

The Tar Heel.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

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It is with a feeling of regret that we are again forced to call attention to the marking on the tablets in the Memorial Hall. One mention should suffice for those who will for a moment consider the foolishness in such a custom. You gain nothing by such actions but instead the University suffers. Yearly the Hall is crowded with people from all parts of the State and among these are many who have put tablets into the Hall in memory of some friend. These persons, and indeed all, if the tablets are covered with obscenelanguage, will judge there exists a spirit of irreverence for the memory of our noted alumni. It will also have a tendency to leave a wrong impression as to the way University property is regarded by the student body as a whole. The number having this light regard for its property is small but from the foolishness of this small minority the attitude of the majority will be determined.

It seems that at present the tablets are being used by the Freshman and Sophomore as bulletin boards on which to post the latest discoveries as to the character of the other. One member of the class, it may be through thoughtlessness, writes his opinion on the tablet. This is immediately followed by others until the tablet is covered.

Such a custom is useless. The University furnishes bulletin boards for the posting of any valuable announcement. And we take the liberty to say that it will also furnish paper for the writing of such notices rather than the tablets used for the present purpose. So it will be more in accord to use these and cease to disfigure the memorials of men of whom the University has a right to be proud.

From year to year there gathers at Chapel Hill a large number of young men for the purpose of study.

As this number increases many new conveniences are added to meet the needs of this increased attendance. But there are several barbarous customs existing which have received but very little attention.

And chief among these is the facility for book getting. Books are something with which every one needs, and it is to use them that we are here, yet anything can be gotten easier.

Very often is it the case that a class is forced to wait several days on account of delayed books which have been ordered for weeks. In some instances subjects are finished by lectures, before the books can be gotten. We admit that part of this is due to those who use the books but in a majority of cases the fault is due to the poor facilities for getting books. It is no uncommon occurrence to go into the bookstore to order a book and be told by the dealer that he is ignorant as to where the book wanted is published. The

student is then forced to wait until he runs the book down before there is even a hope of getting what he needs. While this is being done he is getting behind his class or it may be, the work of the entire class is being impeded.

Again, if any one wishes to preserve a copy of a periodical of any kind containing an account of some event, he is unable to get it in town. There are no facilities along this line at all.

The dealers will no doubt claim that there is no money in such business. How many of them have made an attempt to build up a trade of this kind? How many of them keeps anything in stock that there is any risk in handling? This is our trouble now. No one will order books or periodicals of any kind except those for which specific orders have been given.

Let one of the dealers increase his facilities for getting such supplies and he will not lose for such an arrangement is a necessity.

We are sorry to see that the Athletic Association is still indifferent to the need of a change in its constitution, whereby the duties of the Association could be carried out in a more business-like and successful manner.

That the present system for the support of our teams is not adequate cannot be denied. To come down to hard facts, the present base ball team is not decently equipped, and yet, if most of the cases in the past serve as a precedent, a defeat by Virginia would result in a feeling that it was the team's fault.

While the team is not kicking about it, but instead recognize our needs and make a sacrifice to meet them, yet it is one of the examples which show that there is a decided need for a change in our methods. The method of the present is inadequate. And it is because it does not prescribe any amount which shall be subscribed nor provide for the payment of the subscriptions.

The result is that many men, we believe a majority of the students, do not subscribe amounts which they are perfectly able to give and which they would be willing to give, if such a method as we have proposed were adopted. The cause of the unhappy result has been an utter lack of business methods. It can only be removed by changing these methods.

Also a motion has been made, though not passed, in the Board of Trustees to the effect that Athletics be abolished. It was only through the efforts of President Winston that it is not now a law. The Faculty intend to present the cause to the Board and do all they can to prevent such a step. But the Athletic Association have taken no steps to aid them. And why not?

It would seem that it was because the students took no interest in Athletics. But this could hardly be true, for the wail that would go forth from the student, if such a step were taken, would be heart-rending almost.

No, the reason is indifference, amounting almost to laziness, among the members of the Association.

It is out of keeping with our usual energy and we wish that it could be removed.

Has the time not come when we should aid the Faculty in the cause of Athletics and at the same time do our best to remove the existing evils and place our Athletics on a firmer foundation, in every way? Only one month is left in which to do work which needs to be thoroughly and well done.

The Faculty or its representatives will no doubt be glad of any aid we may give them. And it seems rather ungrateful that we have not even offered to aid them, when it is for us, our pleasure and our good, mainly that, Athletics exist.

Let the Association wake up and attend to these things. Let the Athletic life of the University be rid of existing evils and then let us all present to the Board of Trustees an earnest plea and argument for their sake. The Trustees are fair men and they, too, will finally believe, "that the greatest force in the life of the University today, contributing to sobriety, manliness, healthfulness and morality generally, is athletics."

We note with pleasure and interest a series of articles now appearing in *The American University Magazine* on our University. The articles are written by Dr. Charles Baskerville, Assistant Professor of Chemistry. In his first article he has presented a review of our college life to the world, which is well worth reading and of especial interest to North Carolinians.

The second article will have for its subject "The History of the University of N. C." and the third "Some Prominent Alumni of the University of N. C." We shall wait for their appearance with a great deal of interest.

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