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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

ON KNOWLEDGE OF BIBLE. THE FIRST PRACTICE GAME. UNCLE SAM'S FOLKS. RHODES MEN AT OXFORD.

COLLEGE STUDENTS GENERALLY WELL INFORMED.

Dr. Smith Disproves Prof. Phelps' Statement as to Their Ignorance.

By Dr. C. Alphonso Smith.

Professor William Lyon Phelps, of Yale, has recently been quoted far and wide as the author of the following opinion:

"The ignorance of college students of Biblical literature is universal, profound, and complete. The students at Harvard and Yale, different as they are from their brothers in small colleges, resemble them closely here. If all the undergraduates in America could be placed in one room, and tested by a common examination on the supposedly familiar stories of the Old Testament, I mean on such instances as Adam, Eve, and the Garden of Eden, Noah, Samson, David and Goliath, Moses and Pharaoh, the result would be a magnificent contribution to American humor. The experience of teachers with other books is almost never the same in two institutions of learning; but ask any teacher in the United States what luck he has had with the Bible, and he throws up his hands in despair." This opinion appeared in the "Yale Alumni Weekly" of November 28, 1906, where it had been copied from the "Standard," of Bridgeport, Conn. Professor Phelps now reiterates his view in "The Record of Christian Work" for February (East Northfield, Mass.) from which it is copied by the "Literary Digest" of February 9th.

Professor Phelps' zeal for a more intelligent study of the Bible is highly commendable, but he seems to me to overstate the ignorance of the Bible among college students, and thus in part to negative the force of his appeal. In order to test his views as regards the students in the University of North Carolina, I submitted the following exercise without warning to two sections of the Freshman class, each section numbering twenty-five, and to another class numbering fifty and composed of Juniors and Seniors:

"Tell briefly the story of (a) Adam, Eve, and the garden of Eden, (b) Noah, (c) Samson, (d) David and Goliath, (e) Moses and Pharaoh."

These are the characters, it will be observed, selected by Professor Phelps as a test. The results were an overwhelming disproof of Professor Phelps' statement. Only twenty minutes were allowed to the students, but the hundred papers handed in showed beyond question that each of the Bible names written on the blackboard suggested a

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SCRUBS AND VARSITY MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME.

Some Heavy Hitting and Fast Fielding for the Opening Practice.

The Varsity and the Scrubs met for the first practice game of the season Saturday afternoon on the lower diamond of the new athletic field. There was plenty of heavy hitting and some swift fielding for the initial game. Coach Simmons was there with his eyes open, too, and kept the men on the jump. A large number of students watched the game from the sidelines and encouraged the players with some lusty yells.

The Varsity and the Scrubs lined up as follows:

Varsity.	Scrubs.
Rogers	c. Raney, Rawlins
Thompson	p. Racey, Simmons
Hamilton	1st. Chapin, McCoy
Montgomery	2nd. Don McRae
	Bayley
Whitaker	s. Fountain
James	3rd. Davis
	Wadsworth
Hanes	l. f. Sutton, Thomas
Story	c. f. Graham, Coffin
Orr	r. f. Johnson

Story, Thompson, and James, on the Varsity, showed that they had not forgotten how to swat the sphere. Hamilton showed up very well on first. The fielding of both Varsity and Scrubs was exceptionally good, considering the condition of the diamond, and making due allowance for their nerves owing to the impending "can". The Varsity won out, of course, but the game was interesting just the same. The second line-up, on Tuesday afternoon, was equally interesting.

Historical Society.

At the meeting of the North Carolina Historical Society Monday night Dr. J. DeR. Hamilton read a sketch of the life of William R. Davie, and Dr. Kemp P. Battle read some extracts from his "History of the University", now in press. These extracts, which were illustrative of life on the Hill during the 40's, were very interesting.

The Academy of Science.

The advisory committee of the North Carolina Academy of Science have decided to hold the next meeting of the organization at Chapel Hill on May 17th to 18th, 1907.

