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4945

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State Normal Magazine.

JOHN CHAVIS: A SKETCH.

Among the subjects most prominent today before the reading public are the negro in the South and Education in the same section. In this connection there looms a figure which is unique, whose story commands the interest and respect of those who know it. It is the figure and the story of one whose work in the school room is even today bearing fruit. This man was the negro John Chavis, a Presbyterian clergyman, and a teacher of white youth of the old South.

Of his first years nothing is known. By some he is said to have been a native of Granville county, North Carolina, where were many free born negroes. Others, the sons of his old neighbors in that county, say that he was born in Hayti in about 1763; that in his young manhood he lived in Jamaica, where he became a communicant of the Church of England, and that he came to North Carolina in the latter part of the eighteenth century. His name is so plainly English that he was probably a Jamaican, if a West Indian at all. Otherwise one might weave about him a romance founded upon the stirring events which tore Hayti in 1790-94.

There are yet living in Durham county, which was then a part of Granville, men who remember Chavis, and who tell of his visits to the homes of gentlemen.

He had been a member of the Church of England, but became a Presbyterian, probably after leaving Jamaica. It is a legend that he was sent to Princeton to be taught by Dr. Witherspoon "to see if a negro were capable of receiving a collegiate education." If this be true, he was a private pupil of Dr. Witherspoon, since his name does not appear upon the records of that institution. Some enthusiastic reverers of his memory say that he graduated in the class with John C. Calhoun, but the

latter graduated at Yale in 1804, ten years after Witherspoon died at Princeton. Moreover, so far as is known, no negro has ever graduated from the New Jersey college. It is probable that Chavis received his theological training under Dr. Witherspoon. Wherever he was educated, it is certain that he was a fine Latin and a fair Greek scholar, and that he was a man of literary culture, of dignified, even courtly bearing, and that he enjoyed the respect and admiration of the best men of his day.

It is said that from Princeton he went to Virginia. From the records of the Hanover Presbytery, Virginia, we learn that he was "riding as a missionary under the direction of the General Assembly in 1801." After this we find no trace of him till 1809. In the minutes of the Orange Presbytery, North Carolina, we read: "Mr. John Chavis, a licentiate of Hanover Presbytery, Virginia, was received under the care of Orange Presbytery, North Carolina, April 8, 1809." The records of this Presbytery from 1812 to 1827 have been lost, so we can learn nothing officially of his life and work during that time.

Mr. Charles Lee Smith, in his "History of Education in North Carolina," says that Mr. Chavis ministered to churches in Granville, Wake and Orange counties. Whether these ministrations were to white or colored congregations, or to both, has not been made plain. It was the custom at that time in North Carolina and Virginia for gentlemen to secure the services of a chaplain for their slaves. Regular and intelligent religious instruction was provided for the negroes. At these services "the family" was present. It is possible that Chavis did this sort of work since many gentlemen testified to having heard him preach. They all agree that Chavis was a scholar and an earnest follower of Christ. The following is a letter of George Wortham, Esq., a lawyer of Oxford, N. C., and a man of letters. The letter is dated May 23, 1883. It runs:

"I have heard him read and explain the Scriptures to my father's family and slaves repeatedly. His English was remarkably pure and contained no negroism. His manner was impressive, his explanations clear and concise. He was said

to have been an acceptable preacher, his sermons abounding in strong common sense views and happy illustrations without any effort at oratory or any sensational appeals to the passions of his hearers. He had read God's words much and meditated deeply upon it."

From the records of the Orange Presbytery we get a clearer insight into his relation to the community in which he lived than we may from reminiscences alone, hence the following quotations: "Sept., 1827. John Chavis writes a letter to Presbytery about the Colonization Society, and asks for aid in his pecuniary difficulties."

In 1831, the negroes of southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina rose in insurrection under the leadership of a negro, Nat Turner. In consequence of this, very severe laws were passed by the Legislature of North Carolina concerning the control of slaves. It was forbidden to teach a negro to read, and colored men were forbidden to preach. This deprived Chavis of his livelihood, and we see concerning him in the minutes of his Presbytery: "April, 1832. Chavis writes again to Presbytery about his troubles in view of an act of the late Legislature of North Carolina forbidding colored men to preach."

Presbytery answers: "In view of all the circumstances of the case, we recommend to our licentiate to acquiescence in the decision of the Legislature referred to, until God in His Providence shall open to him the path of duty in regard to the exercise of his ministry. The case was referred to a committee which recommended that a collection be taken up for Mr. Chavis, and that a committee be appointed to take measures for his removal into the bounds of some Presbyterian congregation." This collection amounted to \$54.42. The Presbytery records shows that Mr. Chavis was in frequent communication with that body. In September, 1833, he sent "An Essay on the Atonement," asking the help of the Presbytery to publish it. It was referred to Messrs. Graham and McPheeters and Dr. C. L. Read. They reported: "Presbytery deems it inexpedient to do anything in relation to Mr. Chavis' proposed publication on

the Atonement, inasmuch as it is on a subject which has been amply discussed and of course would not be generally interesting, and the proceeds would probably contribute nothing towards his support."

