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THE PARTHENON

Vol. XI

HUNTINGTON, W. VA., JANUARY 20, 1912

No. 11

1907

On Thursday morning, January 11, the many, many friends of Miss Edna Carter in this city and at the college were shocked to learn that she had just passed from among us to the realms of the infinite Unknown, the result of an operation for appendicitis.

She first felt her illness on Saturday, the 7th. She had taught the first three years after her graduation in the Ensign school of Huntington, was teacher in the Twentieth Street Baptist Sunday School, a member of the choir of that church, and in other ways an industrious and useful woman in the community.

Miss Carter was a cousin of Prof. B. B. Chambers of the college faculty and sister to Miss Nellie Carter, class of 1910.

A very sad feature of this untimely death was the fact that the sweet life-hope of natural woman, that of becoming bride to the man she loves, was to have been realized by Miss Carter the coming spring.

In the passing of this dear little woman, alumna, friend, daughter, sweetheart, lady, from all material relations among us, there remains to her lasting credit and honor the beautiful and ennobling memory of a life rarely natural and true, to serve as beacon light to all who loved her and who would, like her, *be natural and true*.

In the presence of this fresh made mound, covered with the chaste, refining snow, neath which rests the mortal of what we knew as Edna Carter, one bares the head and bends the form as one silently, tearfully whispers: "Good bye, oh, good bye; it seems it must be so, at least the sad fact remains with us, *it has been*—Edna's pure, white body, chaste as the snow that serves on this January day as winter cloak to soften the lines of the earthly mound neath it, lies below; this we know, *this we know*, this, and this only. Beyond this sober fact all can be but belief, in which alone the heart can find the solace of hope and comfort. Belief! ah, belief! What natural mind, what human heart can follow the short maiden history of her soulful career from its first appearance among us, till now, watch its wondrous unfolding and development into charming womanhood and winsome personality, and not feel deep within that indefinable thing we call "self," a genuine conviction that to such a beginning there can be no *ending* like this; there remains the real entity we know as Edna, yet to be accounted for after all

the efforts of science to solve the problem of life and mind and human character are exhausted; and till that accounting is made to harmonize with the deepest impulses of the trained human mind, let him to whom it all remains a puzzle still, wait, wait, with patience yet; let not the act be his, nor his the word or thought, another's hopes or faith to chill, till Truth with truth the earth can fill. Till then, *till then, let him be still*. There is, *there is, a Greater, still*.—L. J. C.

The V. L. S. Grows! Grows!

Nothing is to be compared with the growth which is now going on in the V. L. S. On Friday, the twelfth, few seats in the big hall were left vacant; and the performances were full of life and vigor, causing everybody to laugh, think and develop.

The meeting was featured with a sonorous and humorously bombastic discussion of this weighty question: "Are Professors Franklin and Wylie Wise in Putting Off Marriage So Long?" The discussion was one taken part in by all who cared to do so, until President Archer found that he must proceed to more austere topics.

But of no less importance was the reply received to our challenge to meet us in literary contest from the Erosophians. At last the two societies have really agreed to cross swords, and we are fully sure that both societies should be delighted to know this. Nothing has elated the Virginians more for moons than the prospects for this contest; and we are of the belief that we will bring home our share of the bacon.

But don't forget this. We want ev-

erybody to visit us; and, if you do so, then we are sure that you will say in the most delighted tones, "THIS IS JUST WHAT I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR—THE VIRGINIAN LITERARY SOCIETY."

Erosophian Society

Program, Jan. 26, 1912.

Piano Solo—Gladys Hansbarger.

Reading—Miss Lee.

Male Quartette — Messrs. Milam, Hypes, Benedict, Dowdy.

Debate

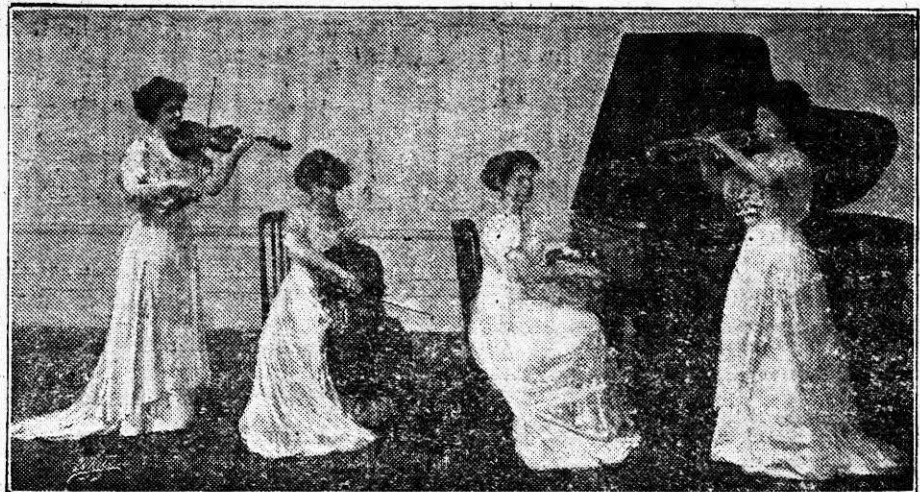
Resolved; That the secret societies and fraternities of our schools and colleges should be abolished.

