

THE TAR HEEL

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THE 112th Commencement of the University is numbered with the past. In reviewing the session just closed and the Commencement which formed for it a fitting climax we are possessed with a certain feeling of satisfaction. The fortunes of the University are on the upward grade. Witness the increase in buildings and equipments of the institution during 1906-7, the increase in the appropriation of the Legislature for the University's support, and the excess in the number of students in attendance during the recent nine months over that for any previous year. Such a prosperous session was fittingly brought to a close by a Commencement attended by a larger number of alumni than has ever attended a Commencement at the University before, a Commencement especially fortunate in the men of note that took part in its exercises, and notable for having passed out into the life of the State more trained young men than has any previous Commencement since the Civil War. Thus, it is clear, from a superficial standpoint, that the University is coming into its own in North Carolina. Its material advancement during the past session has exceeded even the brightest hopes of five years ago; the prospects are that its development will be even more rapid in the immediate future.

BUT there is another reason for the University's self-congratulation, aside from its material growth. The institution is, of course, at its basis, only what those who compose it, its students and faculty, think and do. Conditions have not been ideal at the University in the past, there has been no true University spirit. The different factions of the student-body have pulled against each other; there has been a fraternity spirit and a non-fraternity spirit, but no University spirit. Gradually, during the past few years, the students have come to realize that under such conditions the University of North Carolina can never become a truly "big" University, no matter how great the number of its student body.

As a result the students have been thinking, and this thinking has begotten a breadth of view, once totally lacking in both factions of college politics. During the spring term of the session just closed the result of this thought movement evinced itself when, for the first time in the history of the University, fraternity men and non-fraternity men stood up before

each other face to face as *men* and discussed ways and means for bettering conditions in University life. It was significant that by no true University man, who had grown up with the thought movement of the college in the air around him, was the slightest ill feeling evinced. And there has been none since. This was merely the first instance of the thought movement. It has gained a grip, and it will continue to grow; it is not for us to discuss how. This thought movement has as its goal a democratic University—"the sort spelled with a little 'D'"—the spirit of which will be a true University spirit. To the greater University this thought growth of its students is as essential as is the growth of its laboratories; the movement should not be overshadowed too far by the institution's more obvious material development.

A THOUGHT MOVEMENT is a subtle thing; no one can state the formula for its way of working. Subtle as it is, though, it gains a grip on every phase of the life within which it moves. Notable as an illustration is the manner in which this tendency of college thought has influenced the backing of the University's athletic teams during the year past. The end of this thought growth is to make *University* men, men who will prove loyal to their college always, under the right. One of its results this year has been to give to teams far weaker than many that Carolina has turned out in recent years, a degree of support unprecedented. Lack of support has been due always to lack of University spirit. The University spirit is growing: next year the support will be more solid still.

OF COURSE it would be mere folly to claim for this thought movement all power. Suppose that Carolina's representatives on the diamond or the gridiron were hired players. Then it would be impossible for these representatives to be backed by a *true* University spirit. The University must have the right sort of a team before it can have the right sort of support. Has the University had the right sort of teams this year? Undoubtedly, so far as they have gone. But they might have been better, and still as truly representative. Thus the support this year has been in spite of obstacles; would it not have been greater had the conditions been propitious?

In other words the University's athletic rules and the growth of the University spirit have come in conflict. We must have rules and we must have a University spirit, but they must work together. How shall this be accomplished? The spirit is right; remedy the rules. These rules stand today for the English ideal of "sport for sport's sake". This ideal is un-American and hence must be unsatisfactory here. The American goes in to win. Give to the University spirit, which stands for Carolina first, last, and all the time, the incentive of a team that is representative, that can win and win honorably for Carolina. Take off the brakes and see what the rules and the University spirit can accomplish when they pull together!

ONLY one incident occurred to darken this, the brightest of the University's Commencements—the announcement of the retirement from active service in the institution of Dr. Kemp Plummer Battle and Dr. Thomas Hume, both of whom have served the University so faithfully and well through the best years of their lives. To the love and devotion of Dr. Battle

the reopening of the University so soon after the Civil War was largely due, and no single teacher in the South, or in the nation as a whole, indeed, has done as much for the study of English literature and the literature of the Bible as Dr. Hume. The presence of these two loyal men here during the evening of their lives has in truth, in the words of the president of the Senior class, "shed a benediction over the University." It is with deep regret that we see them accept the offer of well-earned and honored retirements. May they live long to encourage and advise those who still bear the burden of service.

