

The Trinity Tripod

VOL. III. No. 21.

HARTFORD, CONN., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1906.

PRICE, FIVE CENTS.

PRESIDENT LUTHER'S ADDRESS

Before the National Civil Service Reform League.

At the dinner of this league, given in New Haven on the evening of November 20th, President Luther made a speech of which the following is a part:

That we should have our work done by those who, presumably, know how to do it, is a proposition fairly self-evident. Probably those who in the past have opposed what is called civil service reform, would admit the validity of this theorem. Men have differed, however, as to the best means of ascertaining the fitness of candidates for official position. The idea that anybody can do anything if he is given the chance is rather firmly imbedded still in the popular mind. That person of tradition who said that he thought he could probably play the violin but had never tried, is typical of a large class. And, seriously, there is something rather fine in that attitude. It makes or has made for that cheerful confidence which dares all things and brings about success by its audacity. Without a dash of that spirit our people would have failed in much that they have accomplished. Nevertheless this charming effrontery often misleads, and as life grows complex, becomes an insult to intelligence. It is the proper spirit in the beginning of community life. It has no place in the highly organized civilization of the twentieth century America.

It has been the great contribution of the civil service reformers that they have insisted upon some demonstration of fitness for office on the part of office-seekers. By this "fitness" I mean manifest ability to do the thing which the public want done. That the civil service examinations have always been the best means for testing this fitness may be questioned—has been questioned. Yet no objector has been able to suggest a really satisfactory substitute.

I think we may note, in the sober thought of the country, a disposition to extend some of the civil service ideas so as to cover the whole range of officialdom. It is becoming evident that there is no office within the gift of the people, from that of the country justice of the peace to the presidency of the United States, whose duties can be well done without some sort of special training. Without having looked into the matter statistically I hazard the conjecture that the tendency to re-elect satisfactory officials and to promote from lower to higher elective offices is increasing. There are many exceptions; I speak of the general drift as I think I see it. The idea of rotation in office is less dominant than it once was, as the qualifications for official duty are seen to be special, seen to depend upon specialized, professional acquirement.

So I fancy we must admit that the ancient enemies of civil service reform were right when they said that the new cult tended toward the creation of an

office-holding class. Our ideas certainly do lead that way; just as sensible a banking class, a preaching class, a bricklaying class, a farming class. If we want our public work well done we must employ men who have learned how to do it. Necessarily they will know less about doing other things and thus they will become an office-holding class. And who cares, so long as we can discharge unworthy employees at our pleasure.

I venture, therefore, to suggest that among the duties of an association like this may be included the cultivation of that spirit which will favor the indefinite retention in elective office of efficient officers and promotion in all public service as fitness is made evident. This principle, if adopted, probably means higher salaries in some of the lower offices. But it means better government.

There is another matter, vastly more important than the foregoing, though related to it, which imperatively demands earnest effort by all who are concerned that "the republic shall receive nothing of detriment," as we used clumsily to translate our Cicero. This is the insistence by the public that citizens holding no office and desiring none shall discharge their public duties. I am about to suggest something which may be laughed at as the ridiculous proposition of an impractical doctrinaire. I suggest the passage of laws making it a punishable misdemeanor for a qualified elector not to vote at every duly ordered election. Of course there are legitimate excuses; these may be provided for. But fine the man who willfully or carelessly fails to vote. If he doesn't know how he wants to vote, let him cast a blank ballot. But round him up at the polls.

This infringes personal liberties; yes. So do all laws passed in the interest of general welfare. To-morrow, you may be hauled to court and made to testify. You may be put in a box with eleven other men and be made to decide whether a fellow-citizen shall be hanged. You may be made to do public duty. You may be clothed in khaki and set up to be shot at by an alien enemy. Your property may be diminished by lawful taxation or taken away by a price decided upon by somebody else. All this can be done, is done, whether you, personally, like it or not. Is it impracticable, then, to do a bit more—to compel every citizen to go to the polls and vote when his judgment is asked by the public? I believe that such a law would do more to ensure a fair election than many of the corrupt practices acts. At the worst it would compel all to give either more money or more brains to the maintenance of the government. Probably all would give that which they have the most of, be it money or brains.

