

February Meeting of the Historical Society.

The regular monthly meeting of the N. C. Historical Society was held in Gerrard Hall on Monday evening, Feb., 7th.

Ed. J. Wood presented a paper on "The Wilmington Alumni of the University." A short account of the citizens of Wilmington connected with the founding of the institution formed the introduction to the paper. Interesting sketches of Col. John D. Jones, Thos. F. Davis, Dr. J. H. Dickson, Hinton James, Richard Eagles, J. D. Toomer, Wm. B. Meares, C. J. Wright, and the Rt. Rev. Wm. M. Green were read.

"A Disastrous Experiment in College Government," by Dr. K. P. Battle was an unusually interesting paper, especially to the University student.

For several years previous to 1805, the students committed many outrages, often attempting to drive away unpopular professors by threats and often by outrages.

The monitor system was adopted, but the students disliked it and protested against it. Many of them were promptly expelled. This action cooled the ardor of the indignants who begged pardon, and after they had returned home were reinstated.

Such deeds caused the Trustees to pass inquisitorial laws. Archibald DeBow Murphy and Duncan Cameron were the committee who drew up the rules for the government of the University.

The professors were required to take an oath to faithfully perform their duties. The monitors were given more power. They could expel any student from the Steward's Hall dining room for loud talking, boisterous laughter, for carrying food from the tables without permission of the steward, etc.

Any student, who was disrespectful to the monitor was to be admonished either publicly or privately or suspended. The monitor made minute weekly reports to the Faculty. Upon entering students were required to take an oath to obey the laws. This system was extremely unpopular with the students. The Trustees were petitioned to abolish the restrictions. Each student signing the remonstrance bound himself to remain true to his principles. The promise was substituted for the oath but otherwise the rules were made more stringent. Thirty-eight—then about half of the whole number of students—withdraw. Their departure came near proving disastrous to the infant institution. Very few of them ever returned. President Caldwell felt very sore over the situation, but finally learned how to manage boys and the system was repealed in December 1805.

These measures were passed immediately after General Davie left North Carolina. In the last public letter ever written by him, he deprecates the action, both of the Trustees and Faculty, and of the students. He thought the system radically wrong and a system of government essentially the same as the one now in force, was favored by him.

The Varsity and Scribs lined up this afternoon for the first time this season. They made a very creditable showing.

The following men will conduct the regular services of the Y. M. C. A.:

- Tuesday—Mr. Speas.
- Wednesday—J. K. Hair.
- Thursday—W. T. Bost.

Services begin promptly at 6:45 p.m. All students are invited to attend.

Dr. Alexander will deliver his lecture on "Modern Greece and her People" in Metropolitan Hall, Raleigh, next Friday night.

A. W. Mangum '97 has accepted the position of Physical Director at the Wm. Bingham School. He is well qualified to fill the position.

Parker, '90, has been quite sick with measles, but is recovering.

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