The president's address will be delivered on the evening of the 17th, and the 18th will be devoted to the reading and discussion of papers. Professor Collier Cobb, of the University, is president of the Academy this year and Professor J. L. Lake, of Wake Forest, is vice-president.

ALTON PACKARD PORTRAYS SOME YANKEE TYPES.

Gifted Cartoonist Furnishes Amusement for Students and Villagers.

Alton Packard, U. S. A., cartoonist and humorist, visited the Hill Friday night under the Star Course management and furnished to a packed house an evening of laughter that will not soon be forgotten. This was Mr. Packard's second visit to the University and the fame of his first drew him a large audience.

Mr. Packard's last appearance was hardly up to his first, however. In the intervening four years he has allowed his sentiment, in which he is not at his best, to displace some of his humor, in which he is not often surpassed. The humorous predominated, though, and his lecture was decidedly the best with which the Star Course has treated us this year.

The rapidity with which Mr. Packard depicts his characters is marvelous, and the running fire of comment which he keeps up meanwhile assists them in keeping his audience in a state of continual laughter. Singing, portraying, impersonating his "Types of Uncle Sam's Folks" he kept the attention of his hearers completely. They would gladly have listened to his "Fun and Fancy in Form and Color", "Funny Folks", and "Vanity Fair" as well.

To Go to Jamestown.

Dr. J. H. Pratt, State geologist, will go to Norfolk in the near future to take charge of the erection of an ore separating plant on the Jamestown Exposition grounds. The separator will be similar to the one recently installed at the University. Dr. Pratt will take Messrs. R. T. Allen and F. P. Drane with him to assist in the erection of the plant, and, with them, will have charge of its operation during the summer.

A Student Theater.

The purpose of the Yale Dramatic Association to erect the first student theater in this country has been announced. Plans are being drawn for a structure which will be of brick, and will stand on the site of the College Street Hall, New Haven, the present hall being utilized as the rear part of the building. The building will cost \$75,000, and will be the headquarters of the athletic association of the University, the debating clubs, and the university publications. A start at raising funds to defray the expenses of the structure will be made by the dramatic association this spring, when it takes to the road with "The Pretenders."

AMERICANS MORE THAN HOLD THEIR OWN IN ATHLETICS.

Colonial Students Stand Higher in Academic Field So Far.

There are at present 161 Rhodes scholars at Oxford, of whom 71 come from the British colonies, 79 from the United States, and 11 from Germany.

Mr. J. C. Behan, of Melbourne, Australia, has made the highest academic record of any of the Rhodes men. During the last year he has won close to \$5,000 in scholarships. Six other scholars secured first classes, and fully 20 have achieved distinction of some sort or another in examinations.

The great majority of these academic distinctions have been achieved by colonial students, the Americans in spite of their greater numbers, quite failing to keep up with them, probably because the prospects of going to Oxford to study appeals less to the American student and the competition is less keen.

From the athletic point of view, the Americans more than hold their own. This year P. M. Young won both the long and high jumps at the university sports, H. Sutton won the three mile, W. E. Schutt was second in the mile, while A. M. Stevens put the weight and threw the hammer. The colonies have taken no prominent part in sports, except South Africa, which provided half the "scrum" of the university Rugby team in 1905, three of them boys from St. Andrew's, Grahamstown.

The Fire.

The fire in the fireplace of the room occupied by Messrs. William Bond and Ben Lassiter on the second story of the D. K. E. hall rolled out on the floor about noon Tuesday while all the occupants of the house were out and started a blaze that came near being serious. When discovered it had burned through the flooring and had charred through the ceiling of the room below. The prompt action of a bucket brigade prevented its spreading, but not before everything in the room had been practically ruined by smoke. The room underneath was much damaged by water. All damage to the building is covered by insurance.

Had the blaze been discovered five minutes later it would probably have been too late to get it under control, which would have meant the destruction of the new S. A. E. hall, the old S. A. E. hall, and the Sigma Nu hall, as well as that of the D. K. E. house, while the danger to the Beta Theta Phi hall, the infirmary, and the new library, would have been great.