

College Fraternities

A Timely Topic That is Still a Live Question--An Argument in Rebuttal

Written for The Morning Post

By a Student

As the article in last Sunday's Post seemed to solicit a reply, it gives the "student" unprecedented pleasure to reply to the statement made by the "city editor," or at least to the few which would seem plausible. Indeed there is but little hypothesis to what he affirms and as any one can see who will compare the two articles from an argumentative standpoint, that his replies are but little more than flat denials.

How well those denials were grounded, I will leave to the reader to determine after he has perused this article.

For the benefit of the "editor" the "student" will say that he has had no desire to belong to Greek letter fraternities and has therefore not tried to enter and failed. But, indeed, he hopes he has the claim of being a gentleman and could be an object of trust, though I suppose they would not like for their cause to be left to his discretion.

It is with all candor that I can assure the readers of this article that I am not writing from a prejudiced view of the subject, but try to lay bare the facts before you for observation. Hence I at least attempt to view them in an impartial light. It is far from my intentions to call what the "editor" has said hypocrisy, undisguised; but can treat him with a little more deference, even if we are writing under assumed names. One mark of the gentleman is due regard for the statements he makes and the effect on the feelings of others.

In answer to the statement that the "student" must have failed to join a fraternity, it would seem very appropriate for me to state again why any one who is for true democracy of principle would not care to join an organization of the kind. "They are undemocratic in principle" is not hypocritical.

It would be a good comparison to compare Greek letter fraternities to a thread-bare aristocracy. The principle upon which our government, the truest type of the republic on the globe, is based, is that "all men are born equal." A man is what he makes himself. The principle of the Greek letter fraternities is antagonistic to this principle of which all Americans should be proud. View our Lincoln, Hayes, Garfield, Jackson, Grant, Franklin or Edison. These men, who rose from the bottom to even the loftiest pinnacle of fame, give evidence that all men are born equal. What true American is not proud of our Lincoln or our Grant? And I said that Greek letter fraternities are antagonistic to a principle that is the very foundation of our pride.

But can you prove it? Mr. Editor might ask. Well I will ask you a question in return: Can you deny the statement that one of the chief essentials of the fraternity man is that he must have "blue blood" in his veins? At least I am quite sure that the larger fraternities make such pretensions. Readers is not this undemocratic in principle? However, money seems to be a good substitute for the "blue blood" and with both requisites, to what honors can not the possessor aspire in the wonderful, the obscure realm of secrecy which envelopes and mystifies the Greek letter fraternities.

The Greek letter fraternities have a special attraction for the man of the "blue blood," he of the spare cash; even the "dead game sport" has successful aspirations, for here is where the man of "blue blood" does not have to associate with the unpretentious plebeian, or the man from his father's estate who can not aspire to the illustrious realms (?) of the fraternities, and he of the spare cash with his handsome, lovely dollars can "boot his way into the fraternity" where he can spend his money which will turn him out more advantages than ever before, for here he can be with that charming man of "the stock of the Plummerys, the Vances, Ransoms and Joneses." So he can meet all those beautiful sisters of the illustrious, who before seemed so distant; the "dead game" sport, what of him? Why "doncher" see that tall collar, that faultless tie, and those invincible shoes, and that graceful form when he meets a lady, these surely entitle him to very great consideration as a perspective member of at least some fraternity.

And one and all, if there be any such very much foster the idea that if they can only belong to a fraternity that Prof. — or Prof. — will give them very great consideration, for they are fraternity men. And again, it appeals so much to these different types which I have mentioned to know that in the fraternity they are brought out distinctly from the boy who has merit for his mark, zeal, wisdom and manliness for his safeguard. These and these only has he to commend him, and do we wonder that such as he in our A. and M. College today is the man of honor? It is he who has the support of the faculty, the recommendation of the president, and the admiration and esteem of all. Institute fraternities and immediately you will see the types which I have shown give the preference, even as they are now, when the preference will not be too marked.

