BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS.

VOL. III.

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY, SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 1900.

NO. 14.

The Writing on the Wall.

'Twas the holy hour of midnight. With a sigh of relief I closed my Xenophon, tossed my Greek dictionary under the table, put a fresh quid of "natural leaf" in my mouth and wandered to my bay window looking down upon Washington avenue. It has long been my custom to bask here in the moonlight, engage in lofty thoughts and spit ambeer on the pavement below. The disconsolate tom-cat, who had made pleasant the earlier hours of the night, had long since wailed himself wailless. The silence was made more intense by occasional sounds that sifted through the wire screening of a neighboring chicken-house. An aged rooster was protesting with his spouse on the impropriety of laying an egg at that hour. The dull rumble of passing traffic had ceased. No signs of life could be seen, save the unconscious form of a policeman, wr pped in deep sleep and a blue overcoat, who occasionally lifted up his tenor voice in shrill but guileless snore.

My reveries were broken by the stealthy approach of several strange figures. They bore among them what proved to be a ladder. Seeing the dignified posture of the guardian of the peace they paused. But when they heard his labored breathing, suggesting now the thunder of clashing planets, now the dulcet strains of the V. M. I. band, they moved merrily on. Directly opposite my window they halted. Here was a high wall, a wide section of which was devoted to a coat of new white paint. It had been artistically executed-evidently work of a master-hand. This had been done at the command and expense of an ambitious dealer in drugs, tooth-brushes and blue paint. Hereon he cherished the hope of setting forth in sixfoot letters his name, his place of business and the boneficent virtues of Wacoma and Coca-Cola.

But the Fates willed otherwise, if Fates they may be called. Hastily, they raised the ladder against this piece of immaculate whiteness.

Cautiously, one of the number amounted it. A tender-hearted freshman handed him a brush and can of paint. He dropped a tear in the can as he did so, for on it was the druggist's trade-mark. But the painter showed no signs of emotion. He only painted. He painted on this spotless desert of whiteness a name by which many true hearts have sworn.

The policeman unconsciously shifted his weight from one No. 14 to the other, the freshman boldly "shot" the tempting "stump" of the "twofer" which had slipped from the official's fingers and the brush flew faster.

Soon the deed was done. The painter descended, the crowd looked proudly on his work and, turning toward the policeman, they raised their hands to their faces in a gesture that lacked the decorum of a military salute.

ed and I was left staring at the sign case we should certainly get togethand the slumbering policeman. The signed stared back at me and the of obtaining a new one, and the policeman slumbered on. The moonlight glittered mockingly on his handsome brass buttons, his "billy" slipped from his wrist to the ground and the wind blew cruelly through his whiskers.

SAM SNOOKS.

Program Wash. Society.

January 27, 1900, 8 p. m. Orators-Brown, Foster, Eals. Saunders.

Debaters-Aff., Seig, Wooters, Hamilton; Neg., Burger, Spencer, Cooper.

Question-Resolved, That the initiative and referendum as the best system of legislation.

J. E. SENFT, Pres. E. W. G. BOOGHER, Sec'y.....

Mr. B. C. Flournor has just reecived a raise in his salary from the New York Central rail av, showing their appreciation of his services.

Mr. John K. Graves and Mr. John Preston Allan spent their last week's holiday in Lexington.

Communicated.

To the Ringtum Phi:

Although I am a new student, and sometimes called a freshman, some knowledge of and have begun to take interest in the contests between our two boat crews.

Yes, I have also chosen the one in whose behalf I intend to lend my lungs when the time comes, but for fear that a disclosure on this occasion would detract something from I prefer that my readers forego the are to be so honored.

I have not seen the boats in which have heard from reliable sources that one of them is in the last stages of vesselatory consumption and can't Swiftly and silently they dispers | ulations of training. If this is the er and raise funds for the purpose sooner the better. Unless this is done, there will be no race this year. Must we allow, for the sake of a few dollars and cents, a time honored custom to be broken, and the one of our athletic sports in which most inyou will agree with me.

The writer does not know whose Declaimers - Reveley, Wilson, it so, it is to solicit sul scriptions for a new boat, but I hope that he upon whom this coveted honor has been conferred is a faithful reader of the RING-TUM PHI, and will cast his optics upon this article and act according to the dictates of his con-

> Boys, don't wait for the solicitor to catch you but seek him with your patriotism and pocket-books and give as much as you feel that you can afford; that is all I ask.

