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Phi Sigma

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(1879)

VOL. II.

N^o IV.

The —
Voice
of the
Phi Sigma

Contents

Editorials

Editor

Statistical

one

L. P. Sawyer

Obituary

Editor

Society Notes.

"Ade"

Notes

Phrenography.

Mythology

Answers to Correspondents — — — Correct. Editor

Retrospectiva & Prospective

Editor

F. E. Whitman
Editor

Editorials.

We present to you tonight the 4th number of Vol. II of the "Voice" and in so doing we cannot help expressing some regret that we have not more original articles to give you, but owing to the pressure of other duties at this time of the year, only one out of our large corps of excellent contributors has been able to favor us with the product of his mind and pen.

Because of this lamentable fact we are compelled to ask you to listen to a rather one sided paper prepared almost entirely by the editor & that excellent assistant - his ^{Dear old} \$300, Shears.

To those who have kindly furnished us with articles we extend our hearty thanks. ==

The class has now finished the course of study in English History and now something else must be found to employ our time and minds in the coming year. That has probably been decided here this issue appears, and so we can only say that we hope the selection will prove a wise one and that we may enter upon the study of it with the

intention of making the Phi Sigma
of more interesting and of making
what we here learn far more deu-
elopmental than it has ever before been.

We heartily second our chairman's
intention to have frequent exten-
sive exercises and we think
that the benefits which arise from
such exercises can not easily be
overestimated.

Altho' it is very unfortunate that
the different members of the class are
so employed that some of their time
during the coming holiday season
can not be spent for the class, yet
we think it is a wise thing to ad-
journ for a few weeks. If we con-
tinue to hold meetings thru' the holidays,
it will be utterly impossible for several
of our members to be present and not
only would they lose what the others
do but also the meetings would not
be very interesting to those present if
only two or three attend. Even if we do
lose two or three meetings, for these
reasons we think we can reenter again upon
our work and commence upon our new
studies with a determination to equal
previous efforts & make up the lost
time.

When the class then without a name, began to hold meetings the critic's reports were sometimes very short, dry & on the whole not very interesting documents but later they began to show more effort and have been constantly improving until now & for sometime past the reports - prosy, poetical, humorous - grave have been something far better than a mere record. We hope each critic will not under-estimate the benefits derived from these reports and that each will strive to make his the best he can.

Once in the course of every six weeks the class has an opportunity to hear the opinion of each member regarding declamations, essays, debates, speeches or any other exercise that took place on his meeting and these opinions do not necessarily have to be hastily formed but one can study & think over the subject until he has made up his mind & then can express candid views. We hope these opportunities will be used in every instance.

==#==

Answers to Correspondents.

Detroit - Who is the richest man in the U.S. outside N.Y. State & the great mining states - Banster. — We are but we are not lending anybody a dollar for anything - You understand?

Boston - Who was the author of the "Junius letters"? Politician - Junius, you villain, Junius -

Milwaukee. Is it right for a temperance man to drink whiskey? — Well no it is hardly right. Hardly, unless he likes it. That makes a difference & even then it is hardly right unless he likes it very much,

Statistical -

The United States contains about -

1700 000 Baptists

350 000 Congregationalists

275 000 Episcopalians

1,600 000 Methodists

90,000 Mormons

525 000 Presbyterians

6000000 total Rom. Cath pop.

30 000 Unitarian

60 000 Universalists

These numbers do not include the various branches as the Reformed Epis. &c.
United Pres. &c -

Notes

A friend called on Michael Angelo who was finishing a statue. Some time afterward he called again. The sculptor was still at his work. His friend looking at the figure exclaimed - "You have been idle since I saw you last." "By no means" replied the sculptor, "I have retouched this part & polished that; I have softened this ^{feature} muscle & bro't out that muscle; I have given more expression to this lip and more energy to this limb." "Very well" said his friend, "but there are all trifles." "It may be so" replied Angelo, "but recollect that trifles make perfection & perfection is no trifle." So also is it with character.

"I don't like" says Carlyle, "to talk much with people who always agree with me. It is amusing to coquette with an echo a little while but one soon tires of it."

When I was happy I thought I knew men, but it was fated that I should know them in misfortune only - Napoleon.

As applause waits on success. The fickle multitude like the light straw that floats along the stream, glide with the current still and follow fortune. Franklin.

OBITUARY.

Died - In this city Nov 26 at his late residence, Mr. Croton W. Bugg

It is with extreme grief that we record in this issue the sudden demise of our esteemed enemy.

Mr Bugg has long been an intimate acquaintance of ours & was in the prime of troublesome when the sickle cut him down. It seems doubly sad when we think with what strides he was marching toward the pearly portals when the hand of the oppressor suddenly wiped him away from the eyes of man - and as with Moses of old, no man knows his resting place. Our profoundest sympathies are with his bereaved family.



Society Notices

Mrs Felis gave on Saturday evening a very pleasant entertainment consisting of Music & Charades together with the indispensable refreshments. The music was furnished by the Thomas Orchestra and the Maltese Quartet. The refreshments were very fine and consisted of Roast Pigeon, Canary fricassee, Bootjack sauce -

"Ads"

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are offered to
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Sunny-grasses

We can't tell G.L. what to use to bring the hair out on his lip, but if he gets married it will bring it out of his head.

A man out west was boasting of the wonderful scent of his dog & how far he could trace his master. He concluded his yarn with the triumphant query - "Now what d'ye think of that?" "Do you know what I think?" said one of the bystanders, "Well I think you'd better go & take a bath."

Mr. H. D. W. evidently forgot to mention in his article on "Evening Calls" the following occurrence. The conversation ran to literature. Said she - "The Pilgrim's Progress always seems to me painful." Of course you are familiar with Bunyan? He said that he was for he had one on each foot.

Josh Billings advises as follows - "Never take the Bull by the horns young man but take him by the tail, then you can let go when you want to." Also "Remember that a mule is the most ready animal because they always sleep standing so as to be on hand when the kicking begins to flow."

Mythology

Myths are figurative representations of events and ideas in the past of history. They were not the products of invention or design but developed themselves artificially in the minds of a primitive people.

Myths have a decidedly religious character and differ from legends in that they proceed from ~~an~~ ideas and create ~~an~~ facts and legends proceed from ~~an~~ facts & create ~~an~~ ideas. The one transforms history with reference to poetry religion or philosophy, the other changes religion poetry or philosophy with to history.

We now know that all the abstract words in constant use among ourselves, were at one time entirely unknown to man & that he then