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UNION COLLEGE
SCHENECTADY

The Concordiensis.



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STUDENTS OF UNION COLLEGE,
SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

VOL. XXI.

FEBRUARY 26, 1898.

No. 19.

UNION COLLEGE

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VOL. XXI.

UNION COLLEGE, FEBRUARY 26, 1898.

No. 19.

Important Sale of College Lands.

One of the most important financial transactions in the history of the college since the days of Doctor Nott was consummated last week, when the entire holdings of the college in Long Island city, were sold to William Halls, Jr., of Summit, N. J., cashier of the Hanover National bank of New York city. The property is best known as the Hunter's Point property and by the sale the college parts with its main source of revenue of recent years. The consideration has not yet been made public, but is generally reported to be over the million mark.

Dr. Nott became connected with the property in 1835. His idea was that the government should build a ship canal between Long Island sound and East river, and use this property as a site for a great navy yard and shipping station, and build its shops near by, as there was room and to spare for every use it need be put to. The Government however, failed to comprehend the scheme and it fell through. The trustees of the college became permanently identified with the property in 1860, when by the legislature they were authorized to act as trustee in managing the whole tract in which others besides the college were part owners.

Over \$2,000,000 have been spent in redeeming swamp lands, building docks, bulkheads, streets and highways and improving the property in many ways. Dividends were made to the various owners. This trust was closed up in 1884, and the property now sold is what the college received as its share of what remained of the original trust. The wise administration of the trustees has borne fruit in the growth of Long Island city. The most valuable part of which is where the tide ebbed and flowed when Dr. Nott first saw the spot. The hill at the mouth of the creek was moved into the swamps by the Doctor. The building of a school in

Sixth street, and the presentation at various times of a number of lots to the Long Island Ferry company and to Long Island city, were characteristic of his progressive ideas. Even these improvements, it is found, are far from bringing the property to its proper status of efficiency. The recent purchase will benefit the city inasmuch as the present owner has command of all the funds needed. The property originally included the Hunter, Van Alst and DeBevoise farms, which covered what is now known as the First, Second and Third wards of Long Island city, and the Provost farm, now the Seventeenth ward of Brooklyn. After all the sales and gifts, the college still retained the land where Newton creek empties into East river and 1,100 lots in the wards named. Previous to the consolidation of Long Island city with Greater New York, its government was by real estate men said to be such as to discourage improvement. Nevertheless, though the property will now be more useful than ever before, there is no doubt whatever in the minds of the trustees that it is a wise move to get rid of it. That it has been sold so advantageously is due most of all to Gilbert K. Harroun, Treasurer of Union College. Mr. Harroun has served in this capacity for five years, and his devotion to the interests of the college coupled with his keen business sense and never-failing patience, have several times given a promise of the present splendid business stroke. In 1895, very largely through his efforts, the legislature relieved the college of a large accumulation of unjust assessments and taxation. It is not easy to estimate the difficulty both in the administration of the estate and the consummation of its sale. When it was known that he had successfully completed this latest transaction telegrams of congratulation poured in upon him. Long Island city itself has a large unpaid debt of gratitude to him and may regret as much that he is no longer to

manage the property, as Union College rejoices that he has disposed of it. All in all, the present prospects are bright, for the friends of the college, if the transaction is fully carried out, as seems undoubted, will soon be able to learn the financial condition of the college in exact terms instead of estimated values, and so will know what, if anything, it is necessary for them to do to continue the already long and honorable career of their alma mater.

Washington's Birthday Celebrated.

Washington's Birthday was appropriately observed by exercises in the chapel Tuesday morning at ten o'clock. The chapel was well filled and the addresses of the morning were listened to with interest.

Judge Landon of the Supreme Court was the first speaker of the morning. He said in opening that the idea was a wrong one that by the war of the Revolution the American colonies threw off the yoke of Great Britain. They were never under the yoke of Great Britain, but it was their allegiance to the mother country which they gave up. In the colonies planted on American soil the charters were liberal, and therein was the germ of personal liberty which rings throughout the Declaration of Independence. The reason for this lies in the fact that the charters were practically drawn up on this side of the sea. England was engaged in civil wars and had no time to give to the matter of the charters of her colonies, and the result was that they were construed just as the colonists wished. Other settlements followed those of Virginia and Massachusetts and by the end of the seventeenth century the principles of the colonies were fixed.

