

The Tar Heel.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

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dressed to the Editor-in-chief and accompanied by
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second-class mail matter.

For the past two weeks the can-
didates for the base-ball team have
been faithful in reporting on the
athletic field for batting practice.

This fact is very gratifying to
those who are interested in the suc-
cess of our team in the coming sea-
son, because the men composing the
team must acquire the ability to hit
the ball before runs can be scored.

—In a few days the practice games
will begin and each man will be
tested, hence it is necessary that all
who can play base-ball should put
forth every effort in order to make
his "selection" sure, for competition
will be sharp in some of the position,
and the aspirants will not "win in a
walk."

We have the best material we
have had in the last three years, and
there is no reason why we should
not put out a winning team, however
our final success depends to a large
extent upon the work done in the
practice games.

A plan is being inaugurated by
which letters will be written by
some of the leading Southern Col-
leges and published in each issue of
the publications representing those
colleges.

This plan was adopted last year
and proved very successful. In fact
it is the only way in which authen-
tic news can be gathered from col-
lege life, because "second hand"
exchanges are apt to be colored and
distorted by those who do not un-
derstand the inner life of the college
from which they emanate.

A personal communications would
not only furnish an interesting and
true account of the college life rep-
resented by those adopting the plan,
but would also tend to promote a
feeling of common interest.

Those who attend the Literary
Societies will observe a perceptible
improvement in the exercises; a more
abiding interest in the welfare of
the Societies, and a greater sym-
pathy on the part of the old members
for those who are endeavoring to
develop the habit of quick thinking
and the power of self control.

This spirit of cooperation is pri-
marily essential before any society
can become a living, a powerful fac-

tor in College life, but this is not
all, the Societies exist for the stu-
dents,—not for any particular Class,
or for men who intend to follow a
certain profession after graduating
at the University,—but every stu-
dent whether he intends to be a
Lawyer, Doctor, Teacher, or Busi-
ness man, should join one of the
Literary Societies. For the reason
that the influences brought to bear
upon him tend to stimulate honest
individual effort and thus develop a
more symmetrical manhood.

The roll of membership is not as
large as it should be and in this
respect the Societies have not kept
pace with the general expansion of
the University. Nor is this state
of affairs due to the negligence of
the societies, but to the prevailing
misconception as to the aim and
function of such an organization.

When requested to join, men often
give as an excuse, that they "know
nothing about debating," hence it is
useless to become a member, yet
this very admission is conclusive
argument why they should join,
because if we were already perfect
it would be unnecessary to make
any additional effort.

Notwithstanding the small pro-
portion of members, the benefit
to be derived from Society work
would be increased and extended if
the students belonging to the Pro-
fessional schools, would make some
effort to attend the exercises more
regularly and take a more active
part in the proceedings. There
seems to be a prevailing opinion
among the members of the Law and
Medical schools, that Literary train-
ing and the power of logical and
persuasive speech is something that
belongs solely to Preachers and
Politicians. This is a fatal mis-
take, for no matter what profession
a man follows, there will come a
time in his life when he will be ex-
pected to express his opinions upon
questions agitating the public mind.
If by his former training he is qual-
ified to do this in a creditable man-
ner he reflects honor upon himself,
if however, he refuses, then his sup-
porters will lose confidence in his
ability and he will no longer com-
mand an extensive patronage.

We hope that the members of the
Society belonging to the Profession-
al Schools will give the Society its
merited support, and thus inaugu-
rate a new era in its growth, which
will transmit its stimulus to every
department of the University.

Applied Mathematics.

"My daughter," and his voice was stern.

"You must set this matter right;

What time did the Sophomore leave

Who sent in his card last night?"

"His work was pressing, father dear,

And his love for it was great;

He took his leave and went away

Before a quarter of eight."

Then a twinkle came to her bright blue eyes.

And her dimple deeper grew.

"Tis surely no sin to tell him that.

For a quarter of eight is two!"

Lehigh Burr.

Kluttz and Follin.

At a meeting of the Advisory
Committee last week Warren
Kluttz was re-elected manager of
the foot-ball team. His able man-
agement last fall thoroughly war-
ranted his re-election. R. E. Fol-
lin was elected manager of the Var-
sity track team. The Advisory
Committee is to be commended for
both selections.

Another View.

(Communicated.)

In the last two issues of the TAR
HEEL some thoughtful students
have very properly set forth some
of the most urgent needs of the
University. One has suggested the
need of a teacher of Elocution; and
the other that we begin to develop
the art of expression by more care-
ful and painstaking discussions in
the class-room. Now both of these
things are very good as far as they
go; but in the opinion of this writer
the most vital point has not been
touched in either article.

We need "Expression", it is true;
but learning expression without
something to express is like build-
ing a house without tools or timber.

