

THE ELON COLLEGE WEEKLY

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and Elon College, N. C.

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COMMENCEMENT NUMBER

ELON'S GREATEST YET COMMENCEMENT

I. FIRST DAY, MAY 31

SENIOR CLASS HAS ITS EXERCISES

The twenty-third annual commencement exercises of Elon College opened on the evening of May 31, when the Class of 1913 gave its class day program.

Mr. A. L. Hook, president of the class, presided and welcomed the audience in fitting terms. The first item was the class poem by Mr. W. S. Wicker, which exhibited the usual viewpoint of such poetic composition, and revealed a mastery of the technique of the art.

Miss Nellie Sue Fleming read the class history, delineating the great influence of the class upon the life and growth and ideals of the College, and also giving the averages from various standpoints of the class, but omitting their average scholarship, "since modesty forbids."

Mr. B. J. Earp made a hit with his class prophecy, and Mr. Wicker was again greeted in the Class Cuts, which were well received.

Miss Janie Lee Beale read the class will, bequeathing to the Faculty, to the student body, and to various individuals, their bounty, not neglecting to bequeath a portion of their dignity to the incoming senior class "for it is very evident that they will need it and we have an abundance of it to spare."

Mr. A. T. Banks delivered to Mr. F. F. Myrick of the Junior Class the mantle of authority in the institution, who received it with equal eloquence and satisfaction.

Mr. C. T. Rand next gave, with fitting remarks, a trophy to each of his classmates, which they should carry through life as relics of the days spent so happily at Elon.

The remaining members of the class represented the class by orations or essays on commencement day Wednesday morning, June 4th.

This class distinguished itself by publishing the initial number of the College Annual, to which it gave the appropriate name *The Phipps*, which epitomizes the names of the three great literary societies which have played so signal a part in the College's history and progress, and also by beginning the Alumni Association Fund by subscribing \$1.00 each for this purpose and expressing the hope that every succeeding class would follow their wholesome example. This announcement was greeted with prolonged applause.

II. THE SECOND DAY, JUNE 1

BACCALAUREATE SERMON AND ADDRESS

The first day of June was a busy and also a glorious one here, for into it were crowded the Baccalaureate Sermon at 11:30 A. M. by Dr. Warren Hathaway Denison, pastor of the Christian Memorial Temple,

Norfolk, Va., and the Baccalaureate Address at 8 P. M. by President W. A. Harper of the College.

Both speakers directed their remarks directly to the graduating class and to students, but since youthful problems are always inviting, the audience entered also fully into the spirit of each occasion. Dr. Denison took as his theme, Life's Great Rule.

III. THE THIRD DAY, JUNE 2

REPRESENTATIVES FROM LITERARY SOCIETIES SPEAK

The feature of the third day of commencement was the essays and orations of the representatives of the three literary societies, Clio, Philologian, and Psibelian. These representatives are chosen from the Junior Class by their respective societies, and their appearance is always a most pleasing event of the annual commencement season.

The first speaker was Mr. Kirby William Loftin, Kinston, N. C., who represented the Clio Society, and who spoke with appreciation of "The Future Industrialism of the South," maintaining that the South will eventually forge to the front in industrial leadership, basing his conclusion upon the vast natural wealth of the South and the homogeneity of the population, which is distinctly American.

Mr. Gilmer Gustave Holland, Holland, Va., also representing the Clio Society, spoke from the theme, "Life and Its Possibilities," pleading for idealism as against realism or materialism, but felt also that the ultimate of attainment, even in material things, had not been reached. He had no fear of materialism, provided idealism could control it for virtuous rather than for sordid ends.

The representatives of the Psibelian Society then came, with their charming essays; Miss Nina Pinnix, Kernersville, N. C., who discussed the prevailing educational tendencies of today with sharp discrimination, but without unqualified endorsement, using as her subject, "Whither Drifting." Miss Sallie Warren Foster, Burlington, N. C., followed her and took as her subject, "Unknown Heroes," proving that the heroes that are not known are the real architects and producers of the heroes who are known, instancing such illustrious examples as the wash-tub mother of Governor John A. Johnson of Minnesota, the first Democratic governor of that State.

Mr. Marvin Stanford Revell, Kenly, N. C., representing the Philologian Society, entered for the farmer an eloquent plea, showing that he is the backbone of the various orders of modern life and that he is now coming into his own. His subject was "A New, Yet Old Order,—The Farmer."

