

The Tar Heel

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

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The New Year.

The holidays are now over, and College has again opened. With a pleasant Xmas and a happy New Year behind us, we are the better prepared to enter upon another five months of study and labor. In the eventful crisis which the University is about to pass through, it behooves us to conduct ourselves as is becoming students of a University of such reputation as is ours today. The year 1895 will be one of the most important years in the history of the University. This year, the centennial anniversary of the opening of the University, will be duly celebrated at the coming commencement. Five hundred alumni, besides other friends and patrons are expected to be present on that occasion. Let every North Carolian look forward to this occasion with joy and gladness, and, if possible, be with us at that time. The present senior class members thirty-eight. This is the largest senior class since the re-opening of the University. Next in numbers to the class of '95 is the class of '81, in which there were thirty-one members. Although the year of 1894 was a very successful year of our history, it is our aim, if possible, to make the year 1895 still more successful. The enrollment of students this year will very likely reach five hundred. This will be an increase of one hundred and twelve over the enrollment of '94.

The High Water Mark.

Under the wise administration of President George T. Winston, the University of North Carolina has returned to its ante-bellum prosperity, and the number of students now stands at the high-water mark. The largest number previously enrolled on the catalogue for one year was four hundred and fifty-six; up to Jan. 9th the total registration for this year was four hundred and fifty five. The people of North Carolina are beginning to recognize the benefit its University is conferring on the State, and will not consent to see it suffer.

The present Senior class is the largest since the reopening of the University in 1875, and will graduate about 38 men. It does not contain such a large number of athletes, nor has it broken all records for scholarship, but on the average, for all the qualities that go to make up a man, it is unsurpassed by any class that has entered here for years.

A Chair of Biblical Literature.

Among the many things needed at the University, none is more important than a Chair of Biblical Literature, filled by such a man as Prest. Harper of the Chicago University, or Dr. Crawford H. Toy, of Harvard. No system of theology or theory of interpreting the Scriptures whatever should be included in such a course; on the other hand, everything of the kind should be carefully excluded. We would have the course consider the Bible primarily from a literary and historical point of view. The student could safely be left to draw his own conclusions, and get his own moral lessons.

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The direct and indirect influence of the Bible on the human race has probably been greater than that of any other collection of books in the world. That it should be ignored in the course of instruction, not only in this University, but in the most of the institutions of the country, is a fact hard to account for.

Probably one reason is the fact that Protestants generally have regarded the Bible with a reverence that stopped little if any, short of superstition. This led them to look upon it as a book too sacred to be handled and studied as other books. whatever the cause may be, it is undoubtedly a fact that, in proportion to the amount of reading and "studying" that has been given to the Bible, the ignorance concerning it is denser and more wide-spread than concerning any other book in existence.

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It is true that a mere intellectual knowledge of the Bible promotes neither religion nor morality. But it is equally true that, where this knowledge is altogether absent, religion sinks into the ignorant superstition, and morality into a feeble striving to conform to a few laws which experience and observation have taught are essential to the welfare of men.

To a thinking man, it is a remarkable phenomenon that the Bible is believed to be a book the most of which can be easily understood by even an ignorant man, provided he approaches it "in the right attitude." On the contrary, it is, taken altogether, probably of all books, the most difficult to be understood.

The TAR HEEL hopes to see the question taken up and agitated until the Chair of Biblical Literature shall be an established fact in the University of North Carolina.

A MEETING of the Athletic Association has been called for next Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. A new President of the Association must be elected to fill the vacancy caused by the appointment of C. R. Turner as manager of the base-ball team. Other matters of importance are to be attended to, and it is the duty of every member to be present.

WITH THIS, its first issue for the new year, THE TAR HEEL presents its best wishes for a happy and prosperous year to all its subscribers.

The editors have been much encouraged during the past term by the expressions of encouragement that they have received, and they will do every thing in their power during the coming term to make the paper better than ever before, and make of it a true and impartial chronicler of college life.

