

*Ino Scaup*

# THE RING-TUM PHI.

BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS.

VOL. IV. WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY, SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1901. NO. 19.

### Review of the Collegian.

As we turn over the pages of the February number of *The Collegian* in search of the evidences of literary talent which ought to be present in a university magazine, it is perhaps needless to say that our search is a waste of time. Whatever may be the opinion of those who believe the twelve young geni should have encouragement, not criticism, common sense will convince them that in this issue of *The Collegian* no encouragement can be given since there is no talent or genius shown. Perhaps we ought to make an exception, however, of the poem on "Dozing," which is really very good in comparison with the other contents. The author ought to be ashamed of letting his production be seen in such company as the article entitled "A Chapter of Romance," which is more a melly of muddled up metaphors and similes mixed with hazy references to history. We can refer but to a few of these rhetorical monstrosities. Think of anything keeping "anchored within our troubled heart;" romance or tales which are so well known as to "haunt the grim walls" or to "linger in impending blackness throughout the mysterious strongholds of her silent hills," and then ask where "her heart" exists. Then again when "the terrible sight of burning martyrs seemed as a girdle of perdition to mark the terrors of Spain's authority," the author gives us an unheard of psychological phenomena—that of a "sensation appearing as a girdle." In the very next line we notice a very great historical error, or a sadly ambiguous phrase, when it is stated that the victims of the inquisition were dragged from the palace to the peasant's hut. According to the author's statement Spain performed a wonderful gymnastic trick by being "hurled in a bound." He also says that her pride was "smothered by a rod," a new and startling means of committing murder.

The spirited criticism of Mr. Wilkinson's article was useless and

entirely uncalled for. If there are some people who persist in blaming the South, it is best policy to let them waste all the ink they want; for the civil war, as the author may not know, closed some years ago.

In the study of Tito Melema's character considerable talent is shown; the greatest fault is, perhaps, that too much of the decline of his character was traced to his desire for pleasure. It will be remembered that very early the elements of predetermined unscrupulousness appears in Tito's decline. This oversight arises from a too superficial study of the personality, which makes the whole article a sort of compilation from the book *Romola*. A study of this nature should be original and careful; else it is utterly worthless for instructive reading matter.

In regard to the stories we can say that it is hardly possible that a true lover of fiction would lay them down after a patient perusal and not wish he had spent his time on a "Frank Merrill" or a dime novel of the poorest class. In fact no excess of imagination in the latter could compare with that of the professor who fell dead when he saw burning beef-steak because he conceived a resemblance between that and a human being. The "Outfield Error" was ingenious, but the trick in the climax is as old as the hills. And we would advise the author of "An Offer Rejected," should he ever wish to commit a like crime again to put "Wacoma" instead of the hair tonic, since then it might do some good, even though that good be in the line of advertisements.

The editorials were very good, but there were not enough of them. Some one on the editorial staff might have taken pity on poor "Hugh Darnaby" and allowed him to fill up the almost empty page of book reviews.

In conclusion, we can give the editors of *The Collegian* the consolation that they have succeeded in bringing out the poorest number of the session. Let them beware of the next offense; in

other words—refuse to publish any more of such trash, for we are confident that there is some literary talent among the 200 men at Washington and Lee university. \*

### Scout Life in the Confederate Army.

The Rev. Frank Stringfellow, the most famous of the Confederate scouts, will lecture on the above subject in Chapel on Friday evening, March 8th, for the benefit of athletics.

The thrilling and startling experiences which he passed through during the war, are presented by him in a realistic and forcible manner, the humorous mingled with the grave. The press bears universal testimony to his ability as a lecturer and to the entertaining way in which he narrates the dangerous episodes of his war career.

The *Washington Post* in commenting upon one of his lectures, says: "The life of a Confederate scout led in those stirring times reads like a romance now. To hear him narrate his exciting experiences will amuse and instruct all. To the Southerner it will recall the historic and unforgotten past. To the Northerner it will give a glimpse of the reverse side of the shield."

