


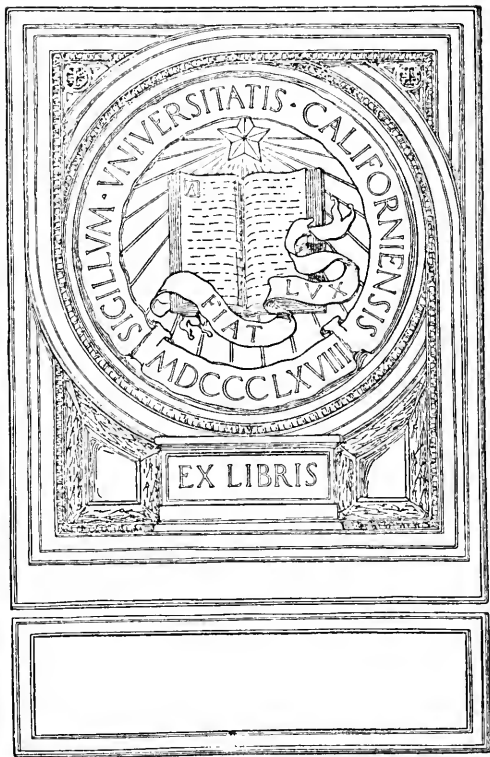
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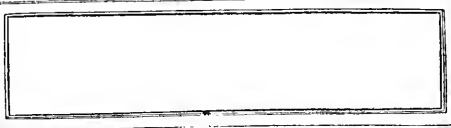


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BROWN UNIVERSITY BROADSIDES

BY

GEORGE PARKER WINSHIP

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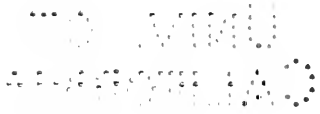
Providence
1913

LD634

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1913

Two hundred copies reprinted by
The Palmer Press, Stonington,
Connecticut, with an added fac-
simile, from The Brown Alumni
Monthly for May, 1913



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THE UNIVERSITY BROADSIDES

At Brown's first Commencement, the audience, "consisting of most of the principal Gentlemen and Ladies of this Colony, and many from the neighbouring Governments," were provided with the equivalent of a Programme of Exercises in the shape of a full sized sheet of paper measuring 18 1-2 by 15 inches. The printed matter on this broadside was prepared in the style at that time commonly used by Harvard and the other American colleges, which in turn had copied the usage of the English Cambridge, where the traditions of the mediaeval universities still survived. At the head was the name of the Chancellor of the College in the largest type, preceded by the doubtless well-deserved characterization "Benevolentissimo ac eximia virtute, doctrinaque utilissima praedito, Viro." Below this were the names of the faculty, consisting of the President, James Manning, and a single tutor, David Howell, and then the famous seven of the first graduating class, with the careful note revealing the democratic tendencies of the time which were doing away with distinctions of birth and official position, "N. B. Nomina alphabetice disposita sunt." Below these, in three columns, were the titles of subjects which the graduates were prepared to discuss. The whole was a product of the printing press of Solomon Southwick of Newport.

Southwick was the printer of "The Newport Mercury," which contained a very satisfactory report of the first grad-

uating exercises. This report was reprinted on a small broadside, and a copy of this which was carefully filed away among his business papers by the elder Nicholas Brown, from whom it has descended to the John Carter Brown Library, is the only one now known to be in existence. It tells how the seven "young Gentlemen commenced Bachelors in the Arts," with a salutatory oration in Latin, pronounced with much Spirit, and forensic disputes on two of the one hundred and fourteen subjects which were listed on the programme. The first of these, which occupied most of the morning, was happily in English, on the timely subject, "The Americans, in their present Circumstances, cannot, consistent with good Policy, affect to become an independent State." This was followed by an oration on Benevolence, in which Mr. Rogers "particularly noticed how greatly that infant Seminary stands in Need of the salutary Effects of that truly christian Virtue." At three in the afternoon the audience again convened for a syllogistic dispute on the Thesis, listed as number 8, under the head of "Pneumatologia," "Materia cogitare non potest." The reporter warily records that "the principal Arguments on both Sides were produced, towards settling that critical Point." After the distribution of various degrees, which included the honorary Degree of Masters of Arts, "at their own Request," to ten worthy clergymen, the Valedictorian "took a most affectionate Leave of his Class-

mates.—The Scene was tender—The Subject felt—and the Audience affected.” Throughout, we are told, the audience, “tho’ large and crowded, behaved with the utmost Decorum.”