The speaker called attention to the important part that training has played in the development of this continent. In Canada and Louisiana are still evident the enfeebling influence of French colonization, and no better example of Spanish rule can be cited than Cuba of today. This state of affairs is due to the fact that Spain and France have been slow to learn while the English have been marked by a spirit of progress. "France is still a constitutional monarchy with her president a magnificent figurehead. In Spain, too, is the same characteristic in a different form. There are a few intellectual men in Spain who want to convert it into a republic but the people are not yet ready for any such change."

The speaker said that when England triumphed over France in 1762, the mother country turned to her colonies in America to do her bidding. The colonies replied that they were willing to do so but only upon their own terms, and thus arose the great war of the Revolution.

Judge Landon said Washington was not a soldier in the sense that Napoleon was, for he had not the heart to hurl masses of men against each other in bloody conflict as the great Frenchman was prone to do. Washington, however was a great commander-in-chief. His great work was to keep his army on foot, and if it were possible he never was the one to begin a battle. The great glory of Washington is in that he did not despair when Congress could not aid him. "Time and George Washington tired England out."

"He was brave, true, wise, unheroic, not a monster, not a myth, a good man, one who in his country's war made the cries of his country's fate luminous with better times."

The Hon. Austin A. Yates, '54, had been expected to deliver an oration on "Our Memories of Washington," but he was unable to be present. Mr. Edward P. White, '78, kindly consented to take his place. He made a very acceptable substitute.

He said that this college and George Washington both stand for union, the union of the physical and moral, of the material and spiritual. There has been too much idealism of Washington. One receives the greatest impression of his greatness in visiting his tomb, yet but a few steps away the fine estate of Mount Vernon shows him to have been an eminently practical man. Lord Erskine said of him: "I have had a large acquaintance with the most exalted class of men, but I never regarded any other man with awed reverence." Gladstone said that the character of Washington is the purest in history.

The element of character in a single individual leads to union in the state. There are three elements of character—truth, loyalty, love. Truth is what each one can grasp of the reality around him, loyalty is truth applied to action, love is the consummation of loyalty. Be always Union men and some of you may yet be "first in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen."

The Southern Society of New York held a meeting at Hotel Savoy on the evening of February 22, at which Dr. Raymond was the principal speaker.

Mr. George and the Junior Republic.

Few lectures in the college chapel have ever been listened to with greater interest than that delivered by Mr. W. R. George, last Friday afternoon on the institution founded by him and which is known throughout the United States as "The George Junior Republic." The chapel was filled with students, members of the faculty, alumni, and many ladies. That they appreciated the lecture was shown by the repeated outbursts of laughter and applause. President Raymond introduced the speaker in his usual happy style.

Mr. George possesses an unusually attractive personality and apart from the great interest attaching to the theme was added that of hearing the man himself. He told in very modest fashion how the institution was founded, and what were its aims and prospects.

The Republic, said the speaker, was founded primarily for four classes of young people. First, for the young tough who aspires to lead a gang, who has a natural leaning to crime, the class that eventually fills the penitentiaries rather than the alms houses. Second, the child whose parents are trying to live without work at the expense of the public, the pauper element. Third, the children of improvident parents, the habitually thriftless. The fourth class are the little foreigners who know nothing of America nor her institutions.

The Junior Republic is simply the great republic of the United States in miniature. Every citizen is given an equal chance; and if he fails to make his own way he stays at the bottom. The doctrine of "he who doesn't work, shall not eat" is strictly enforced. In other words, the bitter experiences of the world at large and the lessons derived therefrom are anticipated. The boys and girls almost, unknown to themselves, are educated in all the virtues that make for good citizenship.

Mr. George is a master of east-side dialect and his anecdotes of the citizens of the Republic were invariably funny and to the point. The lecture was also of considerable sociological value. At the subsequent reception given by

Mrs. Raymond many students and friends of the college availed themselves of the opportunity to meet Mr. George personally.

