

THE ELON COLLEGE WEEKLY

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IMPORTANT.

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DR. SUMMERBELL.

The three lectures last week by Dr. Martin Summerbell, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings, on the rise of Protestantism in Switzerland, and in France were characterized by extensive and thorough scholarship and convincing familiarity with his subject. Dr. Summerbell has a happy sense of humor, just enough for desirable seasoning purposes, and his wit is no less a relish, not too pungent, without biting sarcasm or stinging irony. His audience was with him from the beginning and followed him alike on familiar and unfamiliar ground.

The Doctor is an attractive reader because of the intense interest and faith he himself has in what he is saying. The play of thought in his own countenance is magnetic. Hence what he says catches up the interest of the hearer and carries it easily and delightfully along with him.

His visit was at the instance of the Francis Asbury Palmer Board of New York City of which he is president, and to which the Weekly, in behalf of the membership of the College would express its appreciation with the hope that this splendid generosity may be continued in future years.

The quality, as well as the efficiency, of the work done in the literary societies week after week is shown in the annual public entertainments given by these societies. There are two more of these entertainments to come this year. It is difficult for one to rise much above his accustomed plane of thought or conduct even with his greatest effort. What is true as to the individual is true also, in this respect, with literary societies. It should be the desire, the effort, and the pains-taking preparation coupled with the execution of every week's program in the societies, therefore, to set the mark high in order that the annual entertainment may be of the highest possible order both as to matter and as to manner.

Although Longfellow was still a young man when he wrote, "Art is long and time is fleeting," yet the line has the experience of one of riper years wrapped up in

it. Art,—art in any craft, vocation, trade or profession comes slow, but time grows swifter on the wing as we become the more intense, the more absorbed at learning art. The art of debate, of declamation, of public reading, of oratory, of repartee, is not acquired without long and pains-taking application. The literary societies, therefore, should not put out as representatives in their annual public entertainments, those members who are not in the habit of being pains-takingly prepared at the weekly meetings of the society. That any society is in the habit of doing this, we are not aware, yet there is evident room for improvement of literary society work on the part of a goodly percentage of the membership in the different societies.

The present Junior Class proved itself a successful host Saturday evening in the reception in honor of the Senior Class. The art of entertaining is no less a part of a liberal education than is a familiarity with the fundamental subjects in a curriculum. So, once during a student's college career here he is given the opportunity of playing, in serious manner, host to his superior classmen, the Seniors. And when it is done with as much grace and tone and dignity as characterized the Junior reception Saturday evening, it gives occasion for no little delight to the Seniors and makes way for lasting pleasant memories in the Junior's mind.

MR. HOWSARE'S OPINION OF ELON COLLEGE.

In his ten days' stay here while he was conducting a series of evangelistic meetings Rev. Me D. Howsare, pastor of Memorial Christian Temple, Norfolk, Va., had opportunity to get into the real spirit of the college life, and he expresses his opinion of the College in last week's Christian Sun. We quote his article below:

"The Christian Church South surely has a right to be proud of its Elon College, N. C. It was my privilege to spend ten days at this institution recently in assisting the pastor, Rev. J. O. Atkinson, D. D., in a series of evangelistic meetings and I want to testify to my very high appreciation of the work being done there. The student body consists of a noble band of young men and women. I did not witness a single act of rowdiness. Every one seemed possessed by an earnest desire to prepare himself for the largest possible usefulness in life.

The faculty consists of large-hearted Christian men with that larger view of education which sends forth students qualified in every sense of the word for life's work. A visit to the class rooms proves each teacher an adept.

Being a minister, of course I would be inclined to be much interested in the spiritual atmosphere of the institution. No less stress is laid upon this part of life than others. Parents who send their girls and boys to this school can do so with the assurance that a more tense religious atmosphere surrounds them than we find in one out of a hundred churches at home. During our recent meetings, faculty and society meetings were suspended, the lessons shortened, and the President together with the faculty not only regularly attended the meetings but publicly advised every student to become a Christian. Under

such favorable conditions it is not difficult to have a revival. At the close of these meetings every student in the school, with few exceptions, were professed followers of Christ. It was one of the most gracious and far-reaching revivals I have ever had the privilege of attending.

