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PROFESSOR STEVENS LECTURES ON VERY INTERESTING THEMES

"PAUL JONES" AND "THE SUBMARINE IN THE GREAT WAR" SUBJECTS

The University had the pleasure last week of having as its guest Mr. W. O. Stevens, Professor of English at the United States Naval Academy, who delivered two lectures on "The American Navy." A charming personality, a forceful and entertaining speaker, Professor Stevens found a responsive chord in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to attend the lectures.

The first lecture was delivered Friday night in Gerrard Hall, the subject of which was "Paul Jones." The speaker was introduced by Dr. Archibald Henderson. In a few brief sentences Dr. Henderson spoke of the famous North Carolinians who have held the chair of the Secretary of the Navy. John Paul Jones received his start on his brilliant career thru the generosity of one of these fellow statesmen. He recalled the tradition of how John Paul was found in a despondent mood by a North Carolinian named Jones, taken to his home, and began a new life under the name of his benefactor.

"John Paul Jones," said Professor Stevens, "the dominant figure in naval warfare of the Revolution, has well earned the appellation of 'the father of the American Navy.' At the outset of our conflict with the mother country Paul Jones tendered his services to the government and was commissioned a lieutenant. Thru the jealousy of his superior officers he was soon superseded in command. As a balm to his pride the 'Ranger' was given him with instructions to obstruct British commerce in its own waters. This he effectually did, the climax of which was the sinking of the British warship 'Drake,' a much more formidable vessel than his own."

Soon after this Paul Jones was ordered to France, where, after many disappointments and much delay, he was put in command of a small squadron with the "Bon Homme Richard" as his flag ship. The men and officers under his command proved insubordinate and after putting out to sea began to desert with their ships. One who showed especial animosity toward his commander was a Frenchman named Landais, the captain of the "Alliance."

After cruising about a bit, Jones fell in with the British Baltic fleet convoyed by the "Serapis." On the very eve of the impending battle the crew of the "Bon Homme Richard" mutinied, but Jones, by his wonderful personality and will-power, induced them to give battle. Deserted by the other members of the squadron, Jones entered the uneven conflict. In one maneuver when the two ships hung together, Captain Pearson of the "Serapis" demanded of Jones, "Has your ship struck?" To which he retorted the immortal words, "I have not yet begun to fight!" The odds against which he was fighting were enhanced by the arrival of Landais, who treacherously fired a broadside into Jones' ship. Jones seized the only chance offered him, and grappled with the "Serapis," which he forced

to strike colors. Removing his forces from his own ship to the conquered one he watched the "Bon Homme Richard" sink.

The next striking incident of Paul Jones' life described by Professor Stevens was the Black Sea episode. He received an offer from the Empress of Russia of a command in her navy which he accepted. En route to St. Petersburg he found the Baltic, which he must cross, ice-bound, but by indomitable spirit and energy he crossed the sea and reached the capital. He was commissioned rear admiral and sent to the Black Sea to overthrow the Turkish fleet. Here he encountered the opposition of Prince Potemkin and the Prince of Nassau, then in command. However, his genius soon proved his superiority, the Turkish fleet being irretrievably defeated, tho the credit for the victory unjustly went to the other commanders.

Soon after Jones left the service of Empress Catharine and went to Paris where he died friendless and in poverty. Later his remains were disinterred and conveyed to the United States Naval Academy, where they now rest enshrined.

Professor Stevens' second lecture Saturday night was on "The Submarine in the Great War." "The dominating factor in the warfare of the last four years has been the submarine," declared Professor Stevens. The submarine is primarily an American invention, he stated, tho previous efforts had been made for the construction of an under-sea boat. During the reign of James I a Dutch doctor invented a sort of crude submarine. David Boushall's "Turtle" during the Revolution was the object of much comment.

In the nineteenth century Fulton's invention of a submarine proved a partial success in demonstrations in French and British waters, but it was rejected on the grounds that such a machine for use in warfare was too brutal to be employed by a civilized nation. "Fulton's hobby," declared Professor Stevens, "was his submarine and not his steamboat."

The Civil War found the South with no navy. A man named Hurdley produced an under-sea boat that was tried out in Charleston harbor. Three times it sank not to come up, but the fourth time it proved a success and sank an enemy blockader. This was the first submarine to sink an enemy in time of war until 1914.

"In the present war," Professor Stevens said, "the submarine has proved a failure in battle because it has developed certain weaknesses. First, it cannot mount heavy guns and cannot carry heavy armor. Second, nine-tenths of its time must of necessity be spent on top of the water. Third, the submarine is slow, being able to run full speed only ten knots under water and seventeen knots on top of water."

