

The Tar Heel.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

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Again the mantle of responsibility of the *Tar Heel* has fallen upon unpracticed shoulders. It is with some misgiving that we accept the new order of things because, under the wise and efficient management of our former Editor-in-Chief, the *Tar Heel* has well proven its worthiness to the place it holds in our college life as the organ of the Athletic Association and the exponent of the literary capacity of the students. This being the standard by which we shall be judged it necessarily causes us some anxiety as to whether we shall be "weighed and found wanting".

It seems that the Track Team has gone into winter quarters. There is no reason why this branch of athletics should be neglected. During the first year of its history, the Track Team made quite an enviable record, but it seems that this department of the University is content with the past and looks toward the future with the calm serenity of listlessness and inactivity. Through the generosity of a former student we have a good track and all the necessary equipments and there is no excuse for the present disorganization. Many of the Universities have already organized their Track Teams and are now steadily at work, so it becomes us to keep pace with our sister colleges.

One reason for the lack of enthusiasm along this line is that we have no Manager and hence no contest with other Colleges.

Let us then reorganize the Track Team, send forth the war cry and volunteers will flock to the scene of action, and the record of '98 will eclipse that of '97.

It is very gratifying to those who are interested in the success of our baseball team to see the large number of candidates out for daily batting practice.

The schedule which appears in another column is a very important one, and the team can win much glory if hard systematic work is done. This is Carolina's opportunity to put out a champion team which will be a fit rival of the team of '95. Let us forget those things which are behind and press for-

ward to the high calling which is,—
Champions—

A Character that Charms.

Admirers of Hugh Wynne are rejoicing in Dr. Mitchell's new story which the January Century begins to unfold.

"The Adventures of Francios" finds its scenery in the French Revolution. Its historic value does not yet appear, but in these opening chapters we are introduced to a character that charms. Francios, of whom "Nature meant to make a gentleman" but "evil fortune made a reprobate," is possessed of unquenchable merriment and brightness of heart.

"I do not know why the birds sing nor why thou dost laugh," says the pious Priest to the ten year old boy. "Thou hast a talent that way. The good God grant thee always cause."

Sadly, in even these first chapters, does the cause for laughter fail him, but never-the-less he is ever merry. In the quiet Convent among the other orphans, Nature and his keen sense of humor override the dullness. At the choir-master's, his loveless attic life is brightened by the cats on the opposite roof. And when, at last, ill-treatment and a natural wildness of wing combine to make him leave the Rue des Chanteurs, he sits homeless and dinnerless on the banks of the Seine watching the red barges go by "with no more care than a moth just out of its cocoon."

Foundling, thief, juggler and fencing master are the roles in which the title presents him, and in the second character he is handled by the author with lenience and even tenderness. He was "just a little Ishmaelite cast adrift on the street to feed as he might" and "The bon Dieu alone knows all of a man." And on his own lips we find, "I have always liked the Sun better than the shadow; and as to relieving my wants, are the birds thieves?"

The illustrations by Andree Castaigne will afford no small interest to the story.

The First Woman to Receive a Diploma from U. N. C.

Of the four women now in the University, only one will be graduated with the class of '98,—Miss Sallie Stockard. She is an alumna of Guilford College, having been graduated at that institution last June. Miss Stockard will be the first woman who has ever enjoyed the distinction of receiving a diploma from the University of North Carolina. She, like the other "Co-eds", is taking a high stand in her classes. Miss Stockard is a cousin of the Poet, Henry Jerome Stockard.

Merrill Tonight.

People who enjoy a good platform speaker—and this should appeal to all collegians—must not fail to hear Merrill in Gerrard Hall tonight. This is Mr. Merrill's first appearance in Chapel Hill but he brings with him the highest recommendations from the foremost men and journals of the country.

He will present a programme made

up especially for college audiences and chatauguan assemblies—a programme preeminently to please and entertain, and the TAR HEEL predicts a delightful evening to all who attend.

A large per cent. of the receipts goes toward putting the base-ball team on a substantial basis.

The Century's Prizes for College Graduates.