During the war Mr. Stringfellow enjoyed the confidence of such men as Generals Lee, Stuart, Jackson and Jefferson Davis, all of whom relied upon him for information. No student can afford to miss hear this distinguished man, and the time and money spent by him in doing so will yield him large dividends. Admission 25 cents.

### Football Manager.

At a called meeting on last Wednesday afternoon the Athletic committee elected Mr. McNulty manager of the football team for the season of 1901. Their choice is a good one and meets with the concurrence of the students.

"Although the lecture lasted for nearly two hours, the only criticism we heard was that it was too short." —Roanoke World.

### Baseball.

In spite of the fact that several men have been severely frostbitten and one "alternate" and two subs. frozen, the baseball fever reached such a height this past week that it must needs expend itself in several practice games,—when the skating was not quite so good.

Thus far there has been nothing phenomenal exhibited by any particular candidate, but several, even in this short space of time, have sprung all sorts of agreeable surprises on us, so much so in fact that there is not the least doubt but that the two places left vacant from last year's team can be filled with men who will expand the heart of the loyal rooter with joy and gladness; besides these, "there are others" whose ability and ambitions have led them to aspire unto positions which have not been so vacated. These last have caused me not a little anxiety about the ultimate fate of several who have already borne the white and blue to victory, or, if fortune so willed it, to honorable defeat. The loss of any one of them will cause much more than a passing regret, yet, nevertheless, competition must be open equally to all and we must put the best team possible in the field—a team which will, in each position, or as a whole, reflect most credit on our colors.

Washington and Lee has probably never had a greater number of good men to choose from than this year. Many of these are at present playing equally well and picking the team will doubtless be a most difficult task. It is necessary for each man to feel that "push" alone will win and "pull" will not be "in it." Mistakes may occur and "discoveries" have often been made in the middle of the season, (for even the "official" score book cannot be entirely trusted), since "ginger," hard work, etc., are not recorded in its summary.

It has been proved by actual trial many times over that it is better to have a hustling and heady, though

(Continued on fourth page)

# The Ring-tum Phi.

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The excessive applauding with the feet and other means of expressing sympathy with the remarks of the various speakers in chapel is becoming, to say the least, disgraceful. It not only embarrasses but is an insult to the person occupying the platform. When persons who are connected with the University are the sufferers therefrom it is bad enough, but when visiting speakers receive the same treatment it reflects upon the traditional courtesy and fair name of the University. Proper applause is a good thing, but improper applause, like all other improper things, should not be tolerated.

## The Memorial to Mr. Wilson

Considerable progress is reported from those engaged in soliciting funds for the memorial to Mr. Wilson, and the movement is receiving universal commendation from the collegiate and the daily press. The *Courier-Journal* aptly comments on the movement as follows: "A chair of economy will commemorate Wm. L. Wilson far more effectually than would some towering granite column, because it will perpetuate the truths to which he was devoted, and it will thus be at the same time a blessing to coming generations. The movement ought to be a striking success."

Remember the time, March 8th; chapel the place.

Make your dates now for the lecture Friday night.

[Communicated.]

## College Spirit and the Literary Societies

Editor Ring-tum Phi:

A devoted few gathered in Graham-Lee hall on Saturday night, Feb. 23, at the appointed time. Eight o'clock came and went but revealed not a quorum present, and in the hope that others might come 15 minutes of patient waiting was awarded, but alas for our hope, it was in vain. The roll was called, the familiar "here" could be heard occasionally with a sound of discouragement. The motion to adjourn scarce received a vote, yet by the supreme law of Graham-Lee society, we could not do more.

The president announced his intention of fining the absent members. "They will not pay it," "they will not pay it," was the response by those present.

The evening has been the source of soliloquy to the writer. His conclusions are that Graham-Lee has in the minds of those who said "They will not pay it," either some members of miser ideas, or of no honor. There is only one way to rebut both of these conclusions—fine the absent members, and if they pay, it will be conclusive proof that they have regard for debts of honor and are not related to a miser.