The concluding speaker was Mr. Clyde

Carney Johnson, Siler City, N. C., representative of the Philologian Society, himself an athlete and manager of next year's baseball team, who discussed with full appreciation of all interests concerned, "The Relation of Athletics to College Education." Mr. Johnson thinks that athletics, when properly managed, will contribute, not only to the physical man, but to the mental and moral man as well, and gave solid reason for his contention. The subject was presented from a new viewpoint and the oration was thoroughly enjoyed.

IV. THE FOURTH DAY, JUNE 3

EXPRESSION RECITAL.—ANNUAL CONCERT.

DR. CHARLES W. KENT SPEAKS

Dr. Charles W. Kent, Professor of English in the University of Virginia, and one of the South's foremost scholars and orators, covered himself with glory in his great address before the literary societies of the College this morning. Dr. Kent was introduced by Prof. W. P. Lawrence of the department of English in the College, who referred to him as "the man who has done more to perpetuate Southern Literature and bring it into its own than any other one individual," which remark the audience appreciated by generous applause.

Dr. Kent began his address and spoke as follows:

"The transfer of sovereignty from the king to the people means that the people have the power of the king or sovereign power. The sovereign power of the people means the sovereign power of the individuals. How shall man acquire or retain this kingship?"

"By self-knowledge: A college is a place where a man finds himself, assuming what is generally true that the young man in college is lost. The newest officer is the vocational analyst to deal with the 85 per cent. of misfits. To find oneself one should take his bearings and ascertain his relations to other things; first, his fellowman, with all this means of social readjustment; second, to his Creator. Jefferson once wrote: "The relations which exist between man and his Maker, and the duties resulting from these relations, are the most incumbent on his study and investigation." Third, to the world as a theatre of action, as an object of personal concern, as a great power to be directed. Fourth. Having ascertained his bearing to other factors he may begin to weigh himself with reference to his equipment for efficiency.

"By self-reverence. What shall a man find in himself to revere? Briefly, character. A man reveres not so much his life of performance, and, therefore, a man might rightly be more concerned about creating a past than a future. Self-reverence is the result then of a life lived faithfully and rightly, of memories unsullied in their joy, of conscience approving our

past careers and of confidence in the same vital and inspiring ideals which have guided us. By self-control is meant not merely negatively self-restraint but self-direction. This puts positive principles in the place of negative laws and leads not to death but to life abundant."

At three o'clock in the afternoon the Department of Expression, of which Miss Ethel Clements is director, gave its annual commencement recital and rendered a pleasing program of choice selections from Shakespeare, Browning, Tennyson and such authors. The young ladies taking part were: Miss Nannie Haskins, Virgilina, Va.; Miss Annie Laurie Wicker, Elon College, N. C.; Miss Myrtle MacLeary, Suffolk, Va.; Miss Viola Frazier, Elkton, Va., Certificate; Miss Nellie Sue Fleming, High Point, N. C., Certificate.

Miss Haskins gave two selections antipodal in sentiment, carrying her audience with her from the sad to the bright side of life and leaving them in a bath of sunshine. Miss MacLeary's impersonation of Katherine was especially good. Miss Wicker delighted with her humorous selection, in which she always excels. Miss Frazier portrayed Judas on the night of the crucifixion with sympathetic insight and power. Miss Fleming's impersonation of Juliet revealed a rare dramatic ability, while Miss Williams was never better than in the scene from Leah which she rendered with fine effect.

In the evening at eight o'clock the Department of Music was greeted by a tremendous audience to hear its 24th annual concert. The selections were from such masters as Chopin, Wagner, Moszkowski, Litz, and others and were rendered by the advanced pupils of the director's class. Those participating in the program were as follows: Miss Annie Simpson, Atlanta, Ga.; Miss Ethel Barrett, Dayton, O., certificate in piano; Miss Hattie Belle Smith, Elon College, N. C., certificate in piano; Miss Madge Moffitt, Ramseur, N. C.; Miss Beatrice Mason, Nashville, N. C., certificate in piano; Miss Jennie Willis Atkinson, Elon College, N. C.; Miss Maibelle Pritchette, Altamahaw, N. C., diploma in piano; Miss Minnie Riedel, Holland, Va., certificate in piano; Miss Madelle Woodruff, Lumpkin, Ga.; Miss Blanche Newman, Holland, Va.; Miss Pearl Tuck, Virgilina, Va.; Miss Viola Rollings, Sebrell, Va.; Miss Annie Bagwell, Durham, N. C., certificate in voice; Miss Pearl Fogleman, Burlington, N. C., certificate in voice; Miss Grace Rollings, Sebrell, Va.; Mr. O. M. Barnes, Greensboro, diploma in voice; and Mr. M. E. Woodward, Suffolk, Va. There have been more than a hundred music pupils in the department this year.

V. THE FIFTH DAY, JUNE 4

The final day of commencement season