A copy of this essay is in the writer's possession. Its title is, "Chavis' Letter Upon the Doctrine of the Atonement of Christ." "Price 15 cents. Raleigh. Printed by Gales & Son, 1837." Whether or not he was aided by his Presbytery in the publication is not stated.

It is necessarily a grave and didactic discourse, yet on the first page one sees the proof of the warm imagination so characteristic of his race. After giving his reasons for writing his "Letter," he says: "The time was when I was a firm believer in a limited atonement, and I do believe that it was God alone that convinced me of my mistake, and that in a most miraculous manner. * * * At a certain time, I preached to a large congregation with all the pathetic zeal of which I was capable, to come and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, that they might be saved; that unless they were regenerated and born again of the Spirit they could not enter the Kingdom of Heaven; yea, I felt as though I were standing on the brink of eternity and my congregation ready to be precipitated into utter destruction. After preaching, I got upon my horse, and as usual, began to review my sermon, and it was suddenly impressed upon my mind, as though some person had spoken to me: 'What, you believe in a limited atonement, and yet you have been inviting all mankind to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for life and salvation? How is this?' Such was the shock that it appeared as if I rebounded from my saddle, and certain I am from my feelings, that my whole frame must have been in a tremor, and I rode on, one of the most miserable of men, and found no peace of mind until I became satisfactorily convinced that the atonement which our Saviour had made was commensurate to the spiritual wants of the *whole human family*; that he had made it possible for each individual to be saved."

Through nearly six thousand words he combats the popular

understanding of the Calvinistic doctrine. At the close he says: "I have had the doctrine of the Atonement of Christ, of God's decree and of election, under investigation for about forty years. And although upon these subjects, I have read the writings of some of the greatest men the world has produced, yet they left those doctrines wrapped up in so much mystery that I could not be satisfied with their investigations. Nor could I be satisfied with my own investigations until I adopted as theories the doctrine of motives, the freedom of the will and the object of choice, and for these, I am indebted to 'Edwards on the Will.' He says that the will is produced from the last dictates of the understanding which enabled me to the conclusion that it is produced from the object of choice; which I think will accord with the experience of every person who will carefully examine the motives of their actions."

It seems just and kind to insert these quotations since they serve to throw light upon the character and to show us what manner of man was this full-blooded African, who won the respect and the affection of the old-time Southern gentry; who had under his direction the training of many white boys who grew to be leaders of thought and heads of families, wielding wide-spread influence throughout the South.

The minutes of his Presbytery guide us along the path which he trod. We read: "Sept., 1834. *Resolved*, That in view of the present necessitous condition of Mr. John Chavis, a free man of color, and a licentiate under the care of the Presbytery, owing chiefly to his advanced age and bodily infirmities, the Presbytery of Orange will provide a competent support for Mr. Chavis during the year ensuing, by private contributions or otherwise. And that the Rev. Messrs. McPheeters and Osborne and Mr. John Primrose, of Raleigh, be a committee to supervise the application of this charity."

From 1834 to 1838 the same tender care for the old man is recorded. Twenty seven churches were assessed to raise the yearly appropriation. Between April and October 1838, he died, for in the latter month we see that the "Presbytery resolved to continue the support of the widow of John Chavis." The min-

utes show that the widow was provided for by the Presbytery till April, 1842, when "The committee reported through Mr. Ferrell that Mrs. Chavis was with her friends and required no aid from Presbytery: Wherefore it is ordered to cease the collections until she apply for aid."

The aid extended him by his Presbytery, though generous for that day, was not sufficient for his needs. Through the kindness of Mr. L. M. Coley of Granville county, N. C., the following is published: "In 1840 or 1841"—a mistake apparently in the year—"my father was going to Petersburg, Va., through the country. On the road in Granville county he heard of an old negro named John Chavis, who needed help. He called and found his old teacher in great poverty, living with some free negroes—a complete wreck of his former self. My father relieved Chavis' necessities, but he did not long suffer for he died soon afterward leaving no family." Different accounts have been given concerning the attitude of the white people toward him. Some writers give the impression that social equality was accorded him among the families of gentlemen in whose neighborhood he lived. By permission, I quote from Mr. Philip Southerland, a farmer of Durham County, N. C. "In 1829 or 1830, when I was eight or nine years old, I was on a visit to my brother living on the plantation of Judge Duncan Cameron. While I was there John Chavis came on one of his occasional visits to Judge Cameron to attend the services of the Episcopal Church and to get the newspapers. It was then that I first saw the old negro. He was riding horseback, following the Judge around the plantation. He was tall and black and wore a beaver hat. He was respected by all classes but more so by the cultured and wealthy, as the poorer people had but little to do with him. He was a negro and he knew it. He knew his place and kept it, therefore people respected him for it."

Judge Cameron and Senator Mangum, whom he often visited, had their slaves to wait on him as if he were white, but when meal time came he was served in a room by himself and they each had a special out-room for his chamber."