The College Library possesses an incomplete set of the old broadside “Theses” which were issued for each Commencement day, from the first in 1769 until 1811. After this, the Commencement programmes were printed in the more convenient size of the ordinary pamphlet.

The second and third “Theses,” for 1770 and 1771, have at the bottom the interesting statement, “Typis Johannis Carter, in Papyrum Providentiae confectam.” The first paper mill in Providence had been established five years before this. In “A Providence Gazette Extraordinary,” dated August 24, 1765, William Goddard wrote that “a large and very complete PAPER MILL is just finished, about a Mile and an Half from this Town, and in a few Days will be set to work. By the Fabric of Paper here, a vast saving will accrue, and will stop just so much Money in the Country as the Quantity made will amount to.” This mill was located at Olneyville. The statement that the programme was printed on paper of local manufacture suggests the paragraph in the report of the previous Commencement which records the fact that “The President and all the Candidates were dressed in American Manufactures,” a practice still fashionable with the families of Presidents on Inauguration Day.

The set of “Theses” belonging to the College is complete from 1769 to 1774, and then there is a break until 1786. During this war time interval, classes were graduated in 1775, 1776 and 1777, in

1782 and 1783. This was the period when the “college edifice,” University Hall, was occupied as barracks and hospital for the Continental and French soldiers engaged in the Revolutionary struggle. The college exercises continued intermittently, in temporary quarters. It is, however, probable that these five Commencements were held with all the usual formalities, including the distribution of the printed “Theses” or programmes. Somewhere, among the treasured papers of the descendants of the graduates and students of those years, there must be copies of these old broadsides, which the college itself does not possess.

Besides the five “Theses” of the Revolutionary years, which are lacking from the College collection, there are five others, for 1787, 1793, 1801, 1806 and 1807, of which no copies are now known to exist. Two others, for 1792 and 1799, have been badly torn, so that parts of the text is missing. If any alumnus of Brown can secure these for the College Library, he will make a contribution of considerable interest, toward completing the University archives.

The printed “Theses” contained the titles of all the subjects, in every branch of learning, upon which the candidates for the Bachelor’s degree were supposed to be prepared to hold opinions which they could maintain in public argument. The regular exercises, in the earlier years, consisted largely of a carefully prepared debate upon one or two of these subjects. This gave place before long to exercises more in the modern style. The first Commencement for which a regular printed programme has been preserved is 1799. One “Dispute”

BENEVOLENTISSIMO

Ac eximia virtute, doctrinaque utilissima praedito, Viro,

STEPHANO HOPKINS, Armigero,

Collegii hujus, intra Coloniae Insulae RHODIENSIS Fines, CANCELLARIO,
Admodum Reverendo aeque ac Honorando **JACOBO MANNING**, Praefidi,

Quoniam Artibus Liberalibus Scientiisque, et Pietate Praestigiis indota, cujus sub moderamine frequentia philosophemata sunt doctissimi,
Doctissimo partitque dignissimo **DAVIDE BELL**, eisdem Seminarij Tutori;
Denique, omnibus desiderio Scientiis afflatis, ubicunque in Terrarum orbe, tam Ecclesiarum Praebitis, quam Republicis bene meritis, principibus nostro Collegio Praevidis;

THESES hae (Nominis Jussu) Jurem, in Artibus initiatis, defensas,

Josephus Belton
Josephus Eaton

Gulielmus Rogers
Richardus Stejes
Carolus Thompson

Jacobus Mitchel Varnum
Gulielmus Williams

Sensus Offensatis, D.D.D.C.C.

N. B. Nomina alphabetice disposita sunt.

GRAMMATICA

1. Alphabeta quae antiquissima sunt, litterarum sunt, quae in omnibus linguis sunt. Ergo.
2. Alphabeta quae antiquissima sunt, litterarum sunt, quae in omnibus linguis sunt. Ergo.
3. Cognatio linguae cum parentibus suis, quae in omnibus linguis sunt. Ergo.
4. Ad obviandum cognationem linguae, anglicanae accurata, unum scilicet opus est.
5. Cognatio graecae linguae, compositionem sui verborum intelligendo, nullum perdit. Ergo.
6. Graeca lingua nec felicitur dici potest, neque doceri, nisi ad rudera maxime attendatur.
7. Apud Graecos, infinitus numerus antecedente articulo, pro substantivo sepe usurpatur.
8. In rerum natura causam tria tempora exultare possunt. Ergo.
9. In 1890 Tellerum non fuit quae hactenus inter graeca commisit.
10. Linguae hebraicae peculiariter qualitates defuit.

