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THE SHAKESPERE CLUB.

The club met on the evening of Nov. 14th in the Chapel with a large attendance of students. Several new members were accepted. The meeting was full of interest throughout, and the subject for the evening, *Romeo and Juliet*, was well treated in the papers presented.

Dr. Hume introduced the subject with a few remarks on this, the earliest Tragedy of the great Master, which is interesting because of the sources used by Shakespeare and the dramatic art displayed in the play.

The first paper was by Mr. S. A. Hodgins on the sources of the play and the method of handling them. Reviewing rapidly the plot of this Tragedy, he showed the various plays on the subject before Shakespeare's day and from which he got his materials for the beautiful and touching story of true love.

Mr. C. L. Van Noppen read a paper on the "Historical Setting of the Play," mentioning the various feuds in Italy, the strife between Church and State and the romantic social life of that time, all of which are well portrayed by the Dramatist.

Mr. Herbert Bingham told about the Love "Conceits" in *Romeo and Juliet*. He gave several conceits to illustrate this favorite fashion of the Elizabethan age. Shakespeare's conceits run into the sonnet of which he is a master. This paper, by its subject and lively treatment, was well received, as indeed all were.

Rev. Mr. Towers discussed the *ethic* of the play. He said that this Tragedy was written with a purpose, and several years were spent in its preparation. There are various opinions as to the Ethics, or motive, of the play. German critics say it is to enforce the lesson of moderation. Hudson seems to follow them, saying that the lovers loved to excess. But all these are wrong in that they suppose that Love contains an element of evil. Nor can it be excessive. So the motive of the play seemed to be not to teach a lesson of moderation but to show the unifying effects of true love on human character. The Play bears out this theory, showing Love in conflict

with a hostile environment, and the value of sacrificial lives which united the two rival houses as nothing else could unite them. Charming, in style, able and profound in thought, this paper greatly impressed the audience.

The executive committee of the club was elected and is as follows: Messrs. T. S. Rollins, T. J. Wilson, E. E. Gillespie and Prof. Alderman, together with the officers of the club.

EDITORS TAR HEEL:—The college man hardly realizes how strong is his attachment to his Alma Mater, until he has left her halls, and no longer hears the ringing of the old bell, or sees at daily recitations the familiar faces of classmates and instructors.

In subscribing for the TAR HEEL, I do not feel that I am doing you near so great a favor as I receive from you in being posted on all matters pertaining to the University and her sons. I was rather surprised to read of the poor support now given your paper by the students in college. Some of them seem to regard the paper as an investment entirely overlooking the fact that the editors receive no compensation for their services, and perform the work solely as a labor of love.

In your last issue I noticed that President Winston had suggested a change in nights for the meetings of the two societies. I was very glad to see that you supported the proposed change. Your arguments showing the benefits to be gained thereby should certainly appeal to that element in each Society which has its best interests at heart. All the Di men know only too well how rapidly their Society has declined during the past three years and what was the chief cause of this? After watching the workings of the Society for four years, as an active member, I am compelled to attribute this state of affairs to the poor preparations and consequently poor performance of the literary duties assigned the members. The reason for this neglect was in turn, as you mentioned, a lack of proper time to devote to this work. As all of us know, a fifty

cent debate, a nursery rime declamation, or a borrowed composition, which the reader in most cases can scarcely decipher, cannot, and indeed ought not, interest seventy-five or a hundred intelligent students. It is an imposition to try to have them attend so wearisome a performance.

Not being interested then by the performer the members begin to whistle, throw shot, and cause general disorder, and the result is that the Society fails to accomplish the primary object for which such an organization exists, namely: affording its members a sound and practical literary training.

The students will then have practically a whole day for this purpose, the Saturday morning recitations being confined as at present, to the first hour. Before closing I wish to record in your columns my "Hurrah" for the Varsity's great victory over Wake Forest. Now for a good game in New York and a crowning victory on Thanksgiving day.

With best wishes for the future success of the TAR HEEL. I am
Very Respectfully,
VICTOR E. WHITLOCK.
Asheville, N. C. Nov. 20, 1893.

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