No doubt some of you are reflecting that it is impossible to make men good by statute. Granted, yet statutes, if enforced, compel many to give a very fair imitation of decent conduct. I

(Continued on page 2).

TRINITY BEATEN BY AMHERST "AGGIES."

The Trinity basketball team was defeated Saturday night, at Amherst, by the Amherst Agricultural College team, the score being 37 to 12. Trinity was handicapped by the loss of two of its 'varsity players, Waldron and Olsson, who are on probation, as is also Capen of the scrub team. The lineup and score of the game was as follows:—

Trinity		Mass. A. C.
Olmsted	r f	Cobb
Pond	l f	Burke, Whitmarsh
Donnelly	c	Gillett
Cook	r g	Cutler
Connors	l g	Chase

Score, Massachusetts 37, Trinity 12; goals from floor, Gillett 6, Burke 4, Cobb 3, Chase 3, Connors 2, Donnelly 2, Cutler 1, Pond 1; goals from fouls, Gillett 3, Donnelly 2; referee, Peters; scorer, Farrer; time, 15 minute halves.

TRINITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE DISBANDS.

A meeting was held Friday by the Trinity Interscholastic Football League at which all the members were represented. Manager Bryant '07, who was treasurer of the league, read his report.

The league has been continual wrangling for the last few years and it was decided to disband.

The organization came into existence in 1900 and since that date the cup has been won twice by Hartford, New Britain, and New Haven. The last was the winner this fall and as this year was the deciding, it retains the cup permanently.

The members of the league were the high schools of Meriden, Bridgeport, Hartford, New Britain, and New Haven.

NOTES.

There is a bill in the Massachusetts legislature to tax college property at the same rate that all other property is taxed.

Hobart College has been offered \$500,000 with which to build and establish a women's institution which shall bear the same relation to Hobart as exists between Radcliffs and Harvard.

President Luther is invited to be one of the speakers at the annual dinner of the New England Society of New York, which is held on Forefather's Day.

The annual dinner of the New York Alumni Association was held last night at the Waldorf Astoria. The banquet was unusually well attended, and consequently most successful.

"Ivy" Board meeting Sunday morning immediately after Chapel, in 33 Jarvis.

By vote of the Faculty the Toucey Stephen Essex McGinley of the sophomore class, these may be provided for.

COLLEGE SKATING RINK POSSIBLE.

The prospects for a most successful hockey season are quite favorable. So much interest has been shown by the undergraduates that President Luther has given the use of a piece of ground in the old athletic field, for a rink, and men are now canvassing in each class for subscriptions to pay for filling it in with water.

Morris '08 is captain of the hockey squad and Rich '09 is manager. About 12 candidates will report for practice on the completion of the rink.

GLEE CLUB PREPARING FOR FIRST CONCERT.

The Glee Club is now under preparation for the first concert to be given the 18th of this month at Thompsonville, under the auspices of the social club connected with the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Mr. Davis, the director of the club, is teaching the club several new numbers which with the most successful numbers of last year will go to make up an excellent program. An important feature will be the first appearance of the Glee Club quartet, made up of Harmon 1st tenor, Cunningham 2d tenor, Chandler 1st bass and Skilton or Roberts 2d bass. It is to be hoped that many students will go with the club for there will be an excellent concert and a pleasant time is expected.

MEETING OF THE HARTFORD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

The Hartford Alumni Association held a banquet at the Heublein Hotel on December 6th. In the absence of President F. L. Wilcox '80, the Rev. James Goodwin '86 presided. Dr. Luther spoke on the increase in students, and the good prospects for next year, and said it was due, in a great part, to the work of the alumni associations throughout the country. He also touched on the successful football team, and the good standing of the players.