Judge Willie P. Mangum, prominent in his state, and United States Senator from North Carolina, was a warm friend of Chavis, bound to him by ties which he and his family ever preserved with gratitude. Chavis was treated with so great consideration by Mangum that it aroused the comment of the children. They asked:—"Mother, what makes that old negro come here?" "Hush, children, he is your father's friend," she replied. Dr. Stephen B. Weeks, a North Carolina historian, thinks that Mangum had been a pupil of Chavis, but Col. Benahan Cameron, to whose father Mangum was tutor, says not, but that the secret of Mangum's esteem was a service rendered by Chavis. He says: "A party in Wake once thought of suing Mangum who came to Judge Cameron for advice. The latter told him that he was satisfied he could settle the matter through the negro then teaching the children in this family. Judge Cameron sent a special messenger to Chavis who succeeded in settling the affair at once."

Neither Mangum, Col. Paul Cameron, nor the sons of Chief Justice Henderson were taught by Chavis, though several North Carolina writers have named these as his pupils. Prof. J. H. Horner, who was one of the foremost teachers of the South, and is the father of Bishop Junius Horner of the Jurisdiction of Asheville, was his pupil. Governor Manly, of North Carolina, and others who have made history were his "boys." Some of these boarded in his house and there learned the lessons of truth and gentleness.

The position of the teacher even till the beginning of our Civil War had not in the South changed radically since Colonial days. Then frequently he was an indentured slave, classed and treated as a servant. In old newspapers one may read advertisements of the proposed sale of a teacher who had not worked out his contract but for whom the owner had no further use. Again one may read on a bill of goods ordered by a gentleman of Carolina of his London merchant along with coffee and cotton or silken toggery "one female teacher."

Having been nurtured in this old English way of thought, it did not seem to the gentlemen of the old South unfit or unwise

to place their sons in the care of a negro to be taught Latin, Greek or Mathematics. There were no public schools and but few private ones and this quiet old scholar in black appealed to the fathers as a safe leader of the boys. He but led them further along the way than the dear old black mammy could take them. She would gladly have taught them all had she been blessed with the knowledge which Chavis had acquired.

ANNIE G. RANDALL.

Blowing Rock, N. C.

THE ASHEVILLE SUMMER CONFERENCE.

It is impossible for those who attended the Asheville Conference of the Young Women's Christian Association, to describe it adequately, the days were so full of inspiration, novelty, and pleasure. Primarily, the aim of the Conference is the development of christian character among those who attend. The Conference last summer was no exception to this rule, but in carrying out the plan, the intellectual and social sides of life were not left untouched.

The religious meetings were many and of various kinds. The mornings and evenings were entirely taken up by the Conference. Although the meetings followed each other in close succession, there was so much variety in them that each service was attended with interest and enthusiasm.

Perhaps the most helpful meetings were those which followed a course of study. Among these were the Bible classes, Mission classes, and the Student conferences. There were two Bible classes, one studying the Acts of the Apostles, the other, the Life of Christ. In Mission study, one class traced the growth and struggles of the early church, another followed the spread of christianity in Japan. In the Student conferences all departments of work in the Young Women's Christian Association were discussed, beginning with the duties and respon-

sibilities of the officers, and continuing to the duties and responsibilities of each committee chairman, and thence to the committee members. The place of the Association, in the College, its place in the lives of students, and the relation of each committee to the Association, were plainly pointed out.

The meetings, which followed no course of duty, were the platform addresses in the morning, the Vesper services at sundown, the evening addresses, and the delegation meetings, which occurred just before light bell. The addresses, though resembling each other in subject matter, were as different in style, as were the speakers, in person. For instance, one speaker first stated a truth and then proved it by illustrations, while another began with the simplest facts and gradually led up to the truth that he wished to prove. Perhaps the sweetest service of the day was the Vesper service, when everybody gathered on the mountain side, and sang hymns, offered prayers, and listened to the scripture reading. This service on the mountain side, in the open air, called to mind the Sermon on the Mount of Olives. The delegation meetings were simple, informal gatherings in which the girls of each State met all the other girls from that State and talked about their Colleges. For instance, the North and South Carolina girls met and learned something of the work of the Young Women's Christian Association in the different schools.

I feel that I can not pass over the religious phase of the Conference without mentioning some of the speakers and leaders, who contributed so much to its success. Among them were Dr. Egbert W. Smith, of Greensboro, Dr. Len G. Broughton, of Atlanta, Dr. O. E. Brown, of Vanderbilt University, Dr. Robert E. Speer, of New York City, and Mr. Harlan P. Beech. Among the women, were Miss Mabel Cratty, Miss Frances Bridgers, and Miss Blodgett, who is well known as an expounder of the Scriptures.

The work of the Conference occupied the morning and evening hours and those, who had the Conference in charge, planned for the afternoon's entertainment. At such a place as Kenilworth Inn and with three hundred girls as associates, the dele-

gates could have passed the time very pleasantly had this provision not been made. A reception, a trip to Sunset Mountain and the Swiss Dairy, a drive through Vanderbilt's estate, a trip to Asheville and Riverside Park, and mountain rambles, along the gliding Swannanoa, were all planned for our enjoyment.

