

# THE ELON COLLEGE WEEKLY.

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## ELON'S TWENTY-SECOND COMMENCEMENT.

The greatest event in the College year is the annual commencement. It occurred this year from June 1-5, and was the most largely attended of all the commencements Elon has held. Every exercise was thronged with appreciative friends and every number of the long program was perfectly rendered. There was not a hitch nor a jar in the entire series. The Weekly is glad to give below a rather meagre detailed account of this splendid educational pageant.

### First Day.

The 22nd annual commencement opened June 1, at 8 p. m. with class day exercises. The class had seventeen members to receive A. B. or Ph. B. degrees, seven to receive M. A. degrees, and fourteen others to receive diplomas or certificates for superior work in the Music, Art, Expression, and Commercial Departments of the College.

### Class Exercises.

The opening number of the class exercises was the address of welcome given by the President of the Class, Mr. W. H. Fleming, Greenville, Ohio. The class history was read by Miss Margaret Jewel Michael, the class poem by Mr. J. Lee Johnson, (a real poem it was, too, and not mere versification) Miss Margaret Iseley gave the class Prophecy, many of whose items brought forth rounds of applause. Miss Myrtie Cox read well many class cuts and witticisms, while the palmy of the class was set forth delightfully by Miss Ethel DuRant. Mr. J. A. Fogleman read the Last Will and Testament, bequeathing the many valuables, including the good looks of the class, to those to whom they most appropriately belonged. Mr. J. S. Fleming presented to each of his classmates a trophy of great value, much to the enjoyment of the audience. Musical renditions were given by Misses Ruby Michael, Lois Davidson, and Ethel DuRant. The Mantle Oration was delivered by Mr. J. S. Truitt and accepted by the Junior Class through Mr. C. T. Rand.

The class Oration was delivered by Mr. J. C. Stuart, who was eloquent in his treatment of the theme: The Vicarious Life, and said in substance that "in manifold ways nature and life witness to the universality of vicarious service and suffering. The greatness of one life rests upon the achievements of another. In the intellectual world we are rich only because the scholar for others makes himself poor. Our social treasure is the result of vicarious suffering. The awful sacrifice of life in the destruction of the Titanic will serve to prevent such tragedies and diminish the risks of ocean travel. In exchange for the great principle of freedom, blood has flowed like rivers and thousands of lives have been sacrificed. As a result we have the institutions most eminent and excellent in our day. We are the heirs of the ages because of the sacrifices of our forefathers to exalt us. The real, helpful life is the

vicarious life, and in becoming martyrs to others' good we realize our noblest and best selves."

At the conclusion of the regular program, the president announced that the young ladies of the class had made their memento gift to Alma Mater in sharing the expense recently incident in refitting the College Auditorium and that the young men of the class had given a beautiful electric fixture for the rostrum of the Auditorium.

The other members of the class spoke on Commencement Day.

### Second Day—The Sermon.

The baccalaureate sermon by Rev. J. F. Burnett, D. D., Sec. of the American Christian Convention which has its head offices in the city of Dayton, O., and which has under its control all Christian churches in the United States and Canada, operating extensive mission stations in Japan, Porto Rico, South America, and has under its control also the educational, publishing and missionary interests of the Christian denomination, occurred on the morning of June 2 at 11:30 o'clock. Dr. Burnett had come all the way from central Iowa to deliver his message to the members of the Senior Class. His coming had been looked forward to with genuine pleasure by all those who knew his power as a pulpit orator. Dr. Burnett chose as his text Tim. 4:16 and spoke in part as follows:

"The successful life is one that recognizes its unity. Paul understood the unity of life and said 'this one thing I do.' There are two words of the text that should be especially emphasized: Thyself and Heed. There is a personality of which every normal life is fundamental success. The words, take heed, ordinarily mean to listen, to look, but in this connection it means to grip, to grasp, to hold. The illustration is that of a farmer who is inexperienced and when he is about to begin a furrow an old experienced farmer says, 'Young man, the surface of the ground is uneven; get a firm hold upon the plow handles.' That is the philosophy of the text and the advice of the good and wise Paul, and I have come to vocalize and emphasize in the most practical way the sound advice of this old Hebrew.

"There are two spheres in which this personality may find opportunity of expression. One of these spheres is the world of flesh and things into which we are born without any conscious knowledge upon our part, and the other is the world of spiritual verities into which we are born with our full knowledge and consent. Our birth into this world gives us a right to appropriate all the blessings of the world, and the same is true of the birth into the kingdom of spiritual life.

"There are three great laws which must be applied to life in both these spheres if life is to reach its best. The law of suppression must be applied to all the functions of the soul, which lie beneath the spiritual birth line, such as combativeness, acquisitiveness, self-esteem and oth-

ers of like character. The law of cultivation must be applied to all the nobler qualities of life and to those born with our birth into the spiritual kingdom. The law of impartation must be applied to all the powers of life by which we are made capable of serving. The law of freely giving because of having freely received is absolute and universal. It is the law of God in all things."