No man with money to invest in the Lord's work can do better than to help this institution. Parents can do no better than to send their children to Elon College."

ROBERT BURTON.

Robert Burton, author of the "Anatomy of Melancholy," was born at Lindley, Leicestershire, February 8, 1576. He attended the grammar school of Nuneaton and Sutton, and at the age of seventeen entered Brasnose College, Oxford. In 1599 he was elected student of Christ Church College, Oxford, and in 1614 took the degree of B. D.

In 1616 he was presented to the vicarage of St. Thomas, and in 1636 to the rectory of Segrave. He then was obtaining two church livings.

He appears to have continued all his life at Christ Church, Oxford. Here he wrote the "Anatomy of Melancholy" published in 1621.

His death came January 25, 1639. He left legacies of £100, each to the Bodleian and Christ church libraries, and as many of his books as they did not already possess.

A monument was erected, to the memory of this English writer of peculiar characteristics, in Christ church cathedral.

Our information with regard to this strange author of this strange book "The Anatomy of Melancholy" is very scanty.

Various legends remain regarding him; as, that he was very good and jolly company, a most learned scholar. He was an ecclesiastic, a recluse, eccentric, spasmodically gay, and as a rule, sad.

By many he was accounted a severe student, and a melancholy and humorous person, and by others who knew him well, a person of great honesty, plain dealing, and charitable. Some of the ancient people of Christ church often said that his company was very merry and juvenile.

Burton, as described by Anthony Wood, was a good mathematician, a dabbler in nativities, a well-read scholar and a thorough-paced philologist. One of the most pleasant companions of that age, his conversation very innocent. His writing is generally free from the affected language, and ridiculous metaphors, which disgrace most of the books of his time.

After reading for thirty years and having become a walking encyclopedia, he wrote the "Anatomy of Melancholy," hoping that he might relieve his own melancholy, but rather increased it to such a degree that nothing could make him laugh but going down to the foot bridge and hearing the ribaldry of the bargemen which rarely failed to throw him into a violent fit of risibility.

Almost his entire life was spent in his study at Christ Church, Oxford. The "Anatomy of Melancholy" is a vast store house of shrewd comment, apt and learned quotations, humor, erudition, and an enormous medley of ideas, musical, medical, mathematical, philosophical; every page garnished with Latin, Greek, or French from rare and unknown authors.

The book is, indeed, a marvelous production, and proves at least one thing, that the author was a thorough classical scholar. He was not so much an original writer as a scholar and dreamer, gathering the cream of Italian and all ancient literatures. Therefore his book has long been regarded as a valuable store house of learned material; a favorite quarry to literary thieves, among whom Sterne in his "Tristram Shandy" stands pre-eminent. Also Milton and Charles Lamb are accounted among his readers and copyers.

Encyclopedias take pleasure in relating that the "Anatomy of Melancholy" is the only book that ever took Dr. Johnson out of bed two hours earlier than he wished to rise.

In Burton's life-time the book was highly popular and went through five editions; after that it fell into comparative oblivion, but it is now again popular among lovers of quaint literature.

R. A. Truitt.

IZAACK WALTON.

Izaak Walton, a noted author, known as "The Father of Angling," was born at Stafford, England, August 9, 1593. The register of his baptism gives his father's name as Jervis, but nothing more is known of his parentage.

He settled in London as a shop-keeper, and at first had one of the small shops, seven and a half feet by five, in the upper story of Gresham's Royal Bourse or Exchange in Cornhill.

He married Rachel Floud, a relative of Arch bishop Cranmer. She died in 1640 and he married again soon after, his second wife being also of distinguished connections.

When the Civil War broke out he retired from business. He bought some land near his birth-place, and went there to live, but, according to Wood, spent most of his time "in the families of the eminent clergymen of England of whom he was much beloved."

His second wife died in 1662.

His last years seem to have been spent in ideal leisure and occupation. He died in December, 1683, at the age of ninety.

He wrote the lives of John Donne, Isaac Walton, Richard Hooker, George Herbert, and Robert Sanderson. A delightful book commonly known as Walton's "Lives." His best work however is, "The Complete Angler," which was published in 1653, but

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