The trip to Sunset Mountain was enjoyable to every one, to us, the delegates of the North Carolina State Normal College, especially, because it was then that we obtained our first views of mountain scenery. Along the mountain road as far as could be seen, enraptured girls were leaning from the carriages and watching the scenery as Asheville receded in the distance, in the valley below. Clusters of rhododendron and patches of daisies and other wild flowers adorned the mountain side. The trickle of streams making their way down rock steeps, attracted passing notice. Near the top of the mountain, men were stacking hay on an incline so steep that we wondered how they kept their balance. From the top of the mountain, on all sides mountain peaks could be seen, towering one above another. A log cabin, standing in a lonely valley and surrounded by its few acres of farm land, was discernible in the distance. While resting on the top of the mountain, it rained down below us. Later, a rainbow formed and the pleasure seeking party were fortunate enough to see the choice colors of the rainbow resting against a great mountain of trees. The trip down the mountain was marked by occasional showers of rain and soft singing by the girls in the different carriages, as the beautiful scenes disappeared.

The drive over Mr. Vanderbilt's was a very interesting one. The estate seemed wonderful in its vastness. It comprises fertile soil along the French Broad, sloping hillsides farther back, and mountain heights, still farther back. The scenery, as it extends from river bank to mountain height, is beyond description. Special care is taken to protect wild flowers and they exist in great quantities. Streams were frequently seen pushing their way down the hillsides, over the rocks, and on to the river. Along the river banks, rambling vines, tall trees

and soft mosses seemed to unite to make the scenery complete. Besides appreciating the beautiful, Mr. Vanderbilt cultivates the useful. The fertile lands were verdant with corn, potatoes and other vegetables. He has connected with his estate, a piggery, hennery, and dairy, the animals, of each department being noted for their good stock. It would be almost impossible for a person to ride over the Vanderbilt estate and go away without impressions of its vastness, the skill with which each department has been planned, and the great care that is bestowed upon it.

The ten days stay at Asheville was full of help and pleasure. If each girl did not go away stronger in character, better acquainted with nature, and richer in friends, it was not the fault of the Conference.

META LILES, '06.

THE COAST FISHERMAN OF ONSLOW COUNTY.

*MARY JARMAN.

For some reason, no one has attempted to introduce the Southern coast fisherman to the reading public, or if the effort has been made, it has not been considered worthy of attention or comment. Yet in his sturdy independence, in the drollery of his speech and manner, in the unswerving energy that he displays in the execution of the arduous duties of his primitive life, he is interesting enough to claim our attention; and he is unique enough to merit a niche for himself, if the varieties of our American species are to be labeled and pigeon-holed for the inspection of the world and later generations.

Every transient hunter or prospector knows this of the coast fisherman: he is generous, hospitable, always ready for work or play if he is interested, jovial, rough with the roughness that

comes from irregular and violent physical exertion, and as weather-beaten as buffeting with wind and waves can make him. But the stray visitor can tell you little of his religion, his social life or his politics. To those who know him well, his traits and principles are written all over his sprawling form and in the shrewd kindly eyes, but to the "furriner" he is seen only through the shell of reserve into which he retires while he disarms suspicion of opinions and principles, by yarns and sea-lore. On this latter subject he never tires of discoursing. He can tell you when the fish will run shoreward, when the oyster is most palatable, explain the varying cry of the low-flying sea-gulls, and put the sea-hen to open shame as he discloses at the same time her wiles and her nesting-place. His eyes, scanning the sky from underneath his storm-worn hat, will foresee tomorrow's weather and his ready tongue will amplify the prophecy of his keen observation. If he find a ready listener, he will tell the legend of the great storm that swept over the banks to the mainland, one hundred and fifty years ago, and left no sign of human habitation in its wake. He will point out Court House Bay where the receding wave sucked his ancestral village into the hungry sea. Wierd and thrilling stories he will tell of the perilous escapes of the few survivors of that dreadful time. And under spell of the place and the story-teller, the listener admits, however much detractors may claim him to be ignorant and stupid, that in two arts, at least, the fisherman is an adept—the arts of sea-lore and yarn-spinning.

The industrial life of this people is simple and arduous, but independent. Shut off from the world by the sterility of the crumbling sandy soil that offers no inducement to outsiders and furnishes its owners an insufficient living, the citizens of this region are forced to draw their sustenance from the sea through sheer force of muscle and through the endurance of unending hardship and great dangers. For them there is no pleasant season after the harvest, no weeks of rest and leisure, no winter days by cosy firesides. Beginning life for himself, the young fisherman commences his dwelling house on the few acres of land that his father has given him. Having little time and

