands the better it will be because real work can begin only after the debris has been put away and the stage is clear for action.

IVEY ALLEN

Poor "Pig!" He got sick from eating the wrong kind of slops.

There is no doubt some boys make their mark in this world. Look on the doors at home, the walls at school, and the pavements between the two. Eventually, you might take a look inside a prison cell. Some of our best "markers" wind up there.

A BAD EXAMPLE

It must have been highly shocking to the faculty and highly instructive to the future senior when a band of proud and haughty seniors paraded through the halls at the fifth period on Wednesday last, sporting all-day suckers and bursting paper bags in front of the door of outraged teachers, to the general demoralization of all discipline and especially to a Christmas party in Miss Lewter's room. Such acts as this set a bad example for coming generations and should be promptly and decisively squelched by the authorities.

(Signed) A GUILTY PARTY

BE HAPPY

Folks, be happy, not always bubbling over with hilarity and joyousness maybe, but always be in a general frame of mind. A bit of happiness every day has cured many maladies and most people feel better when they are happy. So what is the use of grumbling and looking at the dark side of things, when it's just as easy to be happy?

But somebody says, "Why? There's nothing to be happy about." Is that so? The warm cheering sunshine was meant for you, just as much as it was for any other individual. Some other person recognizes and appreciates its beauty even if you don't. There is nothing wrong with the beauties of nature if you don't enjoy them. The trouble is with you. Your estimate of the world is not going to alter the real facts one single bit. The bird's song is none the less musical because you are such a grouch as not to enjoy it.

Be happy. Become better acquainted with the Ruler of the Universe who intends good for you, and means for you to be happy. You are here for some definite purpose. Find out what that purpose is and do your part to carry it out. You will not have to chase after happiness. Just stand still and let it catch up with you. Let your first thought on rising, be a big beautiful, magnanimous one and be always so full of happiness and thoughts of love that grouchiness and discontent will run from you.

BESSIE FAULKNER,
"The Tattler"

SHOCKING!

A piece of gossip has recently been whispered into the ears of the editors, but we realize that the publication of said chatter will require careful handling in order that the parties concerned will not be offended. Nevertheless, when a new photographer comes to town and locates on Main street near Taylor Brothers, we feel it our duty to inform the public concerning the business. Now, said photographer is a highly esteemed townsman, and we hope that he will not feel hurt when we call attention to one of his small ads. at the bottom of the steps. It runs thus—"We make Post Cards Walk Up." Our intelligent readers will readily observe that if a period had been allowed a place on the card, the photographer would not have so strenuously exaggerated the magnitude of his business—thereby frightening the passersby from the door lest they be lured upward.

Since it is so near examination time, the editors would be foolish in-

deed to incur the enmity of Miss Allen. But, as our aim is to tattle, we will take the chance. At a shortly passed date, one Herbert Rountree, Jr., called central to ring 56-W, as he wanted to converse with Ivey Allen, Jr. Central thereupon was heard to exclaim: "Oh, law—I suppose you want to speak to Elizabeth."

Our readers will be enlightened as to the significance of the exclamation, when they remember that "Lucky" Stark is on the line with Herbert, and that Miss Allen's given name is Elizabeth.

The end.

"HIGH" SOCIAL EVENTS

There was a number of jolly dances among the "high" crowd during the Christmas holidays. The Eastons led off with a very delightful affair not likely to be soon forgotten by those fortunate enough to be present.

Elizabeth Hunt's New Year dance was certainly a thing of beauty and a joy for one night at least. Those who didn't care for dancing found plenty of fun at rook. Charlotte Easton was the winner in a clever New Year contest. Elaborate refreshments were served during the intermission. Punch was served throughout the evening.

Roger Lanier was host to another jolly dance during the holidays. The Christmas spirit was in evidence in pretty decorations and delicious refreshments.

Frances Landis' informal dance Tuesday night probably concluded the holiday festivities. From now on we shall very likely have to content ourselves with Friday night parties. Such is the dictum of the powers that be.

COL. BALLOU AND DR. WHITE PLAY SANTA CLAUS

Hats off to two of Oxford finest citizens, Col. W. B. Ballou and Dr. E. T. White. At the Christmas season when most of us are busy with plans for our own happiness and that of our families and intimate friends, these two gentlemen thought of the wretched convicts quartered in our vicinity. After interviewing the proper authorities and becoming personally responsible for the safe return of the men, Dr. White and Col. Ballou arranged for a release of all white prisoners for the period of the Christmas holidays. Can you imagine a finer Christmas gift than that? Surely it is of the kind that Christ Himself would approve. Are you surprised to learn that every man on parole reported promptly at the close of his limited release? We are not. Any school boy knows that there isn't a man alive who would be mean enough to disappoint the trust of such men as Col. Ballou and Dr. White.

TOM BOOTH

Sarah Hall is responsible for the following story: Roger Lanier was driving with his mother one day recently. In accordance with the traffic laws, Mrs. Lanier brought the car to a full stop at the intersection of Penn and Broad streets.

"Why are we stopping here, mother?" Roger wanted to know.

"Don't you see the sign 'All motor vehicles full stop?'"

"But, mother," objected Roger, "this vehicle isn't full."