Walter Schutz '94, the Rev. Cranstons Brenton '99, J. D. Flynn '97, D. C. Graves '96, Rev. F. W. Harriman '72, and J. F. Forward '96, also spoke. The following officers were elected: President, D. C. Graves '96; Secretary-Treasurer, J. F. Forward '96; Executive Committee, Rev. E. deF. Miel '88, J. D. Flynn '97, C. G. Woodward '98. The executive committee was instructed to arrange for the next banquet to be held in January or February, 1907.

Henry Fairfield Osborn, LL.D. Trinity, DaCosta professor of Zoology, Columbia University, and vice-president of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, has been elected secretary of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

Dr. Osborn is renowned for his contributions to vertebrate paleontology and will bring to this great office executive abilities of the first rank and a rare personality.

The Trinity Tripod

Published Tuesdays and Fridays
in each week of the college year by
students of Trinity College.

The columns of THE TRIPOD are at all times open to Alumni, Undergraduates and others for the free discussion of matters of interest to Trinity men.

All communications, or material of any sort for Tuesday's issue must be in the Tripod box before 10 p.m. on Monday; for Friday's issue before 10 a.m. on Thursday.

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TO ALUMNI.

THE TRIPOD is published for the Alumni even more than for the Undergraduates. With this in mind we are striving to produce a paper which shall be interesting and necessary to Graduates, and also to reach as large a number as possible. We are very largely dependent on the Alumni both for our moral and financial support. If you are not already a subscriber will you kindly give this matter your attention?

"NOW THEN—TRINITY!"

EDITORIAL.

To the Editor of the "Tripod,"—

In the last number of the "Tripod" there is a communication from a non-graduate of Trinity College who asks why those once connected with the college are "barred from association with those men (the alumni) whose pleasure and duty it is to forward the interests of the college during the rest of their life." He asks "Is this right?" I should answer No. That which takes a young man to Trinity is in most cases because he thinks that is the best college and if circumstances make it necessary for him to leave without a degree it is not without regret and with no abatement of love for the college and interest in its welfare.

Having a copy of a catalogue of the college for 1903 giving the addresses of graduates of former students I find if I have counted correctly at least three hundred of these non-graduates. The writer of the communication says, "I do not think you can afford to lose us."

As a graduate of the college and member of the associate alumni, I should say not and hope that some way might be devised to secure the active interests of this goodly number of non-graduates. Let us now hear from others on this matter.

Yours respectfully,
A Graduate.

Students who desire to address communications to the Church Scholarship Society should do so prior to Thursday, December 13th.

President Luther's Address.

(Continued from page 1).

suppose that this same objection was urged against the ten commandments; yet they were set forth by high authority. And, in absolute reverence, I remind you that the founder of altruistic civilization said that he brought to his followers a new commandment. "That ye love one another"—that was the new commandment. We can't make men love one another by statute; but we can make them act as if they did. When they act as if they loved one another men will vote for the public welfare as they see it. And when they continue acting as if they loved one another they will presently come to do that which they have been compelled to simulate.

COMMUNICATION.

To the Editor of the "Tripod,"—

Dear Sir:—This year the complaints of the chapel singing have been especially numerous and severe. All the blame for the weak singing has been laid on the choir. This is unfair. The choir has done its best all along to fill the chapel with inspiring music, but their praiseworthy efforts have been in vain even with the aid of Mr. Furrer. A few men who, moreover, do not profess to have great musical ability cannot possibly bring forth the volume of sound necessary to make the singing impressive. The choir, moreover, is not supposed to do all the singing. Their duty is simply to lead, while the congregation, joining in, make up the body of the sound. Even within my recollection the singing in chapel has been highly inspiring because nearly every undergraduate joined in it heartily. The choir at the time I speak of was greatly inferior to the average choir of this year. A graduate of the class of 1870, when he visited college last week, complained of the entire absence of singing in chapel from any one but the choir, which, by the way he highly commended, and he particularly spoke of the hearty and general singing of the old days. I therefore ask the undergraduates in the name of the choir to join in and help with the singing instead of continually finding fault.