money to devote to its construction, he invites his neighbors to a "work-spell." His house being habitable, his mother gives him a bed and a few other articles of furniture. He is then ready to marry and begin life in earnest. In the summer he works on his little farm, often spending half the short night on the sound or in the creeks making the round of his nets and preparing his fish for early morning shipment to a neighboring town. Before the summer is fairly over, the shoals of herring begin to run northward. Then the fisherman leaves his wife to finish the harvesting with such help as she can get from the neighboring families, and sets out for the fishing camps. Crossing the sound, he moors his boat in a cove and takes the path over the sand-hills to the fishing huts on the beach. Here with dozens of his friends, he spends the fall and early winter. By night, they sleep in the dilapidated huts on bunks of rough boards; by day, watch the sea for the schools of fish that fairly blacken the waters as they pass. The surf-boat lies on the beach and the crew is ready when the fish pass. Discarding unnecessary clothing and seizing the oars and net, they rush bare-armed and bare-footed down the beach to the boat. Cutting out to sea, they drop their half-mile of net around the leaping fish and draw them in by thousands. When the haul is over, the preparation for shipping begins. The men work tirelessly and uncomplainingly until the fish are split and salted, though their hands are often blistered and raw from rubbing the biting salt on the fish. No one thinks of food or rest until the work is done and the fish packed in barrels. When winter drives the campers from the sea, they "oyster" in the sound. All day long the men and boys stoop from their boats lifting the oysters one by one from the rocks with their long tongs, and sending them ashore where the women and children open them. These oyster-openers earn about forty cents a day. The season lasts until April when the farming begins. Among these hardy fishermen physical strength and endurance is the measure of the man. Here on the rim of the sea, the fisherman fights his battle with the elements. There is no half-way ground. Each man must fight in the van and with all his might. Untiring

and a stranger to discouragement the fisherman wins from the sea more than the produce of his nets. He wins a confidence and a certain rugged strength of character that man can neither undermine nor put aside.

Educational opportunities are limited and neglected. Physically, mentally, and morally the child is apt to be the unconscious and natural replica of his parent, the product of the manner of life, of his limited associations and of the constant struggle against the mighty sea which furnishing him sustenance requires of him the exercise of his whole strength. The parents are generally too ignorant or too busy to devote any special thought to the training of their children. They say frankly that they can not spare the children to go to school. They teach them obedience, industry and that no thief deserves or gets anybody's respect. Such other moral training as falls to their lot is by example. The intellectual training, considered a matter of business and without consequent influence upon moral or physical life, is entrusted entirely to the teacher of the district school. The teacher herself, educated in similar schools, often lacks knowledge as well as the art of imparting it. She keeps the children droning at their tasks in a manner that popular educators fancy is a thing of the past. If a boy is able to read, write and "figger," he is considered generously educated.

The average coaster of this section is apt to belong to the religious body designated in various parts of the country as Primitives, Hard-Shells, Iron-Sides or Free-Wills. They are remarkable for their literal interpretation of the Bible, for their harsh simplicity of doctrine, and for their bitter distrust and denunciation of the worldliness and wrong-doing of outsiders. Sunday-schools are discouraged as not biblically authorized. One very striking peculiarity of the sect is the lack of effort in persuading even their own children to accept their belief. The young people are encouraged to wait until they feel like joining the church. But the silent process of association and absorption does its work, and sooner or later the younger generation is gathered into the fold. The religious atmosphere is

well shown in the fact that communion is not allowed if there be any discord among the brethren. Omissions or commissions that would pass unnoticed in other communities merit religious and sometimes social ostracism. Simple living and simple clothing is a part of their faith.

The fisherman's social life is limited; the busy life he leads leaves him little time for social diversions. The social events of the year are the "quarterly meetings," oyster roasts and Banks parties. The latter are characterized by plenty of noise and generally some scuffling. An occasional basket-party or a shake-down is in good form. Entire families attend, riding in the popular local conveyance, a covered cart. The young men seem to enjoy thoroughly these events, entering into them with great spirit and vigor. Though rough, they are considerate and respectful. The girls are shy, sometimes even to rudeness.

The coast people, simple, brave and unassuming have a place in the affections of those who know them. But as a result of their isolated lives and from the nature of their surroundings, they are essentially narrow and primitive. Tolerance and charity have little place with them. Firm in their own purposes and convictions, they neither understand nor tolerate the man who differs from them. In this condition of affairs, any immediate change in their life, moral or intellectual, seems improbable.

STATE NORMAL MAGAZINE.

TRANSLATION FROM HORACE.

ODE XXXII. BOOK I.

A song is asked. O muse divine
Descend and tune this lyre of mine.

Wake, lyre, and sing
A song of spring,
A song that will endure all time.

If ever in some lighter mood
A strain was sung that rendered good,
We'll sing again
A noble strain,
O, lyre from Phoebus' silvan wood.

Thee the great master first did play,
The Lisbian founder of his day.
In war or peace
He did not cease
Thy praise to sing for e'er and aye.

He sang of wine, of music fair.
Of Venus, and her beauty rare,
Of cupid's smile,
Of Lycus mild,
Made lovely by black eyes and hair.

O. glory of Apollo's shrine,
Pleasing to Jove when he doth dine,
O, little shell,
In thee doth dwell
A strain of music, rich, divine.

Though on the land, or on the sea,
Muse be propitious unto me,
Set free from care,
By music rare,
Sweet lyre when e're I call on thee.

—HELEN C. HICKS.

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VOL. X.

NOVEMBER, 1905.

