

The Salemite

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Something to Think About

Then, welcome each rebuff
That turns earth's smoothness
rough.
Each stinging that bids nor sit
nor stand but go!
Be our joy three-parts pain!
Strive and hold each part
the strain;
Learn, nor account the pang;
dare, never grudge the
throe!
—Rabbi Ben Ezra, by Robert Browning.

PARAGRAPHS

To many people are counting the days instead of making the days count before Christmas holidays.

Golden Rule Sunday is being observed on December 4. Let us observe not only in a material sense, but also in the spirit of friendliness and sincere appreciation for the noble part which the Near East countries played in the great war.

Freshmen and Probation.

A great deal of fun has been packed at the freshmen this year because of the prolonged probation period which they have been compelled to endure. Former classes have all been partially if not wholly free of probation rules by Thanksgiving, but the class of '31 is still condemned to strict chapmanship everywhere beyond the campus limits.

The class as a whole is not worse than other classes; but, because a few selfish and thoughtless girls refuse to cultivate the proper spirit and to carry out all the rules of probation conscientiously, the entire class must suffer.

On Thanksgiving Day, when the games were played, the freshmen players showed a fine spirit of team-work; they played a smooth, swift and successful game—why? Because each one was playing with the others, thinking of them and working for their mutual success. If each player had worked for herself alone, and with utter disregard of her team-mates, the result would have been absolute chaos and confusion.

Every group effort suffers if some of the members do not work for its accomplishment. Certainly a group effort, and a strong one, is needed before the freshmen can hope to get off probation. They have shown that they can cooperate to play basketball. Therefore, they can also work together for this other cause in which each freshman is concerned.

The upper-classes are not anxious for probation to continue indefinitely. They do not enjoy chaperoning any more than the freshmen enjoy being chaperoned; but they do insist that the class as a whole, shall show itself capable of carrying out college rules, and worthy of representing the highest ideals of Salem.

Procrastination

Now that mid-semester examinations have at last come to an end, and "dunk slips" have taken their deadly toll the entire school seems to have heaved a sigh of relief, and to have settled back to normal once more. In fact, the present state of affairs are such that they may be called "abnormal." It is abnormal in that the majority of us are procrastinating part of the time, and "trusting to luck" the rest of the time. No one has ever passed a course by putting things off until the last minute—neither has a subject ever been passed by sitting peacefully back and hoping that by some good luck we would get through. If hoping and wishing were the only requirements to be a brilliant girl, and to pass a course all of us would be very bright girls—just the kind that we would like to be.

The truth must be met, however, and at present there is little or no doubt in our minds as to who our most brilliant classmates happen to be. If we would notice, we would find that these are the girls who never procrastinate. The entire school should live by the slogan "Never Procrastinate." Their papers and note books have already been assigned to upper classes. If a proper percentage could be taken of those who have seriously begun their work, the entire school would doubtless be disappointing. If, however, a percentage could be taken of all who have really intended getting down to work, the entire student body would register 100%. After all, why procrastinate? It has never gotten us anywhere—and never will. Therefore, let us make up our minds to do our work now—and do it thoroughly—so that at the last minute we will not be overly rushed trying to do work that should have been done long before. Remember, he who waits is lost.

A Sense of Humor

A sense of humor often saves a situation which would otherwise border on the tragic. It makes life happier for the possessor and for those with whom he is associated. It covers a multitude of defects. A reasonably intelligent person with a sense of humor is infinitely more preferable as a companion than a morbid, melancholy genius.

The ability to see and enjoy the humorous aspects of life does not imply, however, the deplorable habit of unjust ridicule nor unkind sarcasm displayed at the expense of others. The self-righteous wit who laughs loudly at the absurdities of others is often himself a fit subject for scorn. Unkind ridicule is often indicative of a narrow mind and mean spirit.

An ability to appreciate humor in the right way is indeed one of the desirable virtues. With its aid one can get more joy out of life, do better work, and do more in cheering others up, than the sad, haggard looking individual who continually worries over imaginary calamities. Cultivate a sense of humor, and you will add to the happiness of others as well as yourself.

