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MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 1891.

GENTLEMEN OF THE FACULTY:—There is one thing we would call your attention to in the beginning of the new year. We have noticed that a lax spirit exists among the students in attending recitations; sometimes they are absent for a few days, sometimes for several weeks, and nothing is done or said to prevent. We do not think that this is fair or just either to the student, to his parents or to the University. If a boy does not study, he yet learns much from his attendance on classes, and should be compelled to attend; if he does not, dismiss him. We would advise that attendance on recitations be made compulsory, and if the rule is made *let it be inflexible*.

As THE Inter-State Oratorical Association is assured it may be well to discuss the way in which our orator should be elected. Considering the two political parties here, and their eagerness to honor their own members, we urge that the elective method be done away with and that the representative be selected by competitive speaking. Let a committee of gentlemen be chosen from the *alumni*, who will not know whether a man is a Di. or a Phi., a conservative or a Tammany man, and let the competitors speak before these. In this way the selection will be perfectly fair and satisfactory to every one; otherwise there will be hard feeling. We offer this as a suggestion, and shall be glad to hear from the students on this subject.

WE HAVE published several articles relating to the acoustics of Memorial Hall, one from the *Wilmington Messenger* and others from the students. The writers in these urged that something be done to remedy the evil in the sound. If we remember correctly a major part of the junior year is spent in the study of acoustics, and why not have a little of our knowledge applied to Memorial Hall. It seems useless, unless some benefit is derived from the study. As regularly as the spring season rolls around a committee is appointed to attend to this matter, but no benefit is gained from this action. But this year, in this new year, let us determine to do something, and not wait until just before Commencement, only to find out that we have not enough time, but go at it immediately and attend to the matter once for all.

AN UNPLEASANT rumor has reached our ears from the village and elsewhere to the effect that in case of the resignation of Dr. Battle and his election to the Chair of History a scheme exists to have a temporary arrangement, making either the Professor of Physics, the Professor of Chemistry or the Professor of Law Chairman of the Fac-

ulty, and eventually President of the University. This report has been going the rounds of gossip for some time, and we take it upon ourselves to resent the imputation placed upon the Faculty. Upon its own face this rumor appears false. That a few men should think it possible and have the impudence to attempt to take the property of the State, the University, and manipulate it to their own selfish aims and purposes seems to us preposterous. Besides we believe that all of the professors will agree in condemning the idea of having a Chairman of the Faculty in this institution, well knowing that it would be but a hindrance and a burden. The curse of Southern universities has been in attempting to pattern after the University of Virginia by adopting a part of her machinery and endeavoring to make it fit, and work with their own, although different. As we have in our Faculty several gentlemen from the Virginia University they must know that it would be impossible and impracticable to copy after that institution with regard to the chairman, when our whole method and plan of work here is far different from that used there, and could not be made the same. No, the Faculty, we feel assured, believe that a separate and distinct head will be necessary and that it would but cause dissension and strife to elevate to that position one who has hitherto acted as equal with the other professors. We will need a President and no Chairman of the Faculty. Some one should be elected to that position who is apart from the University at present, and who is not bound down and fettered by entangling alliances, and by whose election no heart-burnings and hard feelings would be caused. Should Dr. Battle resign, some step will be necessary, take the right one and the University will prosper. Take the wrong one and the University will be ruined. We will not, we cannot believe that this institution, our University, has become the seat of schemers and a school of intrigue; we will not believe that our Faculty or any few of them would enter into a scheme for their own aggrandizement to the detriment of the University. We were surprised and pained to hear this rumor, unjust as it must be.

We have at last the necessary permission from the Trustees to play foot-ball; let us not abuse this privilege, and go in with the proper spirit—determined to win.

There is a current report that the late Mrs. Mary Smith Morehead left the sum of \$50,000 to the University. We see that her will will be contested to the end and thus probably the University will receive no benefit of the gift.

We wonder why M. H. has stopped smoking and eating dessert, etc., and also why he has taken upon himself the entirely new resolutions of keeping seasonable hours and running a mile before breakfast and just before supper. Does he want to be chief ball manager and half-back on the team both?

We are sorry that we cannot get the election news in this issue, but we will make up for it in our next. There has been some rumor of a compromise between the two political parties here to the effect that the Tammany party should have chief and two subs (one from each society) while the Conservative party should have the other four subs.

TOWN DOTS.

Mrs. Currie, *nee* Miss Stella Hogan, is in town.

Mr. Sol. Mason, of Wilmington, is in the village on a visit to his parents.

Prof. Williams returned on New Year's day from business in New York City.

The Rev. Mr. Davis, who is to take charge of the Methodist Church, has arrived.

We are glad to hear that Dr. Hogan, who has been quite ill for some time, is convalescent.

We are happy to announce the arrival of Prof. Claffin and bride. Our sincere congratulations.

Miss Lula Brown, of Greensboro, spent several days during Christmas with Miss Clyde Mason.

We are pleased to hear that the Rev. Mr. Gushee, of Cambridge, Mass., who spent such a pleasant month with us this fall, will return and be with us again during February.

Mr. Ernest Mangum, Professor in the Asheville Graded Schools, who spent the holidays here with his family, has returned to Asheville accompanied by his sister, Miss Ettie Mangum.

Christmas here was rather quiet; no great excitement. However we are sure that all enjoyed themselves. Several parties were given during the holidays; especially to be noted was the one at Dr. Wilson's.

The many friends of the Rev. Mr. Prentiss, some time Rector of the Chapel of the Cross, will be glad to learn of his entire recovery. He now is pastor of an Episcopal church in South Bend, Ind., with a salary of three thousand dollars a year.

The schedule of the train running from here to University Station has been changed to correspond to that on the main road.

The train leaves half an hour later in the morning and arrives at 1:15 P. M. In the evening it leaves half an hour sooner and arrives at 6:45 P. M. We hope now that the morning mail may be more often "on time," as several times a week, formerly, the train was from one to three hours late.

Were you out with the boys last night?
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