No. 1

IMPROVEMENTS AT THE COLLEGE.

While we rested from our college work, during the summer, work at the college did not cease.

Our new library, the gift of Mr. Carnegie, has been completed and adds much to the attractiveness of the place, having, to quote one of the students, "quite a literary look."

Entering the vestibule with its handsome tiled floor, you pass to the lobby. On the right is the general reading room where the newspapers, magazines and books of fiction are kept. Back of this room is the private office of the librarian which leads into a fire-proof vault in which important papers are placed on file. To the left of the lobby is the history room and back of this a room for dictionaries and encyclopaedias. Immediately behind the lobby is a fire-proof stock room.

On the second floor which is reached by two broad stair-ways, are the teachers' sitting and reading room which is just above the general reading room and one above the history room for government documents.

The furniture and wood-work is all of natural oak. The building is heated by steam and lighted by electricity.

The new laundry, which was erected and equipped during the summer, is quite a model steam laundry, being furnished with the latest and most improved machinery.

The washing machines used are all-metallic V-shaped washers, making three revolutions each way and cleansing the fabric in from 15 to 30 minutes.

From the washers the clothes are placed in self-balancing extractors which wring and dry them to an ironing dampness in fifteen or twenty minutes by centrifugal motion. In a metallic drying room clothes are dried by the fan system in from five to thirty minutes.

A five-role mangle for ironing sheets at the rate of twenty-five feet a minute and a handkerchief mangle for handkerchiefs, ties, collars, belts, etc., are two of the late pieces of machinery used. The clothes-ironers used are heated by gas and one woman with the clothes-ironer can do the work done by twenty women by hand.

Other pieces of machinery used are the starch extractor and the combined ironer for collars, cuffs, and shirts.

Though the Students Building has not been completed, work has been and is being done on it and we hope to be using the auditorium and our society hall before long.

DR. GUDGER.

Eugene Willis Gudger, Ph. D., was recently elected Professor of Biology in the place left vacant by the resignation of Dr. D. L. Bryant. The following is a brief sketch of his academic career:

He was born August tenth, 1866, at Waynesville, N. C., and received his early education in the public and private schools of that town. He was a student at Emory and Henry College, Va., 1883-85, and 1886-87.

After teaching for three years in public schools, he went to Nashville, Tenn., and in 1891 was graduated with the degree of

L. I. from the Peabody Normal College. In 1892, he received the degree of B. S., and in 1893 that of M. S., from the University of Nashville.

He was assistant principal of Orange street High School, Asheville, N. C., 1893-94, and during the next year was Instructor in Asheville Female College. From 1895-1901, Little Rock, Ark. He entered Johns Hopkins University in 1901, and from 1902-04 was student assistant in General Biology, his subject being Zoology, Botany, and Geology. He received his degree of Ph. D., from this University in July of the present year.

AMONG OURSELVES.

HELEN HICKS, '06.

The fourteenth annual session of the State Normal College opened September 21, 1905. After a summer of rest or recreation many of the old girls are back and have resumed their college duties with much enthusiasm, resolving to accomplish greater things than ever before. It is with regret that we think that all could not return, that some of our former school-mates, classmates perhaps, are far away from us—"some at work and some at play." The vacancies left by them, have been filled by that class of people which is the largest in all colleges, the "Fresh"-men. Our new girls are always an interesting crowd and this year they are by no means behind their predecessors in that respect. They form a democratic band of young people as "green" as the average "newish" but no more so and of talents and possibilities which the future alone can reveal.

We are glad to see that the old conservatory which added nothing to the beauty of the place has been torn down.

Interest in athletics seems to be reviving. Tennis is popular and some talk is heard of the reorganization of basket-ball teams.

The new course of study which takes effect with the Freshmen of '05-'06 was introduced with misgiving by some few but with hope of great results by others.

There are now offered four four-year courses, three leading to degrees, A. B., and B. S., and one, the special music course, to a diploma. The former four-year commercial course and course in Domestic Science have been done away with entirely. Special work, however, may be taken in these departments and certificates received.

As the standard has been raised considerably the entrance examinations are deemed more difficult than ever but graduates of accredited graded schools in the State are admitted on certificate, a thing that has not been done in past years.

Thursday, October 12th, all college duties were suspended and large number of girls took in the fair.

The Young Women's Christian Association gave their annual reception to the new girls Friday evening, October 6th, in the main building.

The Seniors had the pleasure of hearing the address of the governor at the opening of the fair, complimentary tickets having been given them by Prof. Foust. It was the first time that many of the girls had heard Gov. Glenn, and it was indeed a treat.

O, the fun and pleasure of a walk down the pike!—go-away-and-come-back-balls continually fulfilling their purpose, the knocks on the back with cane and whip, the deafening roar of the souvenir horns and whistles, to say nothing of the loud cries of the numerous parties calling attention to their wares and shows! What would a fair be without this great confusion? Why nothing. The fair proper is to the most of us the great mass of squeening, squirming humanity, of which we are a part and which is always found on "the pike" at the county or State Fair.

