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AN ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING.

Mass Meeting of the Students and Addresses on our Athletic Life.

Last Tuesday night one of the most enthusiastic meetings of the students ever held here in regard to Athletics, was held in the Chapel. The meeting was called to order at 7.30 by Dr. Charles Baskerville President of the Athletic Advisory committee.

He made a few well chosen remarks stating the object of the meeting which he said was called in order to get the college united at the first of the season. Several short addresses were on the programme, the first of which Dr. Baskerville announced would be by Dr. Alderman on: "Athletics as a feature of college life."

As Dr. Alderman took the platform he was greeted by a burst of applause. He began by saying that he was present first, because he always feels a warm interest in every thing in which the student body was interested.

Secondly, because he believes in honest wholesome sport.

Thirdly, because Athletics have a large and important part to play in college life, and that he recognized that part.

He then said that athletics have a place in our life because the University was the place to make men, not scholars or students merely, but good sound all round men.

Healthy sport tends to develop those qualities which go to make the full man which the other phases of college life did not train. Among these he recognized first of all, courage. Without courage life is a burden. Other qualities developed by good sport are: grit, endurance, steady nerves, quick to act and trained to act in the right way, a quick eye and the wit to do things aggressively. He said that he believed that the training of Americans in honest athletics had much to do with the great success of the American army in our recent war. It would be a great evil to loose our athletic life.

He closed his remarks by saying that one of the greatest faults of our people in the South was a tendency to drift into individualism. Our athletics corrected this. Because the great end of athletics is victory and the only way to attain that was to get together and hold together. Dr. Baskerville then introduced Dr. E. Alexander who addressed the meeting on: "Cooperation of students and faculty in athletic life."

He said that while the faculty could do practically nothing, directly, to aid in athletics, yet by encouragement and direction they could do much. Of course all our athletics at the present centers around foot ball. To put out a winning team is our object. Much depends upon the students. A good team poorly supported is apt lose. An indifferently good team well supported will win. This is what is so well known as the Yale spirit.

There are four things he said essential to success.

- 1st. Determination by both students and team to win.
- 2nd. Thorough-going team work by both students and team.
- 3rd. Dogged persistence.

4th. Self-sacrifice and unselfish devotion to the team's success.

Only these will bring victory. Dr. Baskerville then introduced the next speaker "Who" he said, "had done more for athletics in the University than any other man here, Dr. F. P. Venable."

Dr. Venable spoke on: The Present Season and the present team."

He spoke only a little, but his remarks were plain straight forward and forcible. They had a good effect.

As this was not a faculty meeting it seemed nothing more than right that some student be heard.

Dr. Baskerville then introduced the "best first baseman in the south," Cap't. R. A. Winston, who spoke on "Campus Criticisms."

He said that the team lived off the enthusiasm of the student body. Students have a right to criticize their team but it must be done with judgement and without prejudice. We must have confidence in the team. Distrust among the students creeps in among the men on the teams and they loose all confidence and go to pieces. When this is done the University loses a good team.

Coach Reynolds then made a few remarks on "United purpose and support of the student body."

His remarks were telling and to the point and had a telling effect.

Dr. Baskerville then adjourned the meeting.

Prof. Noble Addresses the Teachers of Wilmington.

Professor M. C. S. Noble, of the chair of pedagogy at the State University, former superintendent of our schools, on Saturday at 3:30 p. m. addressed the colored teachers at the Peabody school, and the white teachers at 5 p. m., at the Hemenway school. He carefully outlined the course of study, the methods to be observed, and the leading features of our public school system. He laid especial emphasis upon the value of professional training for the great work of teaching and dwelt at length upon the necessity of study and personal effort as a qualification for a position in a large public school system. He also spoke with much feeling about his leaving our schools and said that his connection with them would ever be an inspiration to him in his new field of labors.