There has been much said of college spirit as regards athletics, which is commendable, but there seems to be no one who dares raise his voice in behalf of the literary societies of Washington and Lee. When the laurels of athletics are won, is not the gifted speaker needed to confer the prize?

Eloquent and ready speech is a gift not only desirable but actually needed in all the walks of life. There is not a man so timid, not one so dull, not one so bright, who cannot be benefitted by participating in the work done in the literary societies of Washington and Lee.

When wealth is offered a man and he refuse, the conclusions that all people draw are practically the same; what would they call him should he sign his name to the roll of those who desire wealth and when it is offered him he refuses. To one who might ask him the reason why, his reply would sound like this: "I did not have time, it was offered on such a disagreeable

night, and besides I was not feeling well," but when translated the conclusion would be the same that all people draw, though with more emphasis. Selah. There is wealth in the literary societies. X.

## Miss Pratt's Candy Stew.

In response to the unique invitations of the host about 50 guests assembled at Miss Pratt's on Thursday evening to learn the subtle art of making candy taffy and to enjoy the results of their labor and fun.

Among those present were Misses Stacker, Catlett, Nettie Preston, Elizabeth and May Ross, Myers, Denny, Nêtie and May Houston, Bruce Houston, Lucy and Edmonia Smith, Judith Anderson, Slater, Mary and Martha Moore, Dennis, Lucilla and Helen Booker, Jo. Allen, Glasgow and Brockenbrough. Professor Vance, Captain Watts, Messrs. Vaughan, Harry and Edgar Waddell, Prestoo, Wood, J. W. Bagley, S. C. Bagley, Boaz, Young, Foster, McPheeters, Glasgow, Anderson, Tabb, Sanders, Hall, Miley and others.

## Movement for Alumni Library

At the request of the librarian the members of the class of 1901 held a meeting on Tuesday evening in Newcomb Hall in order to discuss the question of starting a movement for an Alumni Library. The plan, as suggested by the librarian is that the members of each year's graduating class pledge themselves to give every year after graduation one book preferably of fiction or history, to the library; the name of the donor in each case to be recorded. In this way it is hoped that in a few years, quite an addition will be made to the library in the field of lighter literature.

At a regular meeting of the class held the following day, it was decided that the plan as suggested be adopted, and a committee was appointed to draw up resolutions to be signed by the members of the class by which each one promises to faithfully contribute each year to the library.

No other business of importance was transacted at this meeting.

"Dewey" Cooke has gone home to recuperate his health which has been very bad since Christmas. He expects to return about April 1st.

## Texas Justified.

Editor Ring-tum Phi:

The RING-TUM PHI of February 17th lies before me. In it I notice what it has to say in regard to Casper Whitney's remarks in regard to the All Southern team for the season of 1900.

I would like to say that I read the article in the Outlook, and I can say further that what he said about our center, McCall, is wholly without foundation. McCall did not come to T. U. to play football. He was a bona fide student, a member of the senior law class. Unfortunately he had to be called home before Christmas, hence all this furor about his not being a student.

He was a student, and an earnest one too. Had it not been for Coach Thompson "McC" would never have been on the field. He did not like the game. But when in it he was the best of the best. "McC" was never found wanting. I know him personally and am very sorry that Mr. Whitney made his calculations at so long a range. The charge of "professionalism" was never more falsely made. To a great extent the same can be said in regard to his remarks about Russ. Russ stood his examinations and passed in them too.

Further I can say that I never saw "cleaner ball" played anywhere than at T. U. Every team is treated with courtesy by every one of the students. They believe in fair play and mean that all who come here shall be pleased with the treatment they receive.

The faculty rules are strict and are no dead letter. They are enforced. A man has to keep up his class standing or else get off the team.

Mr. Whitney has made no friends in the South by his hostile criticism. He had done far better had he never undertaken the task. We of the Southland have no more confidence in him. His criticism of Texas was most harsh and unjust as any one who knows can tell you.

I beg to remain very sincerely yours,  
V. M. BROWN.

"Mr. Stringfellow gave a thrilling recital of his adventures as a Confederate Scout, and in one of the most interesting lectures we have heard in Richmond for many years."—Richmond Dispatch.