The girls assembled in the chapel, where they filled out dainty registration cards and decided upon a course of study that was offered for the evening. The course included the following subjects: Botany, Zoology, Mathematics, Language and Pedagogy. In the rooms assigned for the different departments suitable contests were engaged in and light refreshments suggestive of the subject were served.

If the girls are to be believed, the evening passed pleasantly and the Young Women's Christian Association made new friends.

We were glad to have with us on this occasion a number of friends from Greensboro Female College and from the city.

Janie McBryde was called home a few days ago by the illness of her mother.

A few days ago Essie Bugg received news that her brother had been accidentally killed. She left immediately for her home near Warrenton.

Ethel Dalton was at home some time ago to attend her brother's wedding.

Mrs. Griffith and Miss Sallie Griffith spent a day at the college not long ago with Mrs. Griffith's daughter, Myrtle.

Miss Margaret Pierce, '99, is on a visit to friends at the college.

Miss Minnie Ross spent a few days with friends in Madison last week.

Jeannette Trotter, who graduated in music here in 1902, visited friends at the college during fair week.

Kate Riddick's sister has been with her for some time. Her father came up and spent a day with her.

Miss Laura Sanford, a former student, visited her sister Mary last week.

Annie Morrow was called by the death of her mother to her home in Mebane.

Several of last year's graduates are now staying in Greensboro. Six have positions in connection with the college, two are teachers in the Greensboro graded schools and one has a position as private secretary.

It is pleasant to have these "old girls" near so that they can come to our society meetings and help us by their encouraging words.

The six members of the '05 class who are now at the college were delightfully entertained by Miss Kirkland Tuesday evening, October 10th.

TO THE CLASS OF '05.

Departed is the '05 class
 Into many parts of the State,
 While we are left behind
 To linger and to wait.

As we stroll along the campus,
 New thoughts enter our mind,
 Of the time when we shall meet
 The true, noble thirty-nine.

As alumnae they will visit us
 And the dear college loved by all,
 But, oh! how we miss them
 When we assemble in the fall.

Yes, we shall miss them
 In our work and in our play,
 In the societies they will be lacking
 Whether at night or in day.

They were original and dignified,
 And, too, they were wise,
 As you see their Senior pin
 Is an owl with opal eyes.

To you, the class of 1905,
 We true will ever be,
 Though you are roaming through the State,
 Here welcome you will always be.

—E. S. M., '07

Among other visitors to the college lately were Miss Eunice Farmer, Mary Miller, Bess Scott, Miss Shaw, Myrtle Detwiler, Miss Hattie Bunn and Mrs. Lashley.

Miss Strong, from Walhalla, S. C., a graduate of Cornell, is now the assistant teacher in mathematics.

Dr. McIver, who is now traveling in Europe with Prof. J. Y. Joyner, has been greatly missed by the students this fall, and his return home is awaited by them with great eagerness.

A PLEASANT AFTERNOON.

On Wednesday, June 9th, the members of the Trigonometry class were pleasantly surprised by receiving from Miss Mendenhall an invitation to go driving in the afternoon. When the time for the drive came, a cloud was gathering and prospects for rain seemed favorable. The condition of the weather led to a discussion of the safety of the trip. In the discussion, the optimistic spirit of the class prevailed and we set out upon by trip.

Besides the nine girls who had had so many conflicts with trigonometry, Mrs. Hackney and Dr. Bryant were in the party. The pleasant conversation of the party and pretty views along the road, together with occasional breezes, made the trip delightful.

Along the wayside growing crops and quiet homes afforded restful pictures. Near Giulford Battle Ground we were shown a large oak, noted for the symmetry and evenness of its limbs. While gazing at the tree, we were informed that it owed its beauty of symmetry to the fact that at an early age it was deprived of its top by the horse of the famous Cornwallis.

From the historic tree, the drive was directed to a spring, not far off. A steep hill back of the spring, trees and vines on each side of it and flat rocks around it, made a picturesque scene. Here seated on the rocks the party partook of a delicious repast. Cool water from the spring added to the enjoyment of the feast.

At sundown we started homeward. It was not until our destination was reached that we wondered what had become of the cloud. As the party dispersed, all voted Miss Mendenhall a charming hostess and trigonometry a subject well worth taking.

META S. LILES, '06.

CURRENT EVENTS.

VAUGHN WHITE, '07.

The ending of the Japanese and Russian war by the Portsmouth peace conference, in which President Roosevelt played such a great part, leaves the world at peace once more and leaves it in better condition than the war found it.

The three essential points gained by Japan have been the evacuation of Manchuria, the return of Port Arthur to China and the withdrawal of Russia from Korea. The whole world east of Suez is opened up to Japan and this gives opportunity for the densely populated empire to expand industrially. We may now expect to see these regions invaded by an army of peace—artisans, farmers and laborers. If Japan proves as equal to her great industrial opportunities as to her military necessity, the whole world will profit by the development she will promote. Russia, too, has now an opportunity for industrial development, which many of those who best know the conditions of Russian life confidently expect to see used.

England has Japan to thank for a postponement of a conflict between Russia and England, which has been predicted as inevitable, since Russia has been checked in her push toward British India by the new Anglo-Japanese alliance.

