

# The Salemite

Motto: "SAIL ON, SALEM"

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## DR. MIMS IN POWERFUL ADDRESS AT SALEM COLLEGE

Dr. Edwin Mims, professor of English at Vanderbilt University, delivered his address, "The Fight for Idealism in America", in Memorial Hall, Salem College, at 11 o'clock Wednesday morning. The hall was filled with students of the College and Academy and citizens of Winston-Salem.

In opening his address Dr. Mims directed attention to two well defined points of view in contemporary thought, and to an irrespressible conflict between these two points of view. On the one hand was designated worldliness, indifference, materialism, pessimism and cynicism; on the other seriousness, optimism, idealism and faith in realities of the spiritual life. These, he declared, are set out in the literature of the day. In his lecture he analyzed for his audience the literature of each viewpoint and called for recruits for the army which is waging a desperate battle for the maintenance of faith, loyalty and idealism in America.

In the literature of the day, the life and thought of the day is expressed, he said, and declared that he had been overwhelmed by the tendency of the books which have been widely read. He expressed his conviction that their conclusions are superficial and that much of their influence is, let us hope, temporary. There are other books, perhaps not so much in public mind, that represent the more wholesome idealism for which the world is struggling today. The indifferent man or pessimist cannot be an idealist; there is a difference between idealism and mysticism. Mysticism is based upon a denial of actuality and reality. Idealism springs from a definite and scientific realization of actual things and seeks to interpret them in the light of something that is transcendent.

Undoubtedly one of the chief sources of the pessimism of our age is in the revelations of modern science as interpreted by deterministic philosophies, said Dr. Mims. The modern drama, modern fiction, and modern poetry have increasingly emphasized the influence of heredity and environment on character; the inevitableness of the punishment of sin becomes the inevitableness of the operation of physical laws. Men are not, therefore, responsible for their deeds; they live in the lap of an immense energy which determines their lives.

The speaker stated that it seemed to him that we are in danger of losing our perspective quite as much from taking too broad a perspective as from taking too little. "After all, there is not much danger that this world is going to burn up or freeze within our

lifetime; why not make the most of it while we can," he asked.

In discussing evolution, which seems to make unnecessary a creator and which seems to furnish the basis for materialistic philosophy, Dr. Mims said that it is not thus interpreted by many of the wisest men of our generation. The progress of science has not been incompatible with reverence and religion, for some of the greatest scientists, notably Pasteur and Osler,

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## SALEM COLLEGE OPENED ITS 152ND ANNUAL SESSION SEPT. 13, 1923.

With the ringing of the historic old college bell at 10 o'clock on Thursday, Sept. 13, 1923, the one hundred and fifty-second annual session of Salem College and Academy was begun.

The brief exercises, preliminary to actual class room work, were held in Memorial Hall, and besides the student body and members of the faculty, a number of friends and visitors were present.

The exercises were opened with the processional, "Standing at the Portal", announced by Mr. Heath and led by the Senior class. The responsive reading of the Scripture lesson was directed by Dr. Pfohl, and a beautiful prayer was offered by Bishop Rondthaler.

Then followed statements made by members of the faculty, referring to the work, and periods of various classes. Dr. Rondthaler announced the new members of the faculty of the College and Academy.

Telegrams were read bearing greetings and best wishes for the institution, faculty and students upon the opening of the new college year. These telegrams and greetings were from the following: Miss Juanita Sprinkle, class of '23, Reidsville; Miss Elizabeth Griffin, class of '23, Wilson; Miss Margaret Whitaker, class of '23, Troy; Miss Eliza Gaston Moore, class of '23, Taylorsville.

Dr. Rondthaler mentioned a number of matters of interest to students and faculty. Among them was the summer school held during the past few months at Salem, and the new connection existing between Salem College and the city schools. He also spoke of the Spirit of Salem, so well known to present and former students of the institution, and so quickly conceived by new members of the body.

A tribute to the life of Miss Louise Shaffner, for many years a member of the faculty of Salem, who died a short while ago, was paid by Dr. Rondthaler.

The exercises were closed with the singing of the recessional, "Rise, Crowned With Light, Imperial Salem, Rise!"