Affirmative — Miss Harper, Miss Gwinn. Negative—Miss Good, Miss Painter.

Aida Trumpet Quartet

The Aida Trumpet Quartet from New York City has appeared on the same program with such world famous artists as Schumann-Heink, Bispham, and others. Mr. C. Pol Plancan, noted baritone from Boston, will accompany them and render solos. The coming of this company will be an event in musical circles. Among the papers which comment enthusiastically on their work are the New York Herald, New York Tribune, and the Boston Herald.

The Aida Quartet is composed of Miss Edna White, the only solo trumpeter of her sex in the world; Miss Norman Sauter, violinist, a pupil of Franz Kneisel; Miss Cora Sauter, cellist, a pupil of Leo Schulz; and Miss Ruth Wolfe, a well known pianist.



AIDA TRUMPET QUARTET.

To appear in College Auditorium Wednesday, Jan. 24, at 8:30 p. m.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 1912



Board Meeting

The Board of Regents for the state educational institutions met in this city on the 11th inst., and were joined by the Board of Control—a meeting of unusual importance. Among the various matters discussed were these:

1. The new department (to be, or rather to be developed) of agriculture at the university and its connection with, and relation to, the other schools of the state.

2. The affairs of each school needing immediate attention.

3. The courses of study in the normal schools. It will be of interest to students and prospective students to know that, under this head, Marshall's course or courses are to be extended at once to *two years* (instead of *one year*, as decided at the June meeting), in advance of present standards. Fairmont will do the same. The other schools were not represented by their heads, but their courses are to be revised and all are to be submitted and discussed and passed upon at the March meeting. The committee on Courses of Study is at work on the problem this week and will continue their meetings weekly till their drafts of the new courses are completed. The problem of greatest importance is to so arrange these courses, and so do the work that graduates from them will receive full credit, subject for subject, and as nearly as possible, time for time, at as many of the colleges and universities of the country as we can articulate with, but especially at our own state university. This is decidedly of first

importance to students. Just what the courses are to be, just how they will be articulated with present courses, and just how soon the two years additional work will be required in full, are matters to be decided at the March meeting.

4. Election of new teachers and confirming appointments of teachers already made by special committees. Under this head at Marshall were two: Miss Hattie Tudor of Charleston, as seventh grade teacher in the Model School; Miss Hazel Smith, class of 1907, as teacher of the new division of the seventh grade, Model School.

The president of the board of control Mr. Lakin, read from his financial report of the expenses per capita of the various schools of the state, some very interesting statistics, which showed that next to the Glenville school, Marshall's per capita expense on enrollment is the lowest of any of the schools, being a little over \$62, a large per cent of which is paid by the students.

Both boards visited the school while it was in session.

Mr. Wilkinson dined the boards and heads of the schools present on the evening of the 11th and Regent Northcott on the evening of the 12th; two occasions of exceptional good fellowship, cordiality on the part of the hosts and hostesses, and, certainly in the way of service and things served, all that the heart of an epicure at a "stag" dinner could wish for.

The heads of the schools represented, aside from Marshall, were Col. Hodges, of the University and President Woodley, of the Fairmont school.

All members of both boards were here. President J. S. Lakin, Member John A. Sheppard and Treasurer E. B. Stephenson, of the State Board of Control; President M. P. Shawkey, Members George S. Laidley, J. B. Findley, E. W. Oglebay and G. A. Northcott of the Board of Regents.

The boards adjourned at 1:30 a. m. Saturday morning, the 13th, after a meeting which in all probability, will prove, in some respects, the most important in several years.

A feature of the meeting was the talk of Mr. Oglebay just before adjournment, Friday night. The significance of his talk (for Mr. Oglebay would evidently not agree to our speaking of it as an address or a speech, since it was wholly informal, the speaker remaining in his chair all the while), lay in this:

1. The talk was provoked by the board's taking up the discussion of the problem of organizing the new department of agriculture at the university

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Monad Bishop, who was detained at home after holidays by the sickness of her father, is again among us, having arrived Saturday night.

and the reading of the recommendations of the new head of that department.

2. Mr. Oglebay is a several-times-over millionaire, is connected as director and in other capacities with a number of wealthy corporations and other business enterprises, and is a tremendously busy man, a most unusual man on a board of this kind, since his duties here are almost exclusively gratuitous to the state and yet are somewhat exacting.

3. He "returned to the farm" a few years ago (an actual and very unusual case of "returning to the farm"), feeling that life there, properly spent, had more of charm, of comfort, of home, of life, and of service than could be found in the cities.

4. He has a farm of about one thousand acres just outside the city of Wheeling, which is said to be a model in the way of modernized theories of agriculture made practical. (It is the purpose of the writer to visit this farm for the express purpose of describing the situation to the readers of this journal.)