I am willing to give my share you can find out who I am.

Editor Ring tum Phi :

liant record by having a representative on the ball team this spring, or must they forever consume the season in ceaseless "plugging"? It is true that the whole course furnished of this iustitution, I have gained three delegates on the football team in the fall, but two of these would not or could not have come out had they not first been trained under the broadening and elevating mental and physical influence of the "academ." The physical side explains itself, and under the "mental gymnastics" (with apologies to Patsy) the desired result of these remarks, they learned so to apply their faculties as to be able to take off an hour pleasure of knowing whether the for recreation every now and then. Harry Lees or the Albert Sidneys Some one recently suggested a basket ball game between the two schools. as an entertainment in behalf of ath! our crews pulled last year, but I letics, when some one replied that that never could be carried out because the "lawyers" did not know enough about such games to furnish possibly undergo the trin's and trib- a team. If this is not correct then let the "lawyers" get up a team at once and give battle ; the "academs" throw down the gauntlet,-the "lawyers," doubtless, will throw up the sponge.

BALLIE BASKETUS.

Graham-Lee Society.

Graham-Lee had a very interesting meeting last Saturday night. The debate, Resolved, "That stricter terest is taken, to be dispensed with? laws should be imposed upon immi-I say no! and I am sure that all of grants into the United States," was very ably debated on the affirmative by Messrs. Young, Preston and duty, if I may be permitted to call Keeble, while the negative was debated by Messrs. Shively, Ott and

> A still more interestting program is expected to be carried out tonight, and all members are earnestly requestly to be present and join in the were I throughou pil exercises.

> The following men are on for duty: Orators : Brown, Britton, Corbett, Allen, R.

Declaimers : Frierson, Keeble, Lord Hickman.

Debatefs : Affirmative, Allen, W., Beale, Lind, Fishburne.

Negative : Shewey, J. H., Davis, Kellinger, Marshall, J. W.

Question-Resolved, "That the Is either one of the law classes going to break its heretofore bril-

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All matters of business should be addressed to the Business Manager, and all other matters should come to the Editor-in Chief.

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J. W. Garrow, Tex., . Business Manager P. H. Anschutz, Va., . Assistant Manager.

On Monday the RING TUM PHI board held a meeting and Mr. J. R. VTucker resigned the position of editor-in-chief on the staff. Mr. Tucker's academic duties made his action imperative. In his resignation the RING-TUM PHI loses one of the ablest editors ever connected with it, and one whose place it will be hard to fill; but the difficulty of this situation was - happily met by the election of Mr. W. J. Lauck as his successor. Mr. Lauck has been a member of the board for some time, and has fully displayed his diligence and ability, and it is safe to predict that the RING-TUM PHI will continue to be conducted on the sound and discreet policy which has been characteristic of it in the past.

Mr. Editor :

I pulled on my wading boots and followed the straggle to the college chapel last night. I am glad I went. I heard there was to be an oratorical contest and a debate. I had no trouble in locating the oratorical contest-a half-dozen young fellows in spike-tailed coats, up on the stage were joined in a very uneven match with forty or fifty young ladies and gentlemen gathered under the rear end of the left hand gallery. This latter party had most of the time the efficient aid of some other young men in splke-tailed coats. After the thing had kept up for an hour or two with some interruptions of the stage end of the

ton's crowd in the gallery, the young many things which happened durman in the middle of the stage got up and said the prizes had been won by two of his crowd. Now, Mr. Editor, as an unbiased witness I protest against his decision. I can mention a number of people who agree with me that the other crowd had the best of it, for while those on the stage took turns at holding up their end a number of ladies and a few of the gentlemen in the other party kept it up without apparently tak-HOOSIER. ing breath.

Graham-Lee Celebration.