Our friend, the Editor, states that all

institutions of prominence have Greek letter fraternities. I would beg to call his attention to nearly all the military institutions as well as technical, to nearly all the great western universities and colleges. In fact the south and east was their birthplace. Here it is, with several institutions in the neighborhood of Yale and Harvard, that fraternities are of the least novelty.

As my reference to them as a thread-bare aristocracy is not quite as replete as I wish it, I would refer the readers to Johnson's Universal Encyclopedia, where the Kappa Alpha, the mystic nomenclature to which our friend, the editor, referred, is stated to have originated at Union College, where it was much opposed by the faculty and students on account of its fostering a college aristocracy. Yet he tells us that to say "they are undemocratic in principle" is hypocrisy. Certainly it is not undemocratic in principle to invite one's friends home to dinner, or to marry the woman of his choice, as he would make my argument appear; but any organization is undemocratic which prefers money, birth or pretensions arrayed to manhood, merit and true sterling worth.

I do not make this statement for mere argument's sake. Ask any one who is acquainted with college fraternities and who does not belong to one. They will tell you that they are organizations for strictly social and political purposes, and not as the "editor" says, "an organization for the promotion of their moral welfare." I think this statement is meant in verily about like he means when he says that a fraternity would reduce rather than increase college expenses. There are, indeed, new phases of a college fraternity. However, the first of the two may not be an extreme exaggeration; for what man, if he sees one of his fellows falling low in vice, will not lend a warning word or a helping hand to lift him from degradation? But I hardly think that they are at all for moral advancement. If they were we would see more of their members belonging to young men's christian associations or other institutions of religious features. I think our friend was rather inclined to verbosity when he made that statement; even as he was when he would bring in as one of the features of the Greek letter fraternity, that they may be the means of diminishing one's expenses. It is said that there are exceptions to all rules. If a Greek letter fraternity has ever diminished the expenses of one of its members, that was an exception. For there is first the expense of "booting," then the initiation fee, the monthly dues, the receptions which must be given, the fraternity balls, etc., etc., all calling for money.

Well, rather a category. And how do you know these things? The "city editor" asks. Well, these "appendices" are there, you admit, unless they are, as a friend suggested to me, "institutions kept up by charity." They certainly must be maintained at the expense of their members.

Mr. "Editor" again states that fraternity men are always kind and considerate to the other students, whether they are fraternity men or not. Doubtless he again reverts to levity. Here is a very great objection. Fraternity men and non-fraternity men are hardly respectful toward each other at institutions where fraternities exist. The fraternity men try to ignore the existence of those who are not with them and for them, however praiseworthy they may be. They are ever seeking to forward their own interests and to down those of others which do not accord with theirs. Of course they have to do this very discreetly; indeed, they can be lauded for the wisdom they show in these things. Any one can see the influence they have over faculties where they exist. They also make themselves felt in other ways which are not desirable for those who are for merit and for democracy of spirit. Yet the "city editor" says there is nothing in fraternities which is antagonistic to a composite body.

He gave you the expressions of men who wrote, as he says, praising fraternities. More than likely they are fraternity men if they are true statements at all. I have looked for literature of this kind in three libraries in Raleigh, but could find nothing in their favor. It would be well to state here that the "editor" reference to an article in November Century by Dr. Charles W. Thwing, part of which he claimed favored fraternities, is groundless; for he does not write at all in the November number or any other number that I could find. Probably the rest were of the same kind. "Editor" also states "that where once they have been allowed to enter a college, they are never barred by the faculty. That is just the point. If they are once established here we have them for wear or worse, for they are beginning at an oak, Isaiah Hall's line, thence running north 140 yards with B. T. Honeycutt's lands to a stake and pointers, thence west 140 yards to a stake and pointers, thence south 140 yards to Isaiah Hall's line, thence east 140 yards with Isaiah Hall's line to the beginning, containing four acres, more or less."