The Oratorical Contest.

The fourth annual contest of the New York State Inter-collegiate Oratorical league will be held in the M. E. church of this city, Thursday evening, March 3.

Rochester will be represented here by Ira S. Wile, '98, Syracuse will be represented by A. J. Neff, '98, and Union by William Dewey Loucks, 1900. The expenses of this contest are very considerable. To insure financial success the admittance fee has been reduced to the merely nominal price of ten cents. The committee having the matter in charge have worked faithfully and the bright prospects are especially gratifying.

Prof. Stoller Doing Well.

Professor Stoller, under date of January 24, writes a member of the faculty that he is well pleased with the opportunities of Leipzig, that he is working in the laboratory adjoining that in which Pollock, '95, now of the Albany High school earned his doctor's degree, and that he is putting in his time in advanced and growingly interesting research work, just as if he had graduated from Union in '97 instead of '84.

His family are well, pleasantly located, near the Universitäts Bibliothek, and all are enjoying the rare musical advantages offered, especially the celebrated Gewandhaus concerts conducted by Herr Nikisch. Still the American home and institutions have not lost their attraction, and will be appreciated all the more on their return.

P. J. Marsh, '53, recently sold 1,100 acres of Adirondack forest land to the state.

Max. B. Richardson, '53, is engaged in the law business at Oswego, N. Y.

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"THE highest aim of American education is the development of intelligent citizenship," said President Raymond at the chapel services last Tuesday; and not one of the many quotable things said that day, is worthier a place in the mind and heart of every man in Union college. It should have a front seat in the theatre of his daily life. From such a spectator, horse-play, in both its special and general significance, would receive but little approbation.

It was a fine lecture we heard in the chapel last Friday afternoon. It was such a lecture as one could listen to every day in the week with pleasure and profit. But apart from those qualities that generally go to the making of a highly entertaining and educating lecture, Mr. George's discourse has still another claim upon our grateful remembrance; for it can be considered in the light of a personal message to every undergraduate. This

world would be a dreary place "were there no children in it," but there is a crying need for men also. And there are just quite a few of us, who, if purposing to meet the latter demand, had better take up training without further delay. All this means—that when a lot of uneducated children may with impunity be treated as men, and some of us keep on showing that we cannot be—well you may draw your own conclusions. But the question has another side—another deduction may be drawn from Mr. George's lecture, to wit: where children even are treated as men, they act like men.

ONE virtue that stands head and shoulders over the surrounding many in the characters of the students of this college, of some of those at least who live within a radius of twenty miles or so, is an all-conquering and all-else-exclusive love for home. Their home ties are stout rubber, one might say, stretchable but non-breakable. When here, these men seem to be under a constant strain to keep from flipping back. On the slightest provocation, pop!—they're gone. And then, oh what a dreary task to make the stretch another time.

Some may say this is such a sweet trait, but we call it scarcely heroic. These elastic home-ties have been known to fetch young men back to the paternal roof when battles were waiting to be fought in the fore. They have been known to argue against the commendable old custom of shifting for oneself in proper time. To those who contemplate commencing life in earnest at their commencement, be it in '99, 1900 or 1901, our earnest advice is to cut the rubber now.

Alumni Notes.

Francis Crane, '85, was in town Tuesday.

A. R. Conover, '89, was in town Monday.

E. Burton Fisher, '92, spent Monday in Schenectady.

Clinton Ball, '96, is studying mining at Leland Stanford university.

Capt. E. L. Berthoud, '49, is prominently connected with the educational interests of Colorado.

The Sophomore Soiree.

The last dance that will be held in the Van-Curler for many years to come, took place last Friday evening under the auspices of the sophomore class. They proved themselves delightful entertainers and the soiree was one of the most brilliant ever given by a sophomore class. A pleasant and altogether encouraging feature was the large student attendance, over fifty undergraduates being present. The General Electric people were scarcely represented, and through an unfortunate misunderstanding but few of the Albany social set were present. Most of the young ladies who are in the habit of attending student dances kept up the pleasant custom and there were many new faces besides. The floor was a little better than last year and Gioscia's music was a veritable dream. Although Colburn of Albany, who was the caterer, failed to come up to expectations, (his own fault and not the committee's,) it failed to mar the enjoyment of the evening.

