

By Way of Diversion.

The attention of late risers as they were hastening to breakfast last Saturday morning was attracted by the sight of dense volumes of smoke spreading over the part of the campus adjacent to Pickard's hotel. They heard the clang of the alarm bell, and though they saw no lurid glare, they pinned their faith to the ancient adage and, renouncing breakfast, hastened their footsteps in the direction of the smoke. The distant sound of human voices in the imperative mode stimulated their stride into a dog-trot which changed into a run when they turned the corner at Pickard's and dashed into full view of the thrilling spectacle. On the northern side of the street opposite the residence of Squire Barbee stood a wooden building, occupied as a combined dwelling and shoeshop by colored inmates; a building of uncertain age, of mediaeval architecture and of wood. Pouring in jet-black gusts through doors and windows was smoke; rising in compact rolls of inky darkness from dripping roof and sides, unwinding itself again in majestic sweeps, dissipating first into circling ringlets and finally into a shapeless, stifling mass, permeating the neighboring atmosphere—was smoke. But the fire—no fire there seemed to be. Apparently there had been an attempt at one, which had failed.

The crowd which lined the opposite sidewalks and filled the streets began to turn away. Fire fighters, were already clambering down ladders and preparing to leave, their faces animated with the lust of victory. Scarcely had they ceased their efforts, however, when the roof leaped into flame, malicious, devouring flame, which seemed to say mockingly, "I knew my chance would come."

The gauntlet had been cast down and the fight began anew. The scene which followed would baffle the pen of a DeQuincy. The fire department, under the efficient and commanding leadership of some twenty-five or thirty, renewed their efforts. A hose—the hose—was brought into requisition and the burning building, adjacent buildings and the crowd—especially the crowd—were deluged with drizzling dripping, drowning dampness. The single hose would be directed at one point, when some one in the crowd would shout, "The other side" and straightway the whole company would rush pell mell without question to the other side, dealing out cold baths freely, without charge and without respect of persons. Talk about uncertainties. The man who could have foretold the direction which that stream of water was going to take next—that man, if he lives, should be made a Doctor of Prophecy instant.

About this time the hose, perhaps because it was not being treated with the respect due its age, sprang a leak and sent a column of water skyward as if in eloquent protest to heaven against the turn matters were taking. People in neighboring houses began to move out their furniture. Suddenly a cheer burst from the crowd as Drane rushed from the second story of an adjacent house, bearing triumphantly,

alone and without any assistance a pair of gloves. A moment later another cheer, thrilling, spontaneous rose from the assembled gathering as a rift in the smoke revealed the manly form of Y. M. C. A. Jackson astride the roof of an adjoining dwelling, covering it with blankets. He was cheered again and to the echo, when he held to his post for several seconds after the ubiquitous stream of water came his way, merely taking refuge under one of his blankets, before sliding ignominiously down the ladder.

And thus it went. 'Twas a battle of the elements and finally water, much water, wet water and plenty of it, backed by the Chapel Hill fire department won out, and little more than the roof of the building was burned.

Undoubted heroes: Strain, Jackson, Louis Webb, John A., honorable mention: Pittman, Drane and Shull; umpire, Brockwell; referee, Pickard; drownings, everybody; Attendance, 1,000; time of game 45 minutes.

Doings in the Societies.

The Dialectic society Saturday night discussed the query "Resolved, That the Federal Government Should Exercise Control over all Life Insurance Companies." The affirmative won and Mr. Lynn made the best speech.

The Philanthropic society elected as its representatives on the annual Commencement Debate, Messrs. J. B. Palmer and E. M. Highsmith. It elected as its Washington's Birthday orator Mr. James Small MacNider. The Di elected as its Commencement debaters Messrs. Roby Day and Stable Linn. It elected also as its Freshman-Sophomore debaters Messrs. Marmaduke Robins and C. E. McIntosh.

Junior Election.

The Junior class Saturday afternoon elected the following officers to represent the class at Commencement: Chief Marshal, Mr. Charles L. Weil; sub-marshals; Messrs. L. W. Parker, J. B. Palmer, W. A. Houck, E. M. Highsmith, J. H. D'Alemberte, Thomas O'Berry.

Mr. Henry L. Sloan was elected captain of the class baseball team and Mr. W. S. O'B. Robinson, Jr., was elected manager.

The Odd Number Club.

The Odd Number Club met Friday evening. Organization was completed by electing Mr. H. H. Hughes, secretary.

The following productions were read:

- "He Had Suffered Enough"—Mr. Q. S. Mills.
- "Judgment Delayed"—Mr. S. R. Logan.
- "February"—Mr. T. B. Higdon.
- "Excursionists and Birds"—Mr. S. H. Farabee.



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