What we need first of all
is the ability to put our thoughts
into elegant idiomatic English. The
command of tone, inflection, and
gesture in speaking is of vast im-
portance, but the ability to frame
our thought in smooth, perspicuous,
and accurate English is a still more
primary and pressing need,—second
in importance only to the need of
having thought to express.

It is a lamentable, but undeniable
fact that students of this University,
as a rule, cannot write even tolera-
ble English. They may know a
great deal of Literature and Science;
but they cannot give it either ele-
gant or intelligible expression. Evi-
dences of this are too painfully
abundant every day in the class-
rooms even with the brightest stu-
dents here. They may have the
correct idea of what the teacher
asks them; but they express it so
awkwardly that they frequently
have to repeat their answer; and
then the sentences in which it is ex-
pressed are something "fearfully
and wonderfully made." Appar-
ently the chief purpose served by
our ordinary use of English here is
to show how little of it we know.

Nor can English be learned on
ordinary recitations. If a discus-
sion is entered into and encouraged
by the teacher, the student is con-
cerned with the substance of what
he is saying; and the form of ex-
pression naturally is regarded as a
very secondary matter. Special
training and constant practice is
necessary if we would become ac-
complished writers and speakers.
We need to *write* as well as to *speak*,
and then have that writing criti-
cised, not merely for the purpose of
grading it, but to point out the er-
rors and crudities in expression and
show the student *how to avoid them*.
Simply grading a paper on drawing
a few red lines through it here and
there does not amount to a row of
pins so far as *helping* the student
is concerned.

At Harvard, we are told, there is
a professor whose sole business is
to criticise and correct the essays
and exercises of the English stu-
dents, and his only class work is to
explain the faults of expression and
style in each paper and *suggest the
proper correction*. This is of course
more than the University of North
Carolina can do at present, with its
limited means; but it does seem that
a little of this kind of work could
be done with the Sophomores and
Juniors. One such course would
be of more real help to the ordinary
student than to be rushed through
the whole nineteen now offered in

our English Department. Let the
student write an essay one week
and then re-write (*after correction*)
the same paper next week with a
view to further improvement in the
light of the suggestions made by
the teacher in these corrections.
Above all, cannot *some* arrange-
ment be made by which each stu-
dent can get at least a ten minutes
personal conference with the teacher
for a definite and specific criticism
of every essay he hands in? A very
little of some such help would soon
make a vast improvement in our
power of verbal expression, and ob-
viate much of the criticism to which
any intelligent man—in the Univer-
sity or out of it—is compelled to see
our English Department is at pres-
ent justly subject. *Then* will be
the time for the Elocutionist to aid
us in proper vocal expression.

HERE AND THERE.

Work has commenced on the new
hotel.

There was good skating on the
ponds near town last week.

A new livery stable is being erected
back of Kluttz's store.

Dr. Strange left for his home in
Wilmington Saturday.

The February number of the Maga-
zine will appear next week.

Dr. J. C. Kilgo conducted services
at the Methodist Church last Sunday.

H. M. London has been appointed
assistant in the Geological Laborato-
ry.

There was no meeting of the Di. So-
ciety Saturday night. A new carpet
is being put in.

Mr. L. N. Grant of Wake For-
est spent Saturday and Sunday on
the Hill, visiting friends.

Affirmative, Phi., J. R. Baggett
and Vernon Cowper; Negative, Di.,
H. Reynolds and J. Reynolds.

Dr. Pratt has arrived. He is giving
a course in the Geological department
on the Mineralogy of North Carolina.

The town authorities are to be con-
gratulated on the improvements they
have made on the street and sidewalk
out near the depot.

The query for the Fresh-Soph
inter-society debate is:—Resolved
"That Immigration should be fur-
ther restricted."

Mr. P. D. Gold was the best de-
bater in the Phi. Society last Sat-
urday night. The exercises of the
Di. were suspended.

Dr. James H. Pratt, recently in-
structor in mineralogy at Yale, is giv-
ing a course in the economic mineral-
ogy of North Carolina to the students
in the Department of Geology.

The next of the series of fortnight
lectures by members of the Faculty
will be given in Gerrard Hall, Thurs-
day evening, 10th inst., by Dr. F. P.
Venable. His subject is Science and
Modern life.

W. B. Weston '97 was found dead
at McDowell's gold mine eight miles
from Morganton Monday morning.
The cause of death unknown.

P. S. Cotton and J. S. Carr spent
Thursday and Friday in Oxford as
witnesses in the case of J. C. Horner
vs. R. M. Wescott, the latter suing
for his tuition.

Mr. Sam Critchlow, representative
of Chas. H. Elliott & Co. of Philadel-
phia, spent Thursday on the Hill.

The contract for the Hallenian has
been given to Chas. H. Elliott & Co. of
Philadelphia.