5. Mr. Oglebay respectfully declined to act as a member of the board when the governor consulted him, but the governor urged it upon him as a public duty and he accepted it as such. The purpose every man should be inspired with who acts on such a board. Once on the board, progressive and up-to-date business man that he is, he proceeded at once to inform himself carefully and widely on the subjects coming before him as a member of the board.

One of the first of these was to appoint, or have the board to appoint, a good school man as secretary of the board, whose duties are to gather information, within and outside the state, bearing upon educational conditions in our own state, and to visit all our state schools and tabulate statistics gathered therefrom.

Another step was to call to his—and the board's—service the assistance of a specialist on certain vitally important phases of the work of the board in organizing an agricultural department.

6. Add to the above five preliminary statements the personality of a man in the very prime of middle life, earnest, conscientious, absolutely free from political bias—ah! how often does one find it! Clean-cut, straight forward, direct, candid, courteous to the last degree, trained thoroughly in business affairs, enthusiastic, alive to the responsibilities of his position, one who has done things, is no experiment in business or in farming on a scientific basis.

Replying to the observations of different members of the boards on the recommendations of the new head of the agriculture department at the university Mr. Oglebay spoke calmly, deliberately, at first, making some general and pertinent remarks on the specific question at issue. He then addressed himself to the problem of agriculture in

the schools, then to the general subject of a liberal policy for the schools and finally to agriculture as the most important of all questions affecting the prosperity of a state or nation aside from its mental and moral development. Under this head he showed his broad and liberal views on education and the financing of schools and brought to bear upon the question his extended and purposeful travels and study of the agricultural and horticultural problem in various parts of the world, especially in France, Spain, Italy, Austria, Holland, England, Germany, Greece, China and Japan, speaking with as much freedom and familiarity as to details on these subjects as now handled in those countries as if he had spent a good portion of his life at the head of the agriculture department of each country. His knowledge of statistics compiled by these countries was seemingly matter of A. B. C.'s only to him. He then addressed himself more directly to the problem of agriculture in the states where he showed a masterly command of reports carefully digested. When finally he came to our own state he warmed to his subject till his enthusiasm seemed to inspire him with prophetic outlook upon the future of the mountain commonwealth. He began to talk at twelve, and one o'clock found him still in the midst of the zeal he felt in discussing a subject of such stupendous significance to a people absorbed in the lesser and but temporary pursuits of mining coal, boring for oil and gas, cutting timber, slipshod farming, and other means of the destructive and consuming kinds of money-making, life-sustaining, luxury-providing which take not thought for the morrow under these heads, and return nothing to compensate the state for what they consume and destroy. Among the many significant observations he made these linger with us:

1. The value of the farming lands of West Virginia is less than half what it was when our land was first cleared, and it is a great pity that much of it was ever cleared at all; it were far better for both the land, the land owner, and for the state in different ways if it were permitted to grow trees and bushes and briars rather than starvation crops.

2. If our people are to lose their perspective as to the relative value of town and country life to a people; industrially and economically, also from a sanitary point of view, by the influences which our coal, oil and gas have wrought upon the industrial life of the state, it had been far better for us if we had none of these products.

3. An agricultural department properly equipped and conducted costs money, much money; so does any other branch of educational or industrial enterprise. We expect them to cost money because, as no other things in all

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the world, they return money and more to the state and to the country. If we have not sufficient money to properly equip our schools let us go before the legislatures and ask for it; and if they do not have it, let us bond the state and get it. Where can money be so wisely expended?

4. What shall we give the normal schools in the way of equipment for teaching the teachers of the state agriculture and kindred subjects? *Everything they need*, and that means a most liberal policy; just as their training schools are their laboratories in pedagogy, so is their school farm their laboratory in agriculture. Equip these teachers in the normal schools thoroughly; you can't educate them too well. Encourage them to go to the country to teach and pay them for it; pay them not for five, or six, or nine months only, but for twelve; and during the vacation let them spend their time assisting the farmers of the district in working out agricultural problems. Here is where we want our *very best teachers*.

5. *The More you have to pay a man for his services the more reasonable his price is—the cheaper is this man in the end*; I found this so on the farm after a few years' trial and it is true especially in the schools. Teaching school in the right sense of the word is neither a child's play, a girl's job, nor a cheap man's business; it is the work of the intelligent, the capable, the well equipped and the well-salaried man or woman. I go back among these schools and see a mere strip of a girl teaching thirty or forty children of all ages; that is an impossible thing. This is not teaching school.

6. The wealth of the state, its perpetuity, depends upon its farms and how these are handled. Every man farms not simply for his own family, but for about three other families who live in the towns and cities; each year his farm yields less and less. What are we to do? Talk about high prices! Of course we have them; we all are eating more things, more expensive things and eating and living in more expensive ways, and yet the farms of the country are decreasing in value and the farmers in numbers. Food costs must go up under such conditions.

7. But I am not pleading for agriculture and horticulture alone; we must have the arts and sciences taught, of course we must; they are an essential part of our scheme of society and of life, a very important part; not less of them by any means; I want to see a broad and liberal policy of education; what I especially urge is, more of agriculture and kindred subjects; not less of the arts and sciences.

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