Athletic Announcements

The tennis tournament began last week and Miss Atkinson is pleased with the number of girls who have entered it. The preliminary games should be played off by Friday if the weather permits.

Practice for either hockey or soccer will begin soon. Both of these sports have been popular at Salem in the past and many girls are expected to go out for at least one of them.

Father—"When Abe Lincoln was your age he was making his own living."
Son—"Yes, and when he was your age he was president."

Announcements

The regular monthly meeting of the Cercle Francaise will be held Wednesday, December 7, at 6 o'clock in the Alice Clewell living-room. A special Christmas program is being prepared for the occasion. As this will be an open meeting each member of the club will be expected to invite two guests.

There will be an exhibition of period furniture at Huntley-Hill-Stockton Company on Monday, December 4, from nine to five o'clock. During these hours, tea and sandwiches will be served free of charge by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Home Moravian Church. For each person served the Auxiliary will receive 35c from the company. This money will be used for the Crooked Oak Industrial School, which is a mountain school supported by the Home Church. Cars will be provided for college girls, and will be in front of Main Hall after one forty-five o'clock. The co-operation of the college girls will be heartily appreciated.

On Sunday, December 3, a workers' Love Feast will be held in the Home Moravian Church. The faculties of both the College and Academy are invited.

On Monday evening, December 4, at seven o'clock, the Mathematics Club will have its annual Christmas party in the Campus Living Room. The Home Economic Bazaar will be held on Tuesday afternoon, December 5, in the lobby of Main Hall. At this time many attractive Christmas presents will be on sale.

The Davidson Glee Club will give a concert in Memorial Hall at eight o'clock on December 8. The concert is being given under the auspices of the Senior class. Tickets may be secured from any member of the class.

At the Expanded Chapel service on Wednesday, December 7, Bishop Rondthaler will talk to the students, his subject being in keeping with the Advent season.

If you are thinking of getting a permanent, and wish to take advantage of the special price on permanents offered by the Robert W. Fox Beauty Shop during the month of December, see Mary Miller Falpner before making your appointment.

The Science Club will hold its regular meeting on Friday evening, December 9, in the Science Lecture room.
At Y. W. C. A. Vespers on Sunday evening, December 4, there will be a student program on the subject of Year East Relief, with special music by the college quartet.

Expression of Sympathy

The Salemite wishes to express in behalf of the students of Salem College, their sincere sympathy to Mary Johnson, upon the death of her brother, Dr. William Johnson, professor of anatomy at Wake Forest College, who was fatally injured in an automobile accident, occurring on the evening of Thursday, November 24.

Will Study Why Freshmen Fail

Durham, Nov. 26.—To discover "why freshmen fail," high school and college educators from all over the State will assemble here in January or February, according to plans of Frank M. Martin, superintendent of the Durham City Schools. Superintendent Martin was appointed a committee of one to arrange the conference by the delegates to the last convention of the North Carolina Teachers' Association.

City superintendents, high school principals, and college deans, especially deans in charge of freshmen, will be invited to attend the meeting. Mr. Martin said.

Not only will the conference begin study of the problem of heavy

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failures among college freshmen, but it will also try to place the responsibility of these failures by collecting data on the subjects that prove the stumbling blocks of many freshmen.

Mr. Martin pointed out that a heavy failure in English would indicate that the fault lies with the high schools, for it is their duty to give the students a good English background, but, on the other hand, a heavy failure in sciences, subjects less stressed in the public schools, would indicate that the colleges were not properly introducing a new subject.

The conference here will be an important one, it is pointed out, for through it is the hope of the teachers' association to discover the causes which lead up to the large number of failures of freshmen in college. From the study some definite plan for remedying the serious situation will be made for presentation to the association for consideration and action.

—Winston-Salem Journal.

It was during the famous offensive preceding Chateau Thierry. The Germans had been steadily sending over huge clouds of gas. During the night, after much effort, the white American troops were finally relieved by a regiment of negroes. "The amazement of the negroes next morning turned to utter consternation and when headquarters phoned and asked how things were, they answered in dismay, 'We have gassed those Americans until they are black in the face, but still they fight.'"

Mr. Higgins—H2SO4 NaCl, what have you got?
Louise Bateman—Magnolia.

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