## Law Department.

### A Ball in Nubibus.

It is subject to no condition precedent and is always ready during its continuance, to come into the "paws" of some certain fielder, already existing and ascertained, now or hereafter, in any manner whatsoever, if it descends, which it usually does except when Breckenridge, who from his contingent remainders and executory devises doth come fresh with ample batting practice to execute devices by which to lift the sphere far beyond the bounds of the fieldermen. Then the rule in Wild's case applies and it goes to the children on the other side of the fence. However, this is a very extraordinary case and it seldom comes up except in actual practice. In this jurisdiction which is so mysterious you cannot hope to move to "strike out," but you will move if you strike out often. And then too, our old friend Demurrer, so sore and stiff last year, who was picked up for a season—a very stated one, however—is, we are glad to say, amended by an abolition, and supplied by a catcher that never fails (jeofails), his dying declarations were "Smith and Bagley did it."

When all the data for drawing inferences is before Judge Andrews it is superfluous to add my opinion as to what other unfortunate orator humbly complaining will go day without hence. It is all in gremio legis basae balli Capti Andrii. However, everything looks bright for all the applicants; those who do not get a "field simple" will surely get a "pig-tail special."

We have a sly one keeping his little vigils (innuendo H. M. Fox) in, about and concerning one spot sacred to him, his claim is (1) actual; (2) open and notorious; (3) exclusive; (4) in defiance of and hostile to the true owner, and (5) with claim of title in himself he has no color of title, but he actually encloses the whole territory lying and being in and about the centre field and further described, as will appear from deed book 1901 of the Blue Hotel for W. & L. University. Clerk E. Callan.

The second base:

To A and the heirs of his body; and if he die without issue living at his death, and the dissolution of his

mother-in-law, to Montgomery and his off-spring. And further this deponent sayeth not.

### Donation of Cups.

The firms of Irvine & Stevens, of Charlottesville, and the Owen Hardware Co. of Lexington, have shown in a substantial manner their appreciation of the patronage of the students of Washington and Lee by donating to the athletic association two handsome cups to be competed for by the members of the gymnasium class in their coming exhibition—the cup to be awarded to the athlete making the highest general average on that occasion.

The cups are of beautiful design and will doubtless act as a healthful stimulus to our gymnastics.

Causey is still in the clutches of the gripe.

Dr. Howe has been sick for the past few days.

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[Continued from first page.]

younger player in the place of one who may do a little better when the match game comes, but who will not properly practice with his less "seasoned" associates, simply because laziness or carelessness is contagious and deadens the whole team. We are, fortunately, so situated this year that we can dispense with the services of any one man without seriously affecting our prospects of success. We are still more fortunate, however, in that nothing of this kind has yet been seen, and our practice games have been characterized by unusual "snap" this year. Nothing will so injure the present, and future of athletics as the feeling of "cinch on any job" by an "old" man, and nothing will more insure the legitimate holding of the job referred to as the lack of this sensation, combined with the true spirit of keeping at it if, perhaps, temporarily successful. M. P. A.

**Communicated.**

Editor Ring-tum Phi:

Dear Sir:—I represent a committee appointed by the Lexington, Va., branch of the "World's Universal Curiosity Association" to ascertain the nature, extent, and reputation (if possible) and general reputation of the so-called "S. B. C." which has so recently sprung from our midst and inflicted their imposing rancidity upon this peaceful Scotch-Irish community.

Any information from your subscribers would be gladly accepted as an endowment to our celebrated association, President Humm Nature of our association, desires to have such information published immediately in our popular ever-issuing magazine, "Poke Your Nose in Others Business."

"The Ladies' Gossiping Aid Society" has made repeated personal demands upon our Lexington agency for the above information (they being too modest to consult any individual, or other association); and we have contracted to obtain it for them regardless of any expense to ourselves.

Very truly,  
U. C. INQUISITIVENESS.

Caspar Whitney has written to Vanderbilt acknowledging his error in reviewing the football season at that institution.

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