Very sincerely yours,

G. A. Cunningham.

NOTES.

Miss Kant of Leipzig is the guest of Professor K. W. Genthe and Mrs. Genthe at their home in this city. At the opening meeting of Der Verein last week she took the part of Juno in the operetta, "The Apple of Discord." Miss Kant sang and acted admirably. She is a grandniece of the eminent metaphysician of the same name.

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ALUMNI DEPARTMENT.

'65 Hon.—The Right Rev. Leighton
Coleman, LL. D., Bishop of Delaware,
who received the honorary degree of
M. A. from Trinity in 1865, will deliver
the second lecture in the Seabury club
course this evening at 7:45 at Christ
church. The subject will be "The
Church, the Keeper of the Faith."

'02—Anson T. McCook has filed a
notice of his intention to take an ex-
amination for admission to the bar,
with Clerk George A. Conant of the
superior court. He is the youngest son
of the Rev. Professor John J. McCook.
The bar examining committee will meet
in this city December 28th.

'04—The Berkeley Divinity School
was represented at the recent meeting of
the Church Students' Missionary Asso-
ciation in Philadelphia by George H.
Heyn '04 and Harry Huet '06. Carlos
E. Jones '05 and C. Jarvis Harriman '05,
also attended.

'07—Wilfred Roach is at Williams and
Mary College. He goes to the Alex-
andria (Virginia) Divinity School next
fall.

'06—Philip E. Curtiss, who as holder
of the Terry Fellowship is studying in
Spain is seriously ill of typhoid fever.
His mother, Mrs. E. P. Curtiss, of
Hartford, has left for Europe to be
with him during his illness.

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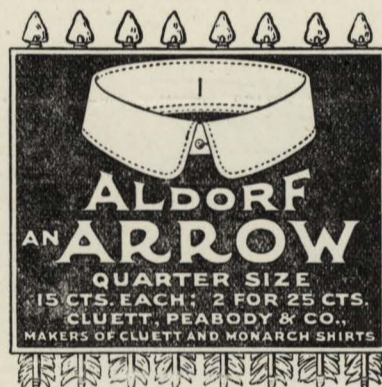
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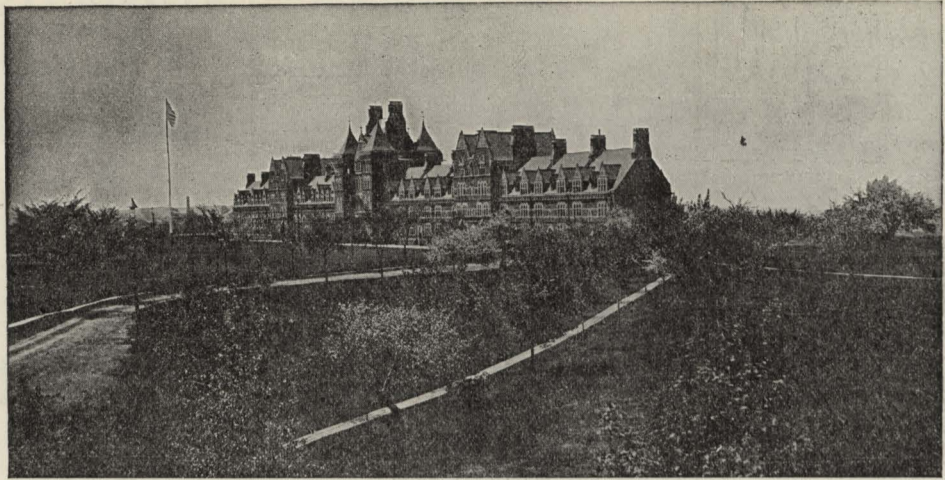
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