Second tract, situated in Mark's Creek township, said county and State, adjoining the lands of Isaiah Hall, the lands of B. T. Honeycutt, deceased, and others, and bounded as follows: Beginning at an oak, Isaiah Hall's line, thence running north 140 yards with B. T. Honeycutt's lands to a stake and pointers, thence west 140 yards to a stake and pointers, thence south 140 yards to Isaiah Hall's line, thence east 140 yards with Isaiah Hall's line to the beginning, containing four acres, more or less. J. C. MARCOM, Commissioner, etc.

will be forever prohibited at the A. and M.

Shall he have them? The boys of the A. and M. who stand for democracy, merit and manliness say No! no! And they are in the majority. Can not the good people of the state give us their support? I am sure they do, and we appreciate it. Too, we appreciate the kindness of The Morning Post in allowing us its time and space. We can assure it that it will not be forgotten. We are glad the fraternity cause has some one who can fight its battles. How well they are succeeding I will leave for the readers to judge. We will be glad to have further parries. Publicity is what we wish. However, we doubt if publicity will be good for fraternity life. I will not detain you longer, for fear I will weary your patience, but will be glad to give them more. Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 30.

Cotton Seed

(Tarboro Southern.) On a basis of 20,000 bales of cotton raised in this county last year the value of the cotton seed is no insignificant item. After allowing 30,000 bushels for seed there would remain to be sold, or exchanged for meal and hulls, about 550,000 bushels, which at the present prices are worth \$165,000 or more.

This is what these seed were worth to the farmers. If the oil were extracted from all it would be worth \$100,000. The meal as much more. These figures are of course approximate, but they show that the cotton seed and their products are worth to this county over \$200,000.

Were this oil manufactured into lard and other products before leaving the county the value thereof would be very greatly increased. The residuum from refining would make the soap of commerce.

Then You Said Something

(Durham Herald.) As a result of the disposition of the people of this town to sue the company we know of one important enterprise that has been lost to the town and nobody has been materially benefited. The man who has money will be slow to invest it where he is liable to be held up at any time when he can invest it to just as good advantage somewhere else.

Argument to Follow

(Sallebury Sun.) In passing it is not amiss to remark, and in no spirit of idle compliment, that but for the appointment of a man who thoroughly understands the needs of the insurance department and with ability to execute the laws, the department would of necessity have been a failure. Commissioner James R. Young was elected chiefly on the ground of merit and his election has been abundantly vindicated. In the selection of other public officers the Democratic party would always do well to pattern after this instance.

Stepped into Live Coals

"When a child I burned my foot frightfully," writes W. H. Eads, of Jonesville, Va., "which caused horrible leg sores for 20 years, but Bucklen's Arnica Salve wholly cured me after everything else failed." Infallible for Burns, Scalds, Cuts, Sores, Bruises and Piles. Sold by all druggists; 25c.

Winter Tourist Rates via S. A. L. Commencing October 15th and continuing until April 30, 1903, the Seaboard Air Line Railway will sell winter tourist tickets to all principal points in Georgia, Florida and the Southwest, including winter resorts in Texas and the City of Mexico.

Tickets will be sold daily up to and including April 30th, with a final return limit May 31, 1903, and same bear a transit limit in each direction of 15 days, which permits of stopover within the transit limit.

For further information as to rates, schedules and general information apply to C. H. GATTIS, C. P. & T. A.

"Eh, isn't this the same girl whose picture we used the other day?" "It's the same girl, but it isn't the same picture."

"Why not?" "We are using the other picture in the second part of the paper as a portrait of that Montana female desperado."

Sale of Valuable Lands

North Carolina--Wake County. By virtue of a decree of the Superior Court of Wake county made and entered in the special proceedings in said court entitled J. C. Marcom, administrator of B. T. Honeycutt, deceased, vs. Rebecca Honeycutt and others, it being No. 1027 of the special proceedings docket of said court, I will offer for sale at public outcry to the highest bidder in case at the court house door in the city of Raleigh, N. C. on Monday, the 2d day of March, 1903, at 12 o'clock m., the following described tracts of land, to-wit:

First tract, lying and being in the county of Wake, said State, in Mark's Creek township, adjoining the lands of W. B. Medlin and others, and more fully described as follows: Bounded on the north by the lands of W. B. Medlin, on the east by W. H. Richardson, on the south by Isaiah Hall and Willis Honeycutt and on the west by J. E. Todd, containing 140 acres, more or less.