THE FOOT-BALL men showed wisdom in reelecting Charles Baskerville captain of the eleven. During his three years connection with the team, he has been a very diligent player, no one more so; as captain of the last eleven he worked wonders with the poor material he had at hand. That training not only made the '94 team, but will be felt here for years to come. He will put the candidates for the next team through systematic practice and training during the Spring.

THE EDITORS for the '95 *Hellenian* were elected early last Fall; they immediately organized for work, and it seems that for this year at least, our annual would be published at the proper time. But so far this has proved a delusion; after giving signs of great activity, they have relapsed, and practically nothing has been done. If the present board do not immediately get to work on their publication, their success will be as doubtful as all the preceding boards, at least in a financial way.

THE Raleigh *Caucasian*, of Jan. 6th, says: "At the University at Chapel Hill and the State Normal School, at Greensboro, over 800 young men and ladies are being educated. Presidents Winston and McIver are doing a great work for the State." We have no reason to fear the attitude towards the University of a party whose organ makes this gratifying expression of its interest in us; and we may rest assured that in the person of Mr. Marion Butler, the leader of his party, the State institutions of learning have a warm friend. Mr. Butler is an A. B. of the class of '85, and has always been an ardent supporter of his *alma mater*.

Prof. Denison Olmstead.

The Popular Science Monthly for January contains a long sketch with portrait of Professor Denison Olmstead, the first Professor of Geology at the University of North Carolina which position he held from 1817 to 1828.

While at the University he made the first Geological Survey of the State, being the first such survey made by authority in the United States. Prof. Olmstead held the same position at Yale University after leaving here.

No nicer gift could be made by a University student than a subscription to the TAR HEEL. Several have done this, already Let others try it.

Meeting of School Superintendents.

On December 26th and 27th, the annual meeting of the Superintendents of the City Public Schools was held in Raleigh. Of the nine superintendents present, five are University alumni, as follows: Supt. Harry L. Overman, '84, of Salisbury; Supt. M. C. S. Noble, '81, of Wilmington; Supt. C. W. Toms, '89, of Durham; Supt. G. W. Connor, '92, of Wilson; and Supt. R. M. Davis, '93, of Tarboro. Two members of the Superintendent's Association who were absent are University men; Supt. Alexander Graham '68, of Charlotte; and Supt. Logan D. Howell, '89, of Goldsboro.

Papers were read by Supt. Connor, on "The Teaching of Latin;" by Supt. Toms, on "Manual Training;" and by Supt. Noble, on "The Teacher in Politics."

President Winston and Professor Alderman of the University were present; the latter gave an account of the work being done in his department of Pedagogics.

Supt. Toms was elected President of the Association for the next year, and Supt. Howell was reelected Secretary.

Rev. N. M. Watson.

At the recent Conference at Durham the Rev. N. M. Watson, pastor of the Chapel Hill Methodist Church, was assigned to the church in Edenton. Mr. Watson has had charge of the village church for three years, during which time he has accomplished a vast amount of good among the students. He mingled with the boys, took interest in their sports, especially tennis, and carrying his religion with him, exerted a beneficent influence over them. We regret his departing and wish him success wherever he goes.

The new pastor, Rev. L. S. Massey, is a graduate of Trinity College, and an accomplished gentleman. To him we extend our sincerest welcome and wishes for achievements even greater than those of his predecessor.

Evangelist Pearson Coming.

At the invitation of the University Young Men's Christian Association, the noted evangelist, Rev. G. Pearson, of Asheville, will come to Chapel Hill on about the 20th of this month, and hold a series of revival meetings lasting about a week or ten days. There will be two services a day, morning and evening which will be held in Gerrard Hall. Further notice will be given.

Executive Committee of the Trustees.

The Executive Committee of the University Trustees met in Raleigh on Jan. 5th. Governor Carr presided. President Winston and Bursar Patterson were present. The reports of the Secretary and the Bursar were read and adopted.

The first number of the latest University publication, the *Alumni Quarterly* will appear in a few days.