RHETORICA

1. RHETORICA est ars bene rationandi, causam, veritatem investigandi, aliquid communis adhibendi.
2. Studium propositi, perspicuitatis et dignitatis, ad compositionem elegantiam, nullam conducit.
3. Interpretatio, ab origine, non est naturae compositio. Ergo.
4. Vox, in legendis, per paucos non fit modulata.
5. Summa perfectio artis oratoriae, ex omnibus passionibus recte experimentis, maxime pendet. Ergo.
6. Oratio, quae, adhibere facillime concitatur, (certis partibus) optima est. Etiam.
7. Studium naturae, ad acquiritur hanc aptam, valde necessarium est.
8. Ars rhetorica, nisi per vocem vivam, accurate doceri non potest.

LOGICA

1. LOGICA est ars bene rationandi, causam, veritatem investigandi, aliquid communis adhibendi.
2. Cognatio philosophandi, factum a vero distinguere, et bene rationandi, necessaria est.
3. In idearum successione, nullum intervallum inter ideas reperitur, et illae proximae recipiantur, concepti possit.
4. Ideae imperitiae non minus, quam compositae, clare sunt.
5. Ideae positivae, adnegationem accipere necesse est.
6. Summa veritates, quae demonstrantur, non profecto sunt non profecto.
7. Omnia argumenta ad potius egrum reduci possunt. Ergo.
8. Aliae figurae necessitate non funt.
9. Miracula existit, in homine testimonio, et in fieri possunt.
10. Passiones tantum, fructus methodo probanda sunt.

MATHEMATICA

1. MATHEMATICA est numerus, comparatio, et quantitas, mensurae veritatis.
2. Si numerus a numero equaliter dividi potest, fit, ab eorum partibus aliquos dividi que.
3. Datus quatuor in duas partes ignota, differentia, quae data, singulae partes facillime inventantur.
4. Nullus numerus, fit divisi potest, ut unius partem quadratam, totam in alio iudicet, etiam equaliter.
5. Quadratum numerum in rerum natura esse non potest.
6. Omnis angulus trianguli isosceles, proportio erit, ut summa omnium laterum ad summam omnium angulorum, ita unum laterum ad unum angulum.
7. Very praedicabilia de aliquibus figuris geometricis demonstrationem non admittunt.

8. Una quantitas infinita, multas quantitates infinitas continere potest. Ergo.
9. Inter quantitates infinitas ad infinitum datur comparatio.
10. Cylindri latera sunt se, ut quadrata diametrorum in altitudinis ducta.
11. Si quis verus, circulus secus ductus in directionem radii equalis, et quadratus datus, et in eisdem areas.
12. Ut transversus diametri ellipticae ad conjugatam, sic area circuli, cujus diametri, diametro ellipticae transverso equalis est, ad aream ellipticam.
13. Areae duorum hyperbolorum quibus idem est transversus, sunt in conjunctis.
14. Equalitas inter se sunt omnia parallelogrammata, eodem diametro hyperbolae circumscripta.