Second tract, situated in Mark's Creek township, said county and State, adjoining the lands of Isaiah Hall, the lands of B. T. Honeycutt, deceased, and others, and bounded as follows: Beginning at an oak, Isaiah Hall's line, thence running north 140 yards with B. T. Honeycutt's lands to a stake and pointers, thence west 140 yards to a stake and pointers, thence south 140 yards to Isaiah Hall's line, thence east 140 yards with Isaiah Hall's line to the beginning, containing four acres, more or less.

J. C. MARCOM, Commissioner, etc. January 27, 1903.

GOTHAM CITY GOSSIP

New York Notables in the Newspapers--A Look at the Automobile Show--Bishop Potter on the Bargain Counter

Special Correspondence of The Morning Post

By EMEL JAY

New York society is presumably agast over the announced fact that Mr. Harry Lehr and Mr. Somebody Dyer will after the present season no longer lead the cotillions. The papers state that those gentlemen have so declared themselves. But New York papers state so many things. They seem not to hesitate to affix the most astonishing facts to the names of notables. One chatty column recently referred to the condition of the curtains at the front windows of Mrs. Ogden Goetz's Fifth Avenue residence, and advised the mistress of the house to at least have them washed.

Another paragraph announced to the many interested that Miss Van Allen, who wore mourning for her fiancé, dying so tragically at Newport last summer, was out in colors again; and then added, in a spirit of kindly advice which Miss Van Allen doubtless fully appreciated, "she should never have put on black at all."

Another intimate newspaper writer makes bold to criticize American royalty, and says confidentially to the readers: "I must tell you about the funny little headpiece which the Countess de Castellans wore at Mrs. Astor's ball on Monday night. She appeared first at the opera, and was the observed of all observers because of two feathers in her hair. One was chocolate colored and the other white, and they seemed to grow out of the centre of her head. They were about six or seven inches high, and at the top curled over toward the front, and were fastened to her hair with a jeweled pin. They bobbed about with every motion of her head, and all I could think of was how neatly they were fastened to her hair. One was chocolate colored and the other white, and they seemed to grow out of the centre of her head. They were about six or seven inches high, and at the top curled over toward the front, and were fastened to her hair with a jeweled pin. They bobbed about with every motion of her head, and all I could think of was how neatly they were fastened to her hair."

Would not Paris smile and shrug her shoulders at that? And would not the Count say something unprintable? But our New York scribblers go on unnoted and unafraid. The freedom of the press is sustained!

We were at the Automobile Show at Madison Square Garden, and one of the polite exhibitors whose tongues go as smoothly and as sweetly as their machines was telling us things. "The highest priced automobile here? Why, it is of French make, a Founier, said to be worth \$15,000. It has been bought by that fellow that runs a New York paper and one in Chicago; --yes, Hearst. The machine itself you will find in another part of the building, on the other side of the curtains you see over there."

We wended our way along aisles bordered right and left with autos of every sort, from mammoth fire-engine to light runabout. There were crowds of men and women looking, talking, buying. Finally, we came within sight of the big machine denominated the costliest in the building. It is called "The Mors" and it has been bought by a man named Hearst (very nearly Hearse)--all quite fitting perhaps, considering the death-dealing record of this toy of the modern Croesus, but rather a ghastly cognomen for a jaunty car to be devoted to pleasure outings. Big enough for a large party it is, accommodating eight or ten persons in its luxurious 60 horse-power, enabling it to speed with the wind. And we to the person or thing that stands in the way of "Mors."