## THE ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER MEETING.

The "Get-Together" meeting on Saturday night had been eagerly looked forward to by old as well as new, for here was the first chance for the new girls to catch the meaning of Salem Spirit. Eloise Chesson, college cheer leader, led the Salem songs: "When We Meet Together", "There Was a School in Salem Town", and "Sociability". Margaret Russell, president of the Student Council, Dr. Rondthaler, Mrs. Rondthaler, and Miss Stipe gave the new girls a hearty welcome.

Then came the Senior stunt, announced by Mary Bradham, president of the class. The first scene was from Freshman days spent in alcoves, and was followed by the Sophomore initiation. The lovesick Juniors were next presented at the annual Junior-Senior prom, with Mr. Hunt and Mr. Session, as ardent escorts. Then came the Seniors with their newly acquired caps and gowns, singing the processional quite out of tune.

The Juniors presented the Freshmen in a most unique and interesting manner. Ella Aston, the president, was stirring a large pot of Salem Spirit, while members of the class poured in essences from bottles labeled: Sociable, Athletic, Loyal, Enthusiastic, Merry, Smiling, Polite, Interesting, Resourceful, Industrious, Tactful. Each Freshman took a drink of Salem Spirit and was introduced to the new girls.

The Sophomores described a week's schedule at Salem. Monday was represented as the day for shopping, Tuesday for study, Wednesday for Y. P. M., Thursday for soup, Friday for fish, Saturday for cold cream and curl papers, and Sunday for church.

## APPROACHING VISIT OF STEPHEN LEACOCK

Great Canadian Humorist Will Visit Salem Early in the New Year.

On Friday, January 24, 1923, Mr. Stephen Leacock, great Canadian writer, humorist and lecturer, author of "Behind the Beyond", will appear in Memorial Hall. For three years the College has been attempting to get Mr. Leacock here, but his schedule of lectures, in the brief time assigned to the United States, has been hitherto confined to the Northern, Central, and Western States. This will be the first after-Christmas occasion, and will set the pace for the special events during the remainder of the year.

## Nothing But the Truth.

Miss Mary (to a Freshman in the library)—Are you an old girl?  
Fresh—I reckon so, I'm eighteen.

## DR. JESTER TO SPEAK AT WEDNESDAY CHAPEL SERVICE

Discussion of Conditions Prevailing in European Countries.

On next Wednesday morning, Sept. 26, at the regular mid-week chapel service, Dr. Jester, pastor of the First Baptist church, will speak on "My Personal Impressions of European Conditions." Dr. Jester is admirably fitted for the discussion of such a subject, having recently returned from abroad, where, in addition to his duties as a delegate to the International Baptist Convention at Stockholm, he spent considerable time in an intimate journey in the heart of continental Europe, discovering, from first hand sources, the unusual social and economic conditions now prevailing. Dr. Jester, besides being a keen observer, is a very engaging speaker, and Salem Academy and College are looking forward with a great deal of interest to his visit on Wednesday morning.

## FIRST MEETING OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Three New Representatives Elected at the First Session.

The Student Government Association held its first business session of the year on Monday afternoon at one-thirty, in the Recreation Hall of the Alice Clewell Building. After the meeting was called to order by the President, Margaret Russell, the secretary, Mary Hill, called the roll. By the length of the roll and the many names almost unfamiliar to us, we realized that there were over two hundred girls willing to sign the pledge of loyalty to our Association.

The president called especial attention to some of the rules that have been unconsciously violated by a few members.

Because of the failure of a few girls to return this year, it was necessary to elect three new officers. The Freshmen were asked to withdraw and the old girls settled to business. Soon the ballot returns were posted. Miss Elizabeth Leight, '25, is the new treasurer. Misses Sophia Hall and Anna Southland are the Council members for the Junior and Sophomore classes, respectively. We are proud of these three girls just chosen members of the Council that forms the nucleus of our student body and we know that they will fulfill their duty to the best of their ability.

The meeting was adjourned without any further business, but all were aware that the real College year had begun with the "St. G" as we affectionately call it.