The monitor type of war ship came back into being thru the operations of the submarine. At the outbreak of the war, England was building monitors for Brazil. These were commandeered and proved effective because of their shallow draft. Torpedoes from a submarine go harmlessly under the vessel.

The submarine contests the claim of any nation to the control of the seas. No nation has ever had so

deadly a power as the submarine. Had Germany abided by the rules for submarine warfare as laid down by President Wilson in the "Sussex" case she would now be victorious. Two years ago Russia and Roumania were out of the war as combatants, the French morale was extremely low, and Italy was all but defeated.

When unrestricted submarine warfare was launched the British Admiralty was totally unprepared: Great Britain had far too few destroyers to protect its commerce. Never before had British force come so close to disaster as in March, 1917. The minute the power of the United States was felt a marked decrease in sinkings was noted. The sound detector, the depth bomb, and the non-ricocheting shell have helped as an antidote to the submarine peril.

"As to the future of the submarine," Professor Stevens concluded, "there must be a combined navy to act as arbiter of the question. This will necessitate a League of Nations. The submarine has been the instrument that has written the word 'finis' to autocracy."

Private _____ was surprised, as most of us would have been, to hear his name mentioned, and listening further he was still more surprised as he gathered the purport of the conversation which was taking place just outside his door.

In muffled tones the first voice said, "Whose rifle is that which you're carrying?"

"It was issued to Private _____ but I have had it all this week."

"I see, but when are you going to give it back to him?"

"Oh! About Saturday just before inspection."

"Have you succeeded in letting the gun rust yet?"

"Well, no, hardly that, but I did manage to throw several handfuls of sand into the mechanism."

"Good! But suppose he gets wise and insists that you help clean the gun. What then?"

"You make me laugh, my dear fellow, such a thing is utterly preposterous. Do you think for an instant that the authorities would stand for anything like that?"

Private _____ listened intently as the owners of the voices strolled on down the hall, then just to convince himself that he had been dreaming he leaned over the side of his bed and saw with much contentment his rifle, which he had spent many arduous hours cleaning, now wrapped in a rag to keep out any stray particles of dust. Tomorrow was Saturday but Private _____ was sleepy and did not stop to contemplate the matter but again surrendered to the seductive charm of Morpheus, and was lost to the world.

A kiss has been defined as nothing divided by two, which is nothing. Therefore, when mother hears a peculiar sound in the parlor and asks what you are doing, you are perfectly justified in saying "Nothing."

It has also been defined as two divided by nothing which is infinity. Take your choice.

I wrote a poem entitled snow,
Ye ed. he made short shrift of it.
He sent it back, remarking that
He couldn't catch the drift of it.

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Sergeant: (On the day of his appointment) What! Forgotten your pencil again? What would you think of a soldier who went to war without his gun?"

Rookie: "I would think he was an officer."
Ed. Note—The rookie was on K. P. during the remainder of the week.)

A certain young lady from Gopher Went out for a ride with her chauffeur. They found her remains scattered over the plains,—
But there was nothing to show for the chauffeur.

A clergyman told from his text, How Samson was barbered and vexed, And told it so true,
That a man in the pew,
Got rattled and shouted out "Next!"

APPROPRIATE

"Revenge is sweet," quoth he; so he named his wife Revenge.

James—"Father, what is the divorce evil?"

Father—"The fact that a lawyer charges \$200 to undo what a preacher does for \$2.00, my son."

Doughboy: (Passionately) "Darling, I swear my love is enduring."

She: (Yawning) "She certainly is,"

The Girl: (Innocently) "Do you think a girl ought to learn to love before twenty?"

Student: (Promptly) "No, too large an audience."

The Instructor: (After a lengthy lecture on the mechanism of a rifle) "And is it true that the harder you pull the trigger the father the bullet will go?"

It Brought Them Over

The other day I
Got to talking
With a fellow.
A big, rough, loud private
He was—
Or rather he had been.
You see, he was just back
From France and
He had only one leg
Left to stand on.
He left the other one
Near a little French
Place they call
Chateau Thierry,
But he didn't seem
To mind it much.
Anyway, we got to talking about the war and
Some other things; one of
Them was the relative
Size of transport boats;
And I said, "They tell me
This big boat, the Leviathan,
Has carried more soldiers over than
any other
Boat." He looked at
Me a minute and grinned
A funny kind of grin. Then
He said, "Naw, buddy, you're
All wrong. The Lusitania
Carried most of them."
It took me a full
Minute to get this and
Then I started wondering
If I had enough
Money to buy another Thrift Stamp.

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