### Baccalaureate Address.

On the evening of this day President Harper delivered his baccalaureate address from Rom. 12:11, deducing as the theme of the occasion: Life's Basic Principles, which he regarded as Attention to Business, Enthusiasm in Service, and Dedication to God.

As the Faculty have decided to print this address in the Vacation Number of the Bulletin, we do not give a synopsis of it here.

### Third Day—Board of Trustees.

The third day of commencement, June 3, was given over to the sessions of the Board of Trustees, whose members are as follows:

W. A. Harper, president, ex-officio; Dr. P. H. Fleming, secretary, Greenville, O.; G. W. Truitt, Suffolk, Va.; J. Beale Johnson and Kemp B. Johnson, Cardenas, N. C.; Rev. J. W. Wellons and Dr. G. S. Watson, Elon College, N. C.; Dr. R. M. Morrow, Burlington, N. C.; Senator J. E. West, Suffolk, Va.; John A. Mills, Raleigh, N. C.; A. T. Holland and Wm. H. Jones, Jr., Suffolk, Va.; Dr. J. Pressley Barrett, Dayton, Ohio; Dr. W. W. Staley, Suffolk, Va.; Rev. W. G. Clements, Morrisville, N. C.; C. A. Shoop, Suffolk, Va.; Congressman E. E. Holland, Washington, D. C.; D. S. Farmer, News Ferry, Va.; and Capt. Willis J. Lee, Norfolk, Va.

The president's report was read and showed the college in most excellent condition financially. During the year the Special Fund of Fifty Thousand Dollars was completed, and besides special donations amounting to \$4,925 for current expenses several minor improvements were made. The total disbursements for the current expenses of the year were shown to be \$45,292.75. The Treasurer's report showed all accounts paid in full, and that there were no outstanding bills. The president's report showed the total enrollment to be for the year as follows: Graduate students, 23; undergraduates, 228; normal pupils, 17; total, 268—the largest enrollment in Elon's history. These students represent the following states and countries: North Carolina, 197; Virginia, 52; Alabama, 2; Tennessee, 3; West Virginia, 1; Pennsylvania, 2; Ohio, 4; Texas, 1; Georgia, 3; Maryland, 1; District of Columbia, 1; Cuba, 1.

### Society Representatives.

The evening of the third day was taken up with the orations and essays of the three literary society representatives, who were as follows: the Psiphelian Society, Miss Virgie Estelle Beale, Windsor, Va., and Miss Pearle Fogleman, Burlington, N. C.; the Philologist Society, Mr. J. F. Morgan, Spies, N. C. and Mr. A. T. Banks,

McCullers, N. C.; the Clio Society, Mr. F. F. Myrick, Bennett, N. C., and Mr. C. W. Rountree, Cypress Chapel, Va.

Miss Virgie Beale was the first speaker, subject: Margaret Junkin Preston—An Appreciation. She showed great familiarity with her subject and spoke in substance as follows: "In the greenest of Virginia valleys is situated the town of Lexington, where is located Washington and Lee University. In 1848 Dr. George Junkin came to assume the presidency. His daughter, Margaret, was highly educated, possessing a noble and admirable disposition, combined with many other excellent qualities and characteristics.

"She was a talented poet, ranking with Lanier, Hayne, and Timrod in culture, imagination, and fertility, and mastery of the technique of her art. She possessed rare rythmical melody of expression and an exquisite ear for music in the highest spiritual sense.

"In memory and recognition of her delicate and rigorous work and delightful delicate and vigorous work and delightful gift, some old Mortality might fittingly select three of the loveliest words in our language and write them on tablets of Parisian marble: Woman, Poet, Saint."

Mr. Charles Wesley Rountree, representing the Clio Society, spoke from the theme: Defeating Oneself. He spoke of the conditions of permanent success at length. Mr. Rountree said in part:

"The world has long since learned that it has no need for a man who fights himself. Many a man has missed his chances in the business world by being afraid he couldn't do the tasks in hand, and by trying to make the job fit him rather than make himself fit the job. The world needs men who are not expecting something to turn up, but men who have initiative, tact, skill, inventive ingenuity, and men who can make things turn up, regardless of the opposition of the multitude. One defeats himself when he begins to harbor in his mind thoughts of doubt and despondency."

Woman's Rights were not without an advocate, their movement receiving an impassioned presentation in a beautiful essay entitled "Beyond the Door Yard," by Miss Pearle Fogleman, whose essay was vigorously applauded, when she indulged in such epigrams as these: "Having started the business of human service, woman is still awake to her opportunities, to her responsibilities, to mankind. She is now more interested in the welfare of her fellow beings than in the shape of skirts, decreed by Paris, and newest problems in bridge. Large-brained, motherly-hearted women are steadily asserting their power to extend house-keeping beyond private door-yards. For instance, the prime factor in the Child Labor Movement is Woman. Mrs. Mackay has been a striking figure in this campaign. Armed with the Mackay millions, a clever wit and considerable originality, how eagerly she is striving for the education and protection of poor, dirty, half-

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