Professor Noble was specially invited here to speak to teachers upon their important work, and his high qualifications to do so made it eminently advantageous to the teachers. He made a good talk to the teachers, and gave them the benefit of a ripe experience as a teacher for the past twenty-two years, sixteen of which he spent in Wilmington building up public schools to the high standard which has justly elected the pride of all our people. His functions at the State University is to teach teachers how to teach, and his address to the teachers here gave them the benefit of a real lecture on the art and science of teaching.

A Messenger reporter interviewed Professor Noble as to his work

at the University, and ask him if he did not regret leaving our city with its beautiful buildings, its progressive teachers and its great loyal and rapid growing number of public school supports. He confesses that he did leave us with sorrow but said the possibilities of the educational field at the University were too inviting to be declined. Many of the best students at the University are in the class in pedagogy and in his work with these young men of brains and ambition he hopes to help on the great educational movement that is to bless our state.

Professor Noble said that he found many changes at the University upon his return after an absence of sixteen years. The special schools of law, medicine and pharmacy have been established in recent years. The libraries of the Philanthropic and Dialectic societies have been consolidated with the University library and located in the old University library building, once known as Smith's Hall. The old Dialectic library room has been turned into a "Latin Seminary," and the old Philanthropic library room is utilized by Professor Wilson who has made it the best biological laboratory to be found in the south.

The outlook for the University is most promising. The enrollment is 460 already, and by the end of the year it will not only equal but surpass the unprecedented record of last year. Old students will be surprised to learn that the present senior class has sixty members.

Lecture Committee.

There is nothing that gives the students more recreation and pleasure than to lay down all work and attend the semi monthly faculty lectures. On such occasions the student body alone does not gather to enjoy the intellectual treat but the townspeople as well come out and add greatly to make the hour a success.

Faculty lectures are alright: We can't get along without them: We are waiting patiently for the next in order: but it seems to us we have very few noted lecturers to come to these parts.

The cause of our not having more is plainly seen in the fact that no one considers it his business to try to get them. "Ever body's business is nobody's business." If we had a committee whose duty it was to attend to getting noted lecturers to visit us we would pass several dreary Friday nights during the year in listening to a Dixon or a Randall.

The proceeds of such lectures could be put to a good advantage by the Y. M. C. A. or the Athletic Association if they would only exert themselves a little and put a hustling committee to work at once.

It would save them that unpleasant business of begging and at the same time they would get the money and give value received for it.

Students Reflect.

Communicated.]

It is frequently the case that we hear the alumni of this and other institutions lamenting the neglect of some past duty. Talk to them of college life and of their training here, and they begin to advise us not to skip classes; not to sit up late at night; not to form the habit of loafing; not to exert a bad influence; not to be irregular in our habits; not to be unsociable; but to keep up with daily recitations; to read the best literature in the library; to be prompt always; to keep up with college occurrences; to keep out of debt; to be economical; and then with great emphasis and feeling they urge us not to neglect our work in the literary societies.

We would stop and ask ourselves what does all this mean? Is it in that spirit which always could have done something but never did anything? Is it mere admonition given because of some total failure? Not so; such cautions are expressions of deeply rooted interests and come from those who know from experience whereof they speak. Let us look at them closely; the observance of them forms the ground-work of our education, the bone and sinew of our progress. We advance just in proportion as we appropriate the experiences of those before us. Then we cannot afford to turn a deaf ear to their warnings. Already the seniors, now nearing the close of their college career, look back upon their four years' course and see many a stone left unturned. What path would they tread were they again on the other side of the field? Start with them there and follow them through a second four years' course, and we have made two steps at one stride, gained eight years' experience in four years. We know too well the fate of him who hid his talent. Let us not bury the advice of wise and earnest alumni, but put it out on interest that it may return to us a hundred fold.

Scarcely a day passes that we do not hear some student say, "I am a week behind in Math," or "I've not seen my Greek," or "I can't get up my Physics." We see them too passing away time foolishly showing a lack of interest in their moral and social duties. Remember the purpose of your being here. Those who have yet the greater part of their course before them should make good use of their time and embrace every opportunity they have to improve themselves, lest at the end of their course here they are obliged to say with the poet,

"Of all sad words of tongue or pen, The saddest are these: It might have been."

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