

RUTHERFORD RECTANGLE

RUTHERFORD COLLEGE, N. C.

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ENTHUSIASM

What is wrong with the world today? How many of us have not heard this question raised; how many have not heard a futile attempt to answer it fully. But, in an era of progress of sublime realization of the scope of possibilities it holds, an age of equality solidly founded, an age of tremendous scientific emphasis and magnanimous democracy, there is something lacking—the balance is not in equilibrium. Possibilities on the one side outweigh the enthusiasm on the other.

But, we are prone to say, what is this thing called enthusiasm? Well, what? Is it intangible? Certainly. Is it something hard to obtain? If we really take enthusiasm at its true value, it certainly is hard to cultivate into our lives. Enthusiasm is something that warms us inwardly, not by occasional sweeping floods on inspiration, but by that steady emotional stream directed by good common sense occupied with a desire to give everything its true value in the light of putting it to test in our own lives. Or better, it is the challenge that life flings out to every red-blooded man or woman, their attitude in accepting this challenge, and the amount plus (especially) the quality of "I Will!" they put in their answer. It comes into a man's life when the dawn of self-mastery breaks in through the barred windows of self, bringing with it a realization that Time is now, Today is transcendent over Tomorrow; and when the fear of being afraid to face life in its reality collaborating with that "everlasting whisper, 'Something hidden, go and find it,'" begins to flow through the veins like draughts of new wine.

But we ask, enthusiasm for what? Direct all this consistent, abiding, and unique emotion toward what end or purpose? For what, indeed! For life in its fullness, in its simplicity, in its beauty! For the chance to exist in a place where existence is maintained by constant effort. Enthusiasm for a task to perform, and the power granted to our physical and mental beings to complete it. Enthusiasm that will make us throw our hat in the ring with the best, and whether winning or losing in the contest called living, be glad that we had a chance to get into the game. Enthusiasm for and with others—sharing it and spreading it, and making it an instrument of relationship toward our fellowman. Enthusiasm for the higher, the more lasting facts and policies and experiences of all times. Enthusiasm for the theory (or shall we say fact?) of the ultimate perfection of humanity, and sufficient enthusiasm to make our portion of that optimistic theory prove as true in our lives as it lies in our utmost efforts to do, not excepting our obligation to our immediate associates. And above all, enthusiasm for the rebuffs of life in regard to the added strength and perseverance they bring.

But, we ask, enthusiasm for what? Direct all this consistent, very little, one is forced to believe. We at times have a fleeting interest in a thing or a project but in the heat of its day, so to speak, when our efforts toward that goal become drudgery, that interest which we often falsely label enthusiasm gives place to despondency, and despondency to the bitter remorse of failure. We cry out for changes, and changes we get every day such as they are, frivolous, shallow, and non-creative. But the abiding enthusiasm in the fundamental

principles and conducts of life is truly characteristic of the constructive spirit. We need applied enthusiasm.

Emerson has rightfully said, "Every great and commanding moment in the annals of the world is the triumph of some enthusiasm." May we not rearrange these potent words and say with all the gloom of doubt dispelled by the radiance of overwhelming faith, "The inevitable end of the life enthusiastic is triumph," adding "which is a great and commanding moment in the annals of the world, though it come to one alone!"

THOUGHTS

R. R. L.

February, the "Hunger Moon" of the Indians—the time when their food supply was lowest. But the Indian name hardly applies to the people of the present day—not even to college students, for have we not heard them complain at times of an over-abundance of beans and cornbread?

We have been enjoying probably the most unusual winter weather that any of us has ever seen or will see again. These frosty mornings, these noons when the heat of the sun tries to pierce through the haze that lingers in the air and over the hills, and these long and glowing twilights are more like Indian-summer than the middle of winter.

I like dim nights of heavy mist, and nights when the wind is high. My spirit is quiet on misty nights, but on windy nights it becomes a wanderer—a vagabond.

The most inspiring thing that I have yet seen about our College is the United States flag tugging at its cord on the flagpole out in front of the buildings.

To the motorists who drive by on the highway that flag advertises the fact that our college is wide awake and going about its business.

The twenty-second of this month was the two-hundredth anniversary of the birthday of America's mightiest man—George Washington. We have never yet fully realized the debt of gratitude we owe to Washington.

The greatest fancy of my life: to see Mount Vernon and to walk about its grounds some winter twilight with the snow falling.

This idea came to me while I was visiting Mount Vernon on a terribly hot, dry day toward the end of summer. Even the lawns were brown and parched—so who could blame poor me, for wanting to come back at a cooler time of year?

MOCK TRIAL AT R. C. WAS A BIG SUCCESS

(Continued from first page) as high sheriff and sustained "order in the court room," while Clerk of the Superior Court, J. F. Bowers, acted as clerk of the court and greatly assisted the case. Russell Berry and Attorney Hagerman acted as attorneys for the defense and "Coach" H. J. Hatcher and Attorney Bennett Riddle represented the pretty plaintiff, with Justice "Billy" Gillam also on hand to render assistance to make the event one of the most enjoyable ever given in the College auditorium. Other prominent Morganton citizens attended the event.

The empanelling of the jury, to which practically all the leading citizens and their wives in the town were called for the customary gruelling, was a feature of the evening, and the speeches by the members of the bar were full of legal wit and snappy wisdom.

That Morganton's leading citizens and lawyers could take the

time from their busy work to come down and fellowship with the people of Rutherford College in this excellent cause is very greatly appreciated by every person in the town.

Arthur Talmage Abernethy.

RUTHERFORD'S CO-ED TEAM HAS GOOD SPIRIT

(Continued from first page)

who was highest scorer of the entire season, and by Pauline Satterwhite, who ran a close second in the art of looping the ball for substantial gains. Others who saw action during the season were the following: "Becky" Tolbert, "Dot" Campbell, "Hat" Wagg, "Thel" Goode, "Anne" Proctor, "Flynn" Pons, and Pansy Hinshaw.

"Did you have the car out last night?"
"Yes, dad; I took some of the boys for a run round."
"Well, tell them I've found two of their lipsticks."—Everybody's.

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