

The Tar Heel.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

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All communications for this paper should be in the hands of the Editor-in-Chief by Monday at noon to insure publication the same week. We shall be glad to publish pertinent discussions of college topics. The Tar Heel will welcome news items, and hopes the whole college will aid it along this line.

Colleges and Tolerance.

It is a most unfitting thing that the only times a gentleman who is now and was in 1896 a candidate for the Presidency has been disturbed by riotous attempts to interfere with his speaking, the disturbers were college students. Excepting perhaps an ungentlemanly personal attack on the Republican Vice-presidential candidate the other day, there has been no more disgraceful, outrageous and uncalled for interference with free speech in our history than that made by Yale students while Mr. Bryan was trying to address a New Haven audience in 1896. Last week students of the University of Michigan tried to drown Mr. Bryan's words with their hubbub and some of them had to be escorted to the lock-up. This time, as in the former case, the Democratic leader asked for their release, attributing their conduct to "boyish thoughtlessness rather than malice."

If there is any class of men who should be broad and tolerant, willing to hear all sides candidly, it should be college men. Their environment is more broadening and enlightening than is that of others. The fact that he is young does not excuse narrowness and intolerance in a college man. The exhibitions referred to did not come from "thoughtlessness," but from bigotry, and its child, "malice." The college man is expected to realize that no man and no set of men have as yet succeeded in organizing any trust on truth. We are glad that no such disturbances have happened in the South. The young men who fill its colleges will never themselves refuse a courteous hearing to any advocate of any political party, much less try to prevent others from hearing him, if they are mindful of the knightly traditions of the South which expired at Appomattox. Certainly in this University we want to be broad-minded. There is no place here for the spirit that has kindled the flames of every great persecution in human history. May intolerance and her evil brood never pass our portals.

Memorial Hall.

There can be no sort of doubt about the truth of Dr. Venable's recent declaration that the use of Memorial Hall as a gymnasium is a desecration. A greater anomaly can hardly be imagined than this use of the gathering-ground of the spirits of the University's mighty dead as a place for training the muscles of the body. Nor is this all, for it is inseparable from the use of Memorial Hall as a student's gymnasium that all sorts of boyish fun should be engaged in within its walls; that the flippant word and light jest should often be heard there. Those precincts ought to be held sacred. Memorial Hall is the treasure-house of the past. Its tablets commemorate the services to the University and the State of those who made the two names great in peace and imperishably glorious in war. It is but right that the daily profanation of this temple should be regarded with something of that indignant spirit which burned in the breast of Christ when he saw his Father's house "made a house of merchandise." The plea that this profanation is necessary cannot be effectual for long. It is necessary to remove this blot. Let the friends of the University realize this and it will be removed. If not now on hand, the means will be forthcoming, and a gymnasium provided. All that is needed to effect this is a sincere purpose. We are happy in the belief that the new President has such a purpose. His promise to make this matter one of the first and chief cares of his administration cannot be too warmly commended.

A matter which should receive the earnest consideration of every friend of the University is now under advisement. It is the proposition to hold the second annual debate between Carolina and Vanderbilt in Raleigh. Both the literary societies seem to favor the removal from Chapel Hill to Raleigh. Their opinion will of course have weight, because the debaters, while they undoubtedly stand for the University, and in a sense for the State, are more immediately and peculiarly the representatives of the societies of this institution and Vanderbilt. The debaters can be drawn only from the society membership, and the societies foot the bills. While the preference of the societies of the University will therefore have weight, yet we do not think that even their members regard the question as finally settled. All will welcome more light on it. The removal of the debate is a matter of too much importance to be settled off-hand. It should be thoroughly considered and discussed before the incident is regarded as closed. So far as The Tar Heel is concerned, it is inclined to think that the University needs to let the State know that its intellectual life is active. The debates we have held here have been held in "splendid isolation." They might as well have been held in Siberia for all the consciousness the people of this State had of them. If the removal to one of our centers of population will improve this poor status, we

are heartily in favor of it. It is a question we ought all to think about it earnestly, for it nearly concerns our alma mater.

One of the brightest signs in the University's athletic life at present is the number of class football teams and the interest they manifest in the game. One afternoon last week six teams were playing on the two fields. If every class in college and all three of the professional schools put out the best teams they can, it will mean victory for this institution over any foe.

It will mean that the basis is safe and steady. May the healthy interest in class teams which we note with so much gratification, know no abatement, but rather go on increasing. Let everybody whoop it up for class football.

Rowdyism at Commons.

Communicated.

The rowdyism which is being practised by some of the students at Commons is altogether at variance with the gentlemanly bearing which should characterize University students. For the past few days some of the students have been raising an unnecessary and very disagreeable disturbance by stamping their feet and turning over chairs.

Commons was established in order that the students might have a decent, respectable place where they could eat their meals in quiet and peace, and eight or ten boys have no right to try to appropriate this place to themselves if, by doing so, they disturb the authorities and the remainder of the boarders. If they must make noise, we would suggest that they collect in the new athletic field or some other place where nobody can hear them, and there rejoice to their heart's content. It is to be hoped that this unwarranted racket will soon cease, as it is a source of much trouble and inconvenience to the authorities and the rest of the boarders.

The Wood Question.

Communicated.

The writer doesn't wish to be captious, but the delay in getting wood from the Electric Light Company's yard which is connected with the University, is a just cause of complaint. It takes several days to get a load of wood. It was so last year and it has started off so this year. It is to be hoped that this will be remedied, for in cold weather it causes students not only inconvenience but sometimes real suffering. They pay a good round price for the wood and they have a right to expect that it will be delivered without a week's wait.

Piney Prospect.

Communicated.

The authorities of the University kindly placed benches for the comfort of students and others visiting this beautiful spot. We are pained to see that some scoundrel, not having the fear of God, or the penitentiary, or Judge Lynch, before his eyes, has stolen these benches. Will not some one report the theft? The planks are thick and have the

initials of students cut on them, so that they can be identified easily, and so large that they cannot easily be hid.

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