Rain, rain! it has certainly been pouring down of late. By Thursday evening all the speakers for the celebration had succeeded in concolds and answered in a hoarse whis per when inquiries were made about their sperches, that they were miserably prepared and were sure of making a failure. Verily the new membees of Graham-Lee must have have any. But there are others of to that innate oratorical modesty adopted. which every man who speaks seems to possess in so marked a degree. The outcome proved that there should have been no ground for uneasiness, as the celebration was fully up to the average and passed off very smoothly. '

well chosen words, greeted the audience and referred to him on whose birthday the celebration was held, and then introduced the first speaker. Mr. W. W. Glass, Jr., whose subject was "The Assimilative Power of the Republic." Mr. Glass spoke first of the greatness of our government and of the wonderful things America has accomplished in a little over a century of national life. Next he took up the dangers she has to face and then asked whether or not she could meet them successfully. The answer, he said, rested with the youth of our land, if we but return to the paths our forefathers trod there need be no fear for the future.

"Reflections at the End of the Century" was the subject of Mr. Causey's oration. It was along very much the same line as Mr. Glass's. He spoke of the glory of our counwhich she had passed successfully. match by a fuss from Joe Penning- He also touched upon some of the home in the mud.

ing the century that is almost gone. He then turned his attention to imperialism, which he denomiced as the greatest evil of the day. He reviewed graphically the rise and fall of the various modern nations which have adopted an imperial policy, and prophesied a similar fate for England. The oration closed with an appropriate quotation, "The Building of the Ship."

The debate was, resolved, "That there should be municipal ownership and operation of public franchises."

Mr. W. J. Lauck of West Virginia, opened on the affirmative. He tracting horrible voices, destroying declared that a municipality exists for the purpose of conferring the greatest good on the greatest number, that private franchise was in reality a sort of protective tariff that the government has a right to operate anything, if in so doing it been alarmed about their celebra- benefits the public and that public tion, if indeed they were going to operation of water works, electtric light plants, etc., proved a blessing us who attribute all such statements to all the cities where it had been

Mr. Pendleton of Virginia, although alone, ably defended the negative. His statement of the case was perhaps the clearest of the three. He gave five arguments for the affirmative, and then taking each one separately he answered it, very effectively, using numerous illustra-President Ott, in a few brief, tions to show what he meant. He dwelt at some length on the political corruption of our country, which was certainly a well taken point. Mr. Pendleton's speech was clear and thoughtful throughout.

Mr. Bigg, the last speaker, closed for the affirmative. He was much at ease on his feet and his flow of language was smooth and uninterrupted. It was a source of regret to his friends that he had not had sufficient time to memorize his debate more perfectly, as it was a very convincing one. He paid his respects to monopolies, which he said were robbing the people, that franchises which were gold mines in themselves, were constantly being given away and the people were unduly burdened on this account. He also treated of corruption from another point of view, and gave some examples of the workings of the publie franchise.

After Mr. Biggs had finished the band played. After that the president announced that the judges had awarded the orators medal to Mr. Causey and the debaters medal to try and of the many trials through Mr. Lauck. After that the audience broke up to enjoy the stroll

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President Thwing's Lecture.

The regular Wednesday morning meeting was postponed until today in order to have the pleasure of hearing from Dr. Thwing, president of Adelbert college, who is the guest of Prof. H. St. G. Tucker.

President Thwing began by saying he thought it appropriate in view of the present time to consider the problems and duties that will confront the college man in the first half of the century soon to be entered upon. The nineteenth century, he said, has been a great century, the twentieth is to be infinitely greater, to live in which is a great privilege as well as a great responsibility, ... The nineteenth century has been marked by the advances in science and material development, the twentieth will see greater progress in both directions.

But some very grave questions are to be met and solved. All who are ablest to look into the future agree that the time is not far distant when we shall be face to face with serious issues, those which may menace the very, foundations of our government. One of the most important of these questions, and one which we may be called on to consider in the immediate future is the social problem or the relation of man to community. Already, both in Europeand America, communicity or state socialism is attaining startling proportions. And the gravity struction work on Briar river on a of the situation is brought home when we consider that individualism, personal and in the community, is the product of thousands of years of all the struggle of humanity toward civilization up to the present time. The conditions that confront us are dark and mysterious, but who is so fit to solve them as the college man, on account of his training to meet problems and to do accurate thinking. 'As great talents are given to the college man so his responsibility is great, and his duty is apparent. He is the product of the wisdom of past and present, he has the brain that is trained in channels vey of Indian Territory. of broad culture, and to him the country is to look in seasons of perplexity.

college men is, be business men. The of the Graham-Lee society.

training of a college man when turned in this direction, or any other, must bring him that success which others fail to attain because they lack the trained brain.