WE could not close the college year without a reference to the growth of the Young Men's Christian Association at the University during the year 1906-7. This growth has been remarkable, and it has been attained through giving emphasis to the social side of the association. By the opening of the Y. M. C. A. house as a social center and by the frequent informal receptions given in its rooms the organization has gained, in a few months, a grip on college life that it might otherwise have never gained in years. To Mr. F. B. Rankin, our general secretary, much of the credit for this advance is due; under his guidance the association has, in the next nine months, much to hope for.

To The Charlotte Observer of June 1st to 5th inclusive THE TAR HEEL is indebted for the body of the report of Commencement proper, printed in this issue.

Two Loving Cups.

Both Dr. Kemp Plummer Battle and Dr. Thomas Hume, the two members of the University's faculty who retire this spring, have been presented with handsome solid silver loving cups in appreciation of their service here. Dr. Hume's cup was presented to him on June the 5th by his students, from whom the gift came. It is simple in design, but especially pleasing, and is briefly engraved "Thomas Hume, D. D., LL. D., A Slight Token of the Love of his Pupils. Presented June 4th, 1907."

Dr. Hume, as stated previously, retires on an annuity with which he has been honored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Learning. Dr. Battle later received similar honor from the same source. His annuity will amount to \$1650 yearly and will be the last to be presented by the Foundation to a professor of a state university. Dr. Battle's loving cup was fittingly presented to him on the day on which he taught his last class in the University. It is of very artistic design and was made especially to order. It is engraved: "To Kemp Plummer Battle, LL. D., from the Department of History of the University of North Carolina, June, 1907." Many of Dr. Battle's old students joined in the gift.

Permanent Officers.

At a special meeting of the Seniors on Class Day the following permanent organization was effected, the officers to hold office through life: President, T. Holt Haywood, of Haw River; vice-president, William Henry Duls, of Wilmington; second vice-president, Geo. F. Leonard, of Lexington; secretary and treasurer, Charles Weill, of Rockingham. In the hands of the secretary and treasurer, Mr. Weill, will be left in trust for the next ten years the endowment fund that is being raised as its gift to the University by the class of 1907. As the

class numbers 65, this sum will reach, at the minimum, exclusive of interest, in the neighborhood of \$1000 by the class reunion in 1917. As many of the class expect to give more than the stipulated minimum of \$1.50 yearly the sum should be much greater than this.

The Smart Boys.

In spite of the rigorous measures taken by the Phi Beta Kappa Society here last spring in order to raise the standard of the chapter at the University even higher, twelve members of the class of 1908 proved too bright to be excluded by the change. The men who averaged the requisite 92½ per cent. and refrained from drawing any of the fives which are so popular along about the close of every term, were: P. H. Royster, of Raleigh; W. B. Davis, of Warrenton; J. W. Speas, of Donaha; O. R. Rand, Jr., of Smithfield; H. B. Gunter, of Sanford; W. G. Coughenour, of Salisbury; G. T. Whitley, of Smithfield; Marmaduke Robins, of Asheboro; J. M. Porter, of Greensboro; B. O. Shannon, of Gaston county; W. E. Yelverton, of Fremont; and T. W. Andrews, of Chapel Hill. Of these Mr. J. W. Speas made the highest average and Mr. O. R. Rand the second. According to the custom of the society these two men become president and secretary respectively during 1907-8.

A welcome visitor to the Hill during Commencement time was Mr. V. L. Stephenson, '06, THE TAR HEEL's chief last year, and now a rising young journalist on the staff of the Charlotte Observer, for which he reported this year's Commencement exercises.

The officers of the Athletic Association for next year are: J. J. Parker, president; G. M. Fountain, vice-president; T. R. Eagles, secretary and treasurer; F. B. Rankin, graduate member of the Advisory Committee; W. P. Stacy, under-graduate member.

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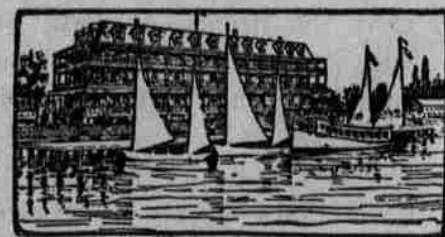
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