"Eight or ten years ago there were only about two makes of automobiles in the world," remarked a man standing by. "Now, look--this big building filled, 142 different manufacturers represented, I believe. Oh, it's a great invention. And like all these inventions which at first appear to benefit only the rich, the ultimate benefit is for all the people. These interested folk will see to it that the country is threaded with fine highways for their machines. Then after a bit autos will be sold at popular prices, and the people will come into the enjoyment of both the good road and the horseless carriage."

"Yes, there is a beautiful progression in all these things," said the woman who was with him. "Observe the evolution suggested right there," and she smiling pointed to the auto made by the White Sewing Machine Company. "That suggests, you see, the emancipation of woman from much of her old-time drudgery, and her coming forth now into fresh air, freedom, and a broader horizon."

"And a faster life," laughed her companion; and then added with an absorbed business-like look--"did you know that \$2,000,000 worth of these machines had been sold at this show?" "Bishop Potter must have started that fine assemblage of women, the other afternoon, when he said gravely, "There is nothing bought from the bargain counter which if looked at closely enough will not be found to bear the stain of blood."

The Bishop was speaking at the annual meeting of the Consumers' League, and was inveighing against the present rage for cheapness--a rage which is met by manufacturer and

merchant in articles wrought from the very life-blood of the poor. The speaker was addressing richly-dressed women, members of the League, banded together for the betterment of humanity, for the purchase of hygienically made clothing, for improved conditions among wage-earners, for enforcement of the law against child labor. And yet many of those very women will rush to the bargain counter at the big department store, and eagerly buy undergarments made by sick and weary fingers at the rate of 25 cents a dozen. That was what Bishop Potter meant, and it was a lesson worth impressing upon his hearers.

Julia Marlowe did a very graceful and popular thing last week when she read before the Consumers' League, at Assembly Hall, Mrs. Browning's poem, "The Cry of the Children." Her rich beautiful voice and fine interpretation gave new meaning and force to the poet's thought. The reading followed a paper by Florence Kelly calling attention to the vast number of little children at work in New York--cash girls and newsboys at work instead of at school and at play. The poem read by Miss Marlowe fitted in eloquently, and was at once a sermon and a song to the listeners.

The actress appeared to remarkable advantage as she read. She wore with a dark cloth skirt a white silk waist partially draped with one of the cape-collarettes now so fashionable. Her hat was black, large and richly plumed. She received charmingly the tribute of spontaneous applause and a beautiful bouquet.

It was interesting to see the admiring interest manifested by two of Miss Marlowe's company who were present during her reading. Her leading man, Harry Worthington, was there an attentive listener, and a young fellow hardly out of his teens was the smiling escort to and from the stage. Speaking of Julia Marlowe,--how delightful it is that genius and gold are oftentimes wedded here in New York, and Fashionable Society is sometimes the priest who mates them. There are the Whitneys and the Goulds, for instance, who but recently employed the talent of Kocian and Eames to make an evening of enjoyment for the guests, paying the artists \$2,000 for their trouble. Kocian, a very wizard of the violin, had to come to New York from Chicago and his train being delayed, he did not reach the Whitneys' until 10 o'clock on the evening of the entertainment. But he made his \$2,000 for all that.

As for Eames, she would not condescend to open her mouth for less than \$1,000. These popular prima donnas are like the girl of the fairy tale who at every word had diamonds and pearls falling from her lips. Fame is a hard ladder to climb, but once you reach its top--there you are! New York, Jan. 20.

Special Rates by P. A. L. Railway

\$25.50 to New Orleans, La.
\$25.50 to Mobile, Ala.
\$22.95 to Pensacola, Fla., account Mardi Gras Celebrations February 15 to 24, 1903. Tickets on sale February 15 to 23 inclusive, final limit February 25th. On payment of fee 50 cents tickets will be extended until March 14th.

\$25.50 to New Orleans, La., and return, account American Medical Association May 5 to 8. Tickets on sale May 1, 2, 3 and 4, final limit ten days from date of sale. On payment of fee of 50 cents tickets can be extended until May 20th. For further information apply to C. H. GATTIS, C. P. & T. A., Raleigh, N. C.

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