And again, the material progress and luxuries of the present are liable to lead us away from the simple and true principles of living. But the college man is the one to have the clear head to stick to principles of truth, honor, duty and country. The college man of the past has never neglected the call of country, wherever it might lead him, and we find him still most responsive to every call to duty. With him duty should be more than life, and while every man may not be called on to die for his county, he is called on to do the infinitely harder task of living rightly for it. And this is the duty of the college man who is to be the leader in the affairs of the twentieth century.

Personals.

Miss Tina Patton of Blacksburg, is visiting Miss Margaret Graham. Mr. J. M. Mason came up from Spottswood to attend the Cotillion

Club hop.

Cadet Clark of New York city, died at the V. M. I. hospital Tuesday morning of cerebro spinal men-

Mr. T. H. Webb of the engineering class of '97, is employed in connew branch of the C. & O.

Mr. J. R. Tucker will represent Washington and Lee at the athletic meeting to be held at University of Virginia on the 27th of this month,

Dr.Glasgow Armstrong, a Washington and Lee alumnus, and now surgeon at the Bellevue hospital in New York city, is on a vacation of a month with his parents in Lexing-

Mr. John Palmer Walker, C. E ... of class of '95, is in charge of a force of eighteen men at Muskogee, I. T., engaged in a government sur-

President Thwing of the Western Reserve University, is the guest of Professor H. St. George Tucker, Furthermore, we have great ma- dean of the law school. Last eveterial problems to settle, we have ning Dr. Thwing was p.esented to the resources of a country to devel- the Fortnightly Club by Mr. Tuckop, and one of the first messages to er and later attended the celebration

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the German Student "Loafer."

In the absence of President Wilson, Professor Tucker introduced Dr. Crow as the speaker of the morning, on the subject of the "German Student Loafer," which he treated in a very happy manner. Dr. Crow spent his German student days at Gottinger, and based his reminiscences on the Gottinger loafers.

Our space will not admit of our outlining the subject with anything like detail, and we are confined strictly to its most prominet features. As there are no classes and no games at the German universities, and the loafer is essentially social in his nature, we find him at his best, or worst, in the clubs. He rarely finds time to attend classes, as his day is taken up with the various meetings. Each club has its own colors which are worn in their small round caps set far back on the head, in their colored jackets, and form a prominent feature in all their public costumes. The object of the clubs is to promote conviviality and bravery by drinking and dueling.

Beer is the universal beverage and is taken at all the meetings which occur several times during the day; it. does not fail even during the duels. The clubs also have a great weakness for parades and celebrations. But dueling is the most interesting feature. Regular practice duels are fought before the club members as well as challenged duels. A light sword is the usual weapon, though sabres are used in case of grave offenses. The vital parts of the body are protected and as all strokes are made from above, the results are wounds on the face and head which are rarely very serious, but which afford the much coveted scars.

Club men are divided into two classes, the freshmen and the older members, who have fought as many as five duels, when they are allowed to assume the sash and the third color of the club. Dueling may almost be said to be tolerated by the university and state authorities.

German students have many privileges, are exempt from arrest as long as they bear their student cards. Imprisonment can be enforced by the university authorities, and every university has its own jail, which is usually well filled.

Feminine society is not much sought after. A man is rarely seen Repairing neatly done and well. Thirty-four years' experience.

on the stacet in company with a woman, unless he is engaged to her. The one exception to this is on the Saturday afternoon holidays at Mariaspring, when the student loafer rouses himself, walks up to any chaperon, introduces himself and leads out the lady of his choice for

There are no intercollegiate games, and no intercollegiate clubs, corresponding to the American fraternities, but two clubs in different universities may form a kind of alliance. But the life within the club is very intimate. Some club houses have been recently built, but before each club had its own beer-garden and restaurant, where strangers came only on invitation. Beer feasts are held once or twice a month, in summer in the open air, in winter in the taverns.

The time that the German student usually spends in this "easy living" is the period immediately after leaving his school up to the time he does his army service. The life of the loafer is picturesque and romantic, quite medieval in its spirit, but is slowly giving way be fore the stress of modern ideas.

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