With the aim of encouraging literary activity among college graduates, *The Century Magazine* offers to give, annually, during four successive years, three prizes of \$250 each, open to the competition of persons who receive the degree of Bachelor of Arts in any college or university in the United States during the commencement seasons of 1897, 1898, 1899, and 1900.

1st. \$250 for the best metrical writing of not fewer than fifty lines

2nd. \$250 for the best essay in the field of biography, history, or literary criticism, of not fewer than four thousand or more than eight thousand words.

3rd. \$250 for the best story of not fewer than four thousand or more than eight thousand words.

Preachers to the University.

The many friends of the University who watch with increasing interest her every step forward will no doubt be much gratified to learn that a movement is now on foot to secure what will be known as Preachers to the University.

Dr. Alderman announced last week that he expected to have ministers from the different evangelical churches elected by the Trustees to spend one week here in each month. These ministers are not to be revivalists. They are to be considered as officers of the University with special duties to perform. They will be expected to preach in the Chapel, Sunday and Wednesday evenings of the weeks they are here; to conduct the Chapel Service every morning, and to take such part in the Y. M. C. A. every evening as they may think best. They are to have a room or office in college where they may be seen by students who wish to call on them socially or otherwise. The entire week is to be spent among the students in an effort to help them individually and collectively.

This is a most excellent arrangement and one that will add considerable stimulus to the religious life of the University. A minister placed in such a relation to the students will have nothing to do but spend his whole time among the students and for the students. His sole aim will be to infuse fresh life and vigor into every branch of our college religious life, and all his thoughts and all his efforts will be bent in that direction.

One feature of the Y. M. C. A. heretofore has been to have able ministers preach a sermon before the student body once a month, but they did no other work. Dr. Alderman's plan is an expansion of that monthly sermon idea, and will hereafter take the place of it. The Y. M. C. A. and the student body as a whole truly appreciate the efforts that have been made to broaden this field of usefulness,

Why We Should Have Representative Orations.

(Communicated.)

The writer of a recent article in the TAR HEEL advocates the change of the Annual Oratorical contest of the Literary Societies to a debate.

He assigns as the object of the contest the stimulation of originality and the development of self-reliance; he claims that this can be accomplished better by a debate. Now the contest, as I understand it, is not so much to develop as to represent the literary and elocutionary efficiency of the societies. An orator must be a consummate master of expression; for in him is combined the elocutionist, the controversialist, the philosopher, the rhetorician, and the poet.

As the societies offer a prize, the contest should test the ability of the men. An oration does this. But a man may be a fair debater and yet know very little about rhetorical symmetry, subordination, and unity. This contest should be the representation not only of invention and self-confidence but also of scholarship and oratory; and it is artistic expression and entertaining presentation rather than unpolished argument that our societies should encourage.

Neither is a debate suited to the occasion. It is very appropriate at other times, as when we meet Georgia. But Commencement people delight in fresh and attractive treatment of themes, each speaker having a new subject presented in a different manner from the others.

It is very entertaining to see how the writer arrives at the conclusion that a Junior debate is preferable to an oratorical contest for preparing Senior Orators. People generally learn to do things by doing them, and making orations is no exception to the rule. The fact is that there are already too few of them prepared here. And he proposes to destroy the first great incentive to that kind of production.

The societies are making a great mistake along this line. They require their Representatives to dress up in an oration, probably the first one they ever wore, and that too, made by their own hand. In this garb they appear at the annual festival of the University. This treatment of them, to say the least, seems very cruel. The frequently repeated criticism that they represent neither themselves nor their societies has a semblance of truth. But that is no reason for destroying the beautiful custom. Our obvious duty is, to prepare the members for the occasion.

The societies should require their members to make some orations during their Junior year. Then they will be better fitted not only for Representatives but also for members of the class in Essays and Orations and consequently for Senior speakers. Whatever the standard that the writer wishes reached, may be, it should be as much neat and scholarly expression as profound original philosophical thinking, and this standard finds its most adequate representation in a series of polished yet breezy Junior Orations.

If the plan suggested would prove more beneficial to the students and to the societies than the old plan then why not adopt it?

A new feature will be introduced at the next Commencement in the way of an annual address before the Law Class. Hon. Thomas C. Fuller, Judge of the Court of Private Land Claims, has been selected to deliver the initial address.