Among those present were the following: Mrs. Webber, Miss Edith Webber, Albany; Miss Mary Murdock, Pittsburg, Pa.; the Misses Helen Kline, Daisy Phillips, May Tolley and Anna Stover, Amsterdam; Anna Cady, Anna Husted, Margaret Gould, Margaret Hildreth and Miss Bothwell, Albany; the Misses Lewis, Miss McLeod, Mrs. Barry and the Misses Graves, Syracuse; Miss Mary Shirtliff, Bennington; Miss Gertrude Wilson, Buffalo; Miss Katharine Pierson, Hudson; Miss Elizabeth Lipe, Palatine Bridge; Chas. Daley, Stapleton; Wentworth Tucker, Albany; Abe Morris and Davis Shuler, Amsterdam; Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hogan, Syracuse.

From the city were present: The Misses Keziah Lewis, Isabelle Beattie, Rachel Yates, Susan Yates, Elizabeth Strain, Eleanor Miller, Elizabeth Curtis, Gertrude Brown, Grace Walker, Nettie Veeder, Mabel Horstman, Grace Horstman, Rosalie Calvert, Madge Campbell, Jennie Palmer, Laura Williams, Anna Beattie, Alice Vedder, Hortense Cooney, Bertha Steers, Gertrude Clute, Minnie Barker, Lena Barker, Henrietta Yates, Mabel Ostrom, Dr. and Mrs. Carmichael, Mrs. C. C. Brown, Mrs. W. G. Carey, Mrs. H. F. T. Erben, Mrs. G. W. Featherstonhaugh, Mrs. L. Gibson, Mrs. S. D. Greene, Mrs. E. E. Hale, Mrs. I. B. Price, Mrs. J. W. Smitley, Mrs. J. W. Strain, Mrs. W. C. Vrooman, Mrs. D. W. Watkins, Mrs. C. O. Yates, the Messrs. W. F. Carey, Abel Smith, Frank Jackson, Benjamin Burtiss, Ralph Brandow, Will Shaible, Edward Walker, John Vedder, Harry Sommerhayes, F. Paige, Wm. McDonald.

From the college were present: Professors Ashmore, McKenzie, Opdyke and Kay; J. Stewart, C. Stewart, Van Derveer, Nevins, Bender, Miles, Kline, E. Strong, Turner, W. Brown, Loucks, Kirby, Van Vlack, Hermance, P. Merriman, N. Medberry, W. Sheehan, Sylvester, Parsons, Lawrence, Haviland, P. Kruesi, A. Kruesi, Francis, Featherstonhaugh, Wilson, Thomson, H. Brown, Walbridge, L. Bradford, Rogers, Sinclair, Jones, Andrews, Pike, Reynolds, Vrooman, Closs, Pildain, Palmer, Brownell, Dunham, Shumacher, H. Strong, Cullings.

Philomatheans win the Debate.

The fourth annual Allison-Foote prize debate between the Philomatheans and Adelpic societies took place Thursday evening in the State street M. E. church. The two societies had for weeks been preparing for the fray and a lively interest had been aroused among the students and the friends of the college. The attendance, however, was small, the church being but half filled.

The subject of the debate, which had been announced sometime before, was: "Resolved, That Municipalities should be Governed through Municipal Parties." The affirmative side was taken by Messrs. George A. Holcombe, '98, Perley P. Sheehan, '98, and William D. Reed, '98, representing the Philomathean society, while the negative was upheld by Messrs. Walter M. Swann, '98, Peter Nelson, '98, and William L. H. Breeze, '99, of the Adelpic.

The exercises were commenced with music by the Mandolin Club. President Raymond then explained the purpose of the debate and stated that the judges would be determined in awarding prizes according to the following considerations: Argumentative strength of arguments in first speeches, argumentative effect of the refutation, effect of the delivery.

The general argument of the speakers of the affirmative was that a city is a municipal corporation, and should be governed as would any corporation, for the benefit of the community, not of a great national party. Because a man has opinions on national subjects, does it follow that he is fitted to perform executive functions? The present system implies patronage, and that is invariably conducive to corruption. If men are elected on national issues, the responsibility for maladministration falls not upon the official but upon the party, which means no responsibility whatever.

