

1-22-1889

History of the Annual Social

Phi Sigma

Jessie C. Fitch

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Up to five minutes past seven
on the evening of Phi Sigma's an-
nual banquet; - we supposed, - and
believe that the majority of the mem-
bers of the class were with us - in
this supposition, - we supposed that
Miss Willcox was to be our hostess, - at
least we were so informed by our
invitations. At ten minutes
past seven, we discovered that we
were mistaken, found that Miss
Willcox had deserted us, found that
in her place had appeared a young
lady, who so closely resembled
Miss Willcox that we doubt if her
own father could have distinguished
between them. This second
young lady who was to act as
hostess was known as Portia.

When Miss Hillcox vanished she caused to vanish with her all the old familiar names which we are accustomed to hear in our gatherings together, whether they be of a literary or a social character.

In their places we heard names, familiar to be sure, but so strange, so strange that these personages, historical or fictitious, living in such widely separated countries in ages divided by so many hundred years should have assembled under one roof for a New Year's merry-making.

But truth is stranger than fiction" and there they were slowly and majestically descending to the dining room -

Anthony and Cleopatra, followed by Koko and Yum-Yum, John Alder and Priscilla with Paul

3

and Virginia, Romeo and Juliet
with Hwatha and Minnehaha.

It is doubtful if some of
these ever heard of escaloped
oysters or salted almonds - minced
potatoes or chicken salad with
which they were bountifully sup-
plied during the hour and a half
which they spent in the dining-room.

This however did not prevent the
rapid disappearance of the good
things provided for their consump-
tion. Appetites too were improved
by the almost constant moving
about on the part of the gentle-
men to see if the lady over in the
corner was engaged for topic No
7 on the conversation program -
or "could the lady with the blue
ribbon discuss No 3 with the gen-
tleman of the green ribbon?"

Supper finished, the company
returned to the parlors - and soon

fifteen couples were trying to decide
the momentous question "Is self the
best companion?" -

Topic No 11 - on our conversation
programs read - "Each hour has
its appointed sound" - but this
must have been a typographical
error, for it was very evident that
the program committee had meant
to state that "Each period of three
minutes has its appointed sound"
meaning the tap of the bell, which
was the signal for a general up-
rising from one partner and
down sitting with another for an-
other three minutes conversation
on the next topic.

Reports from various members of
the company are cited to prove
that medical problems, learned
discourse upon the Concord philosophy,
confidences, theories, doubts, ridicu-
lous nonsense and mere nothing

ness - used as elements, entered extensively into the composition of those three minute conversations.

New year's resolutions are altogether likely to give expression to some heart felt desire whether it be for the correction of some fault or the determination to fulfill some long cherished hope. These faults or hopes as the case may be are usually so successfully concealed that even our closest friends are not aware of their existence, and therefore create considerable surprise and amusement when revealed as upon the occasion of Phi Sigma's banquet of '88 which took place in '89. We disapprove of flirting on general principles and are indeed glad that two of our number have fully resolved that hence forward they will abstain from that entertaining

6
but dangerous practice—and that
one of these goes even farther and
says he will not drink, smoke,
chew, swear, say rats, quote poetry,
fuss, giggle, or go to sleep in church
again. We suspect that some
of these items were inserted in
this resolution to make it appear
that he was making a great sacri-
fice, but if the truth were known
we would find that he never
could be accused of having such
habits.

Notwithstanding the old adage
about "girls that whistle and hens
that crow", also in the face of the
recent supposed discovery that
whistling causes the hair to fall
out, we think the young lady
who resolves to abstain from
whistling and climbing fences
will do well to reconsider her
decision. It has occasionally

been necessary for her to climb fences in the past and should the emergency ever occur when she must choose between climbing the fence or staying on the side where she greatly prefers not to be, we feel sure she will regret having ever made such a resolution.

We soon begin to hear again the names of Phi Sigma friends and from moment to moment they become more numerous until all have returned and with their return have put to flight the curious company who for a time has displaced them.

Then we realize that all things have an end, that Phi Sigma banquets are included in all things, and therefore Phi Sigma banquets have an end.

The one under present considera

8.
tion had its dying moments en-
livened by the old familiar
college songs, participated in by
all, — and slowly but not
silently came to be numbered
among the events of the past,
as the hands of the clock on the
mantel neared the hour of mid-
night on Jan 1 - 1889 and we
said Good bye to ~~our hostess~~
feeling that this had been one
of the most enjoyable of Phi
Sigma's always delightful
banquets.

Jessie C. Fitch
Jan - 22 - 1889

Report of
Baudouin
Jan 1899
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