Baron Rosen remains with us as the Czar's representative at Washington.

What has hitherto been unorganized territory lying between the provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia, has now emerged from the temporary districts known as the northwest territories into the two new provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

The next important exposition to be held in America will be Virginia's exposition to commemorate the three hundredth anniversary of the settlement of Jamestown. The Hon. Henry St. George Tucker will take the place as head of the exposition, left vacant by the death of Gen. Fitzhugh Lee.

The present expense of the Panama Canal Commission amounts to \$650,000 a month.

Mr. Cleveland has been attacking women's clubs and women's suffrage. The *Chicago Tribune* says evidently Mr. Cleveland never expects to run for office again.

Delegates from fifteen States, drawn together by Governor Pennypacker, of Pennsylvania, have decided to call a congress on the subject of uniform divorce laws, to meet at Washington next year.

A sewing machine for the empress of Japan has just been completed at the order of President Roosevelt. It is to be given to the empress by the president in recognition of the courtesy extended to his daughter, Miss Alice Roosevelt, during her visit to Japan. Every part of the metal of the machine where there is no friction, is gold plated. On the end attached to the gold plated iron works are the American and Japanese coats of arms.

ALUMNAE AND FORMER STUDENTS.

MARIAM U. BOYD, '07.

Catherine Nash is teaching mathematics in a college at Athens, Ga.

Ione Cates is teaching at Weldon.

Nathalie Smith is teaching in the High Point graded schools.

Anne Lee Shuford is registrar at the State Normal College.

Lizie Browne Stokes is a teacher in the Weldon graded schools.

Ethel Harris is assistant teacher in the practice school.

Josie Dameron is teaching at Tarboro.

Rebecca Warlick is spending the winter at her home in Newton.

Mary Weldon Huske is teaching at Durham.

Annie McIver is at her home in Greensboro.

Mary Davis is assistant teacher in the practice school.

Mary Jones is teaching at Durham.

Emma Sharpe is teaching at Reidsville.

Lelia Styron has a position in Greensboro as stenographer for Mr. T. Gilbert Pearson, secretary of the State Audubon Society for Game Protection.

Inez Flowe is teaching at Monroe graded school.

Katie Battle is a stenographer for a firm at Asheville.

Caro Gray is at New York with her sister, Mrs. Fisher.

Edna Reinhardt is teaching in the Barium Springs Orphanage.

Lettie Spainhour is teaching near her home in Morganton.

Olive McBrayer is at her home in Shelby.

Bessie Jacocks is spending the winter in Louisburg.

Florence Ledbetter is teaching in Edenton.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

ELIZABETH W. HICKS, '06.

THE FRESHMEN.

“For the first week, don't you know,
 A freshman's blue as indigo;
 All the same she's very green
 If she let's her blues be seen.
 When she's called on to recite
 She is either red or white;
 Basket-ball soon pounds her mellow
 In great spots of black and yellow;
 So, though lacking many a thing,
 She has local coloring.”

—Selected.

History Examination, Question IV: Name an important event that has taken place during Roosevelt's administration.

Candidate for admission to Freshman Class: Booker T. Washington dined with Roosevelt.

First Senior—I just know I'm going to hate physiology.

Second Senior—Why.

First Senior—O! I can't stand to bisect cats and dogs.

Student (in a drug store)—I want a cake of Pear's soap, please.

Clerk—Scented? Do you wish it scented?

Student—O, no; you needn't trouble. I'll just take it along with me.

New Student to Librarian—Will you tell me where I will find Greene's History of the United States?

Librarian—In the room to my right, Case A.

New Student (after five minutes fruitless search)—It can't be in Case A; all the histories in there are brown.

Hygiene Examination, Question VII—How many kinds of digestion are there? Name them.

Answer—There are two kinds—digestion and indigestion.

Unto a little nigger a summerin' in the Nile,
 Appeared quite unexpectedly a hungry crocodile.
 He said with fierce politness, that made the warm blood freeze,
 "I'll take a bit of dark meat, no dressing if you please."

—*Selected.*

AMONG OUR EXCHANGES.

BY METER S. LILES, '06.

As yet we have welcomed to our exchange table only a few magazines. It is gratifying to note that these magazines are improvements over what they were last year. In almost every case there is an increase in variety and originality of material. Judging from the first number, we predict for the *College Magazine* of 1905-'06 greater success than it has yet attained.

The material of the *Red and White* in the September number easily divides itself into weighty matter, fiction and local news, the greater part of the magazine being devoted to the last-named class. "Gentle Honey Bees" is a well written, interesting article which deserves especial mention.

We are glad to note that the *Trinity Archive* continues to give place to historical matter. The fiction in the October number is especially good. "A Twentieth Century Rubicon" and the "Case of Peter Blair" are pathetic, but well written stories.

The October number of the *Davidson College Magazine* is a good one. "The College Man and His Four Years" is an article which could be read profitably by every college boy and girl. "A Double Prodigal" and "Sing Me to Sleep" are simple, pleasing stories.

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