In answer to these arguments, the negative admitted that our city government is not what it ought to be, but the method of reform should be of another kind. The city is a business corporation, but not wholly, having state functions. The state and municipality are inextricably interwoven and the state must have the central control, for the local issues are but secondary. There can be no permanent division on local

issues but that of mere office holding and municipal parties are therefore impracticable. The only successful municipal party is Tammany Hall, which is notoriously organized for spoil alone.

Eight minutes having been allowed each speaker on his first appearance, his rebuttal was limited to five minutes. The arguments advanced were of the same nature as before, but the debate became warmer and individual instances and practical examples were more frequently cited.

The judges, Messrs. J. Newton Fiero, '67, Charles E. Patterson, '60, and Walter Briggs, then withdrew to decide upon the award. During the interval Mr. Lester Hubbard, 1900, favored the audience with a flute solo. Upon the return of the judges, Mr. Patterson announced that the prize of \$50 for the society presenting the best debate had been awarded to the Philomathean society, and the prize of \$50 to the best individual debater, regardless of society affiliations, to Mr. Walter M. Swann, '98.

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Minor Topics.

J. M. Pruyn, 1900, has left college.

Bonesteel, '99, spent Sunday at his home in Kingston.

Bradford, '99, and Casey, '99, spent Sunday at Johnstown.

Guy Vroman, '98, and Mallery, '98, are doing engineering work in Middlebury.

An adjourned meeting of the board of trustees will be held in New York Monday, Feb. 28.

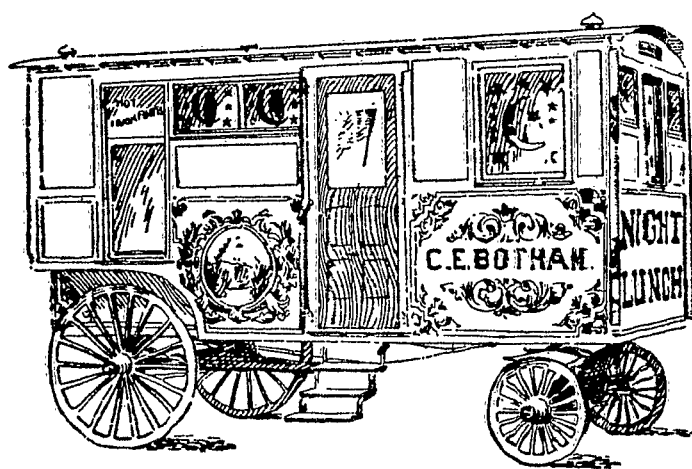
Dr. Raymond will preach the dedicatory sermon of a new church at Mechanicsville, Wednesday, March 9.

Mattison, '98, gave very interesting stereoptican views of his recent trip to California in the Presbyterian church, Friday evening.

Union is being represented at the quadrennial Student Volunteer convention in Cleveland by Greene, '99, Wright, '99, and Raitt, 1900.

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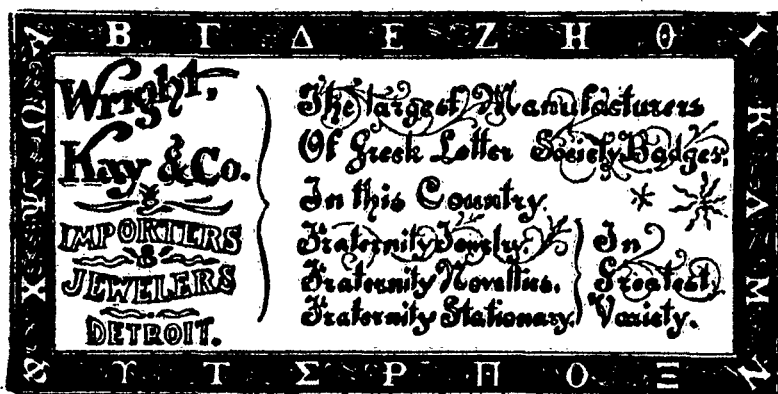
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