

**THE ELON COLLEGE WEEKLY**

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**IMPORTANT.**

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TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 1910

**DEMOCRACY OF COLLEGE LIFE.**

Real democracy is an actual expression of the theory that all men are created equal. There are those among us who, when looking upward to the higher circles of mankind, believe fervently in democracy, but when looking downward to the lower circles, believe in a sort of aristocracy. So that the real democratic spirit is to be found in the lower ranks of our social order. Those, some of them, who are at, or near the top, come to feel, after a time, that there is really a distinction between them and those of lower rank. The aristocratic Englishman has never been able to relish the flavor of American democracy. He believes in casts, and when he comes to America and sees the leveling process of democracy, his aristocratic delicacy revolts at the vulgar flavor of democracy. This attitude of the aristocratic British mind is illustrated in the correspondence of such men as Thomas Moore, the noted Irish poet, the personal friend of the more noted poet, Lord Byron. Moore visited America in the early years of the nineteenth century. In a letter to his mother, written from Norfolk, Virginia, Nov. 7, 1803, he says: "This Norfolk, the capital of Virginia, is a strange place; nothing to be seen in the streets but dogs and negroes, and the few ladies that pass for white, are to be sure the most unlovely pieces of crockery I ever set my eyes upon. The first object I saw on entering Colonel Hamilton's drawing-room was a harpsichord, which looked like civilization, and delighted me extremely." Again on the 13th of June 1804, we find this in a letter to his mother, written from Baltimore: "I am now, dearest mother, more than three hundred miles from Norfolk. I have passed the Potomac, the Rappahannock, the Occoquan, the Potapsio, and many

other rivers, with names as barbarous as the inhabitants. Every step I take, not only reconciles, but endears to me, not only the excellencies, but even the errors of Old England. Such a road as I have come! and in such a conveyance! The mail takes twelve passengers, which generally consist of squalling children, stinking negroes and republicans [i. e. American citizens.] smoking cigars! How often it has occurred to me that nothing can be more emblematic of the government of this country than its stages, filled with a motley mixture, all hail fellow well met, driving through mud and filth, which bespatters them as they raise it, and risking an upset at every step. God comfort their capacities! As soon as I am away from them, both the stages and the government may have the same fate for what I care." The expressed opinions of the famous Dr. Samuel Johnson, who, however, never saw America, and of Dickens and Thackeray, the noted novelists, both of whom made considerable tours in this country, are about as uncomplimentary as Thomas Moore's. Matthew Arnold, the great critic who was a visitor in the latter years of the nineteenth century, and by his plain fault-finding talk stung America into bitter resentment.

Now, we have gone on at some length with this illustration, the attitude of aristocratic England towards democratic America for a purpose, and that purpose is that we may the better be understood when we say that the spirit of democracy and of aristocracy both are found side by side in our college life. Mr. Excellence is a college student from a top-notch family in his community; and his family has held this exalted ground for more than a generation, perhaps. He brings this air of superiority with him to college. He finds the spirit of democracy in college much stronger than he had suspected. His aristocracy turns out to be an inconvenience, perhaps a positive stumbling-block, yet he cannot divorce himself from it; he cannot get away from the idea that he is better than the common herd of college men, and they are sure to detect his real feeling. They are democratic, college life means elevation to them, and they like it. They are in the majority in all American colleges. It is the spirit of American democracy that possesses them and they despise the arrogant Mr. Excellence who is to be found in all colleges, more numerous in some than in others. What he ought to get from college life is the art of being a good mixer, the art of being democratic in real feeling. The democratic spirit need not necessarily level him downwards. The truest democracy levels upward, not by the standard of heredity but by the standard of worth, breadth, depth, and richness of spirit, by a genuine interest in humanity.

**LOCALS AND PERSONALS.**

Mr. J. A. Dickey visited his home near Haw River Sunday.

Miss Bessie Murchison left Friday for her home near Liberty.

Mr. C. J. Kee, of Mebane, spent Sunday here with his family.

Mr. Alf Simpson spent Saturday and Sunday at his home in Haw River.

Miss Hattie Ashburn spent Saturday and Sunday at her home in Liberty.

Misses Pitt and Barnes spent Saturday in Burlington visiting Mrs. Gertrude Scott.

Mr. W. F. Warren spent Saturday and Sunday at his home near Prospect Hill, N. C.

Miss Beulah Foster led the Y. W. C. A. Sunday afternoon, subject, "Standing Alone for Christ."

Mr. Bun Hearn, the efficient ball pitcher, spent Tuesday and Wednesday at his home in Chapel Hill.

Mr. E. T. Hines led in the Y. M. C. A. Sunday evening, using as his subject, "The Faithfulness of Job."

Mr. W. L. Smith was painfully hurt by his horse running away with him in a wagon one day last week.

Miss Clara Moffitt left Friday for a visit to relatives in Liberty before returning to her home in Asheboro.

Mr. J. Lee Johnson spent several days last week in Wilmington attending the revival conducted there by Dr. Torrey.

Mrs. J. C. Kee and children, from Mebane, have moved into West Dormitory. Mrs. Kee is taking vocal music.

Rev. R. L. Williamson, of Burlington, filled the pulpit here at the eleven o'clock hour Sunday and preached to good acceptance.

Mr. J. W. Barney led in Christian Endeavor Sunday evening, subject, "Christ Our Teacher." The meeting was lively, interesting and inspiring.

The graded school closed here last Friday after a successful year, with Prof. J. C. Stout principal, and Misses Ruth Jones and Lela Compton teachers.

Prof. J. T. Cobb left Friday to attend the Alamance Sunday-school Association held at Cross Roads church Saturday and Sunday. He reports that all the Sunday-schools in the county are in fine condition, more than six thousand pupils in the county. Next session will be held August 27th and 28th at Spring church.

We were glad to have Miss Lois Davidson, of Gibsonville, spend a few hours with us Wednesday. She expects to be strong enough to re-enter College by the middle of April.

Prof. W. A. Harper delivered an address at the Alamance County Sunday-school Association at Cross Roads, near Mebane, Sunday on "The Teacher Training Class." His address was very much appreciated.

Mrs. L. H. McCauley, of Union Ridge, spent Sunday night with Mrs. W. S. Tate on her return from Greensboro, where she had been with Mrs. William McCauley, who is in St. Leo's Hospital for medical treatment.

Those in the Psiphelian Society Friday evening who deserve special mention are Miss, Beulah Foster, piano solo, Mazurka de Concert; Miss Bessie McPherson, a medley, "An Evening in West Dormitory," and Miss Maibelle Pritchett, a piano solo.

In the Clio Society Friday evening the best speaker oratorically was J. S. Lincoln. Debate, query: Resolved, "That Man's Capacity for enjoying life Increases with the Advancement of Civilization." Won by negative. Best speaker on the negative, C. J. Felton.

In the Philologian Society Friday was the annual contest for the orator's prize—ten dollars worth of books. Those entering the contest were Messrs. H. E. Truitt, Summerfield, N. C.; F. S. Drake, Como, N. C.; R. A. Truitt, of Summerfield, N. C.; V. H. Coltrane, of Sophia, N. C.; W. L. Anderson, of Burlington No. 5; J. C. Stuart, of Raleigh, N. C.; Arnold Hall, of Burlington, N. C., and D. C. Holt, of Graham, N. C. All the orations were well delivered, making a highly interesting program. Drs. Newman and Randolph and Prof. Lawrence were a committee to award the prize. Mr. W. L. Anderson was adjudged the winner, not, however, without three or four close competitors.

Affie Griffin.

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