PHYSICA

1. PHYSICA phaenomena naturae describit, aeque perfectio, et in experimentis, causis explorat.
2. Attritio cohesiones in tactu non dimittitur.
3. Electricum fluidum per brevissimum viam (certis partibus) semper transit.
4. Aurora borealis per electricitatem optime explicatur.
5. Vegetatio, in electricitate, aegretur.
6. Minima particula materiae per maximum datum spatium in diffunditur, ut recta linea quae parva consistens, minima data recta linea magis fit.
7. Vapores ethales per ignem purissimum in aera carius sunt.
8. Aer subtilis per ignem purissimum potest.
9. Solida in fluidis secundum magnitudines solum allevantur.
10. Corpora imaginariarum aequalium quae in medio rotantur in equilibrio sunt, in aera gravitatis igneae diversae possunt, in equilibrio non remaneant.
11. Corpora per varias planas conjuncta descendunt, in aliquo pluri puncto, eadem velocitas non est, ut eisdem descendendi eandem perpendicularitatem altitudinem, esse.
12. In Caelo ferreo heterogenei particulis abundat, et in salubri generatio, et humida, et fluida. Ergo.
13. Hic gravior, ille levior.
14. Omnes fove, quae quocumque intensitate, eadem est velocitas.
15. Suctio in rerum natura non datur.
16. Causa reflexionis hactenus adhuc latet.
17. Medius rarius transmissioem lucis plus quam aequum impellit.
18. Si obliquorum imagines exterrorum in retina depictae sunt, necesse est ut invertat sint.
19. Tempus naturalis motus ullius corporis equaliter divisi, non potest.
20. Sol minus agitur in linea ellipticae revolvens, quam in linea aequata semper movetur, terra praeter.
21. Unusquisque planeta centum sibi solum proprium circumvolvitur.
22. Luna in revolutione circa terram acceleratur. Ergo.
23. Luna a terram appropriate.
24. Oblongae lineae ellipticae est maxima, cum nodus lunae aequales in aere est, et minima in libra. Ergo.
25. Puncto Aquaequinoctium in cyclo lunari variatur.
26. Lineae ellipticae planum ad lineae aquatoriae planum vergit.
27. Ellipticae pluri frequenter accidunt quam lunae, et pluri, ellipticae sunt exterrum videntur.

ONTOLOGIA

1. ONTOLOGIA quantumque proprieque proprietates simpliciter non-mulhas.
2. Nullum est quodlibet creatum potest. Ergo.
3. Deus non est creatum.
4. Unum substantiam unam materiae commune accidit.

6. Omnia caeli firmam consistit effectum.
7. Idea rationalis, in natura, archetypum non habet.
7. Principium individualitatis, in corporibus, ad praesens tempus omnino refert.

PNEUMATOLOGIA

1. PNEUMATOLOGIA est tractatus ubi verba de spiritibus sunt.
2. An caelestis spiritus, nullis corporibus iuncti, ex revoluzione solum cognosci possit.
3. Spiritibus per se consideratis nullum est ubi.
4. Angeli postquam mortem movendi naturam non habent.
5. Voluntati competi libertas.
6. Spiritus de partibus non consistit. Ergo.
7. Naturae sua sunt immortales.
8. Materiam cogitare non potest.

THEOLOGIA

1. THEOLOGIA, quodcumque notum fieri potest de Deo, necesse est voluntas eius non explicat. Ergo.
2. Deus est potest.
3. EST.
4. Nihil, ut a Deo veniat, propositionem ad amulum habere potest.
5. Peccatum originale imputari acquit, donec baptismum per sona sit. Ergo.
6. Post animi immortem cum corpore, evaporat.
7. Lux naturae hominem privatum esse arguit.
8. Regeneratio, ex opera carnis, nihil perdit. Tam.
9. In divinis impressione respondit, mens est activa.
10. Praesentia Dei decretum implicat.
11. Sanctificatio est communicatio continuo graeae a Spiritu Sancto, et opera reatorum sua ad hoc derivatur.
12. Angeli beati, per electionem in Christo, confirmati fuerunt.
13. Animalis pro cibo, Antichristiani non dicitur.

ETHICA

1. ETHICA est tractus ubi de felicitate hominis per virtutum adiacent.
2. Mirabilia obligatio ex Dei voluntate solum prode.
3. Inter bonum et malum, ferri naturae non distinguere docet. Ergo.
4. Nemo sine incrementum unquam agit.
5. Contra voluntatem, nemo unquam agit.
6. Nulla passio, in sua natura considerata est victio.
7. Verus malum, ut malum, perit. Ergo.
8. Utrum, danturam suam velle juri aere oppugnet.
9. Cuiusque, jus suum privatum, fit et in se, cum lege non potest.
10. Africanus in servitum perpetuum reducere nec juri divino, necque humano congruit.

POLITICA

1. POLITICA, in res publicas moderandi, veritas.
2. Omnis paucitas, leges formandi, et praesens indigentia, a populo derivatur. Ergo.
3. Senatus populi velleque imponendi, qui in illo senatu non representantur, jus non est.
4. Status libertatis civium ad statum armis et fionemum manum conducit.
5. Literarum, ad societatem firmam, et bene moderandam, multum adjuvat.
6. Americanae in rerum Italia praesens res non malis, Republicae administrandae ferri male congruit.

His praecedit ORATIO Salutatoria.

Habita in Comitibus Academiae apud WARREN, intra Col. Inf. Rhod. & Prov. Plant. Fines. d. 7^o a Id. SEPT. A. D. MDCCCLXX.

Apud NOVY-PATRUM, et TYPIS SOLONUM SOUTHWICK.

was still retained, between four members of the graduating class, on the question "Whether Civil Government can be maintained without an Idea of future Rewards or Punishments?" As this, however, was only one of ten parts, not counting the two intermissions for Music, scheduled for the forenoon's exercises, and as nine more were to follow in the afternoon, the four disputants can hardly have approached their task with the seriousness of thirty years earlier. Similar programmes must have been issued for other years, before and after 1799, but the only other ones that are now in the possession of the College Library are for the commencements of 1803 and 1813. The programme for 1799 came to the Library with the Rider Collection, which was presented to Brown by Mr. Marsden J. Perry, in 1903.

The Alumni Catalogue first appeared on one side of a single sheet, measuring 13 1-4 by 11 1-4 inches, in 1775. There were then forty-four regular graduates in Arts, and sixty-seven holders of honorary degrees. The next issue was eleven years later, when the total number of names had risen to one hundred and sixty-three, but the increase was almost entirely in actual graduates, only eleven honorary degrees having been allotted in this period. In 1789, two hundred and fifteen names could still be accommodated on a sheet only slightly larger than the first catalogue. In 1795, the number had risen to three hundred and eighty, and a sheet of the largest size, 21 1-4 by 17 inches, was used.

In October, 1800, it was thought desirable, for the first time so far as the college archives show, to print the Catalogue of the names of the undergraduates. This was done on one side of a

large sheet, like the catalogue of graduates, and gives the names of seven members of the faculty, and the names, with their home addresses, of twenty-two Seniors, thirty Juniors, thirty-three Sophomores, and twenty-two Freshmen. Of the undergraduates, twenty-two were registered from Rhode Island, four from Connecticut, one from New York, two from Virginia and four from South Carolina. The others were from Massachusetts. Similar lists were probably printed each year, but the only ones now in the College Library are dated April 1st, 1805, 1806 and 1807, with a second issue for 1805, dated May 1st.

The University is indebted to Clarence S. Brigham, '99, of Worcester, for the only copy known to exist of a broadside poster announcing a course of what would nowadays be called "University Extension" Lectures. These were offered by the Rev. Peres Fobes, in June, 1790, and the course of twelve lectures covered the whole range of natural science as it was then popularly understood. Professor Fobes, who graduated at Harvard in 1762 and became pastor of the Congregational church in Raynham four years later, was elected Vice-President of Rhode Island College in 1786, to take the place of President Manning while the latter was absent performing his duties as a member of Congress. He was appointed Professor of Natural Philosophy the same year, and continued to teach at the college until 1798, continuing at the same time his pastoral duties in Raynham. After President Manning's death in 1791, he was again acting-President for a short time, and, doubtless in recognition of this service, received the degree of LL.D. at the commencement of 1792.

THE REVEREND
PERES FOBES,

Professor of Natural and Experimental Philosophy,
in Rhode-Island College, proposes to exhibit

A COURSE of LECTURES upon NATURAL PHILOSOPHY and ASTRONOMY, viz. Upon the Doctrine of Attraction, in which will be explained the first Principles of Agriculture and Botany ; upon the Mechanical Powers ; Hydrostatics and Hydraulics ; Pneumatics ; Optics ; Astronomy ; Electricity ; Magnetism, and a Sketch of Anatomy. The Whole illustrated by a Variety of curious and entertaining Experiments.

The Course will consist of Twelve Lectures, two or three to be exhibited per Week, at the Philosophy-Room in College. The Price TWELVE SHILLINGS, for the whole Course, or ONE SHILLING and THREE PENCE for a single Lecture.---To commence on FRIDAY, the 25th Instant, at 4 o'Clock, P. M.

TICKETS may be had this Afternoon, by applying to Mr. George Benson, Mr. Joseph Jenckes, or to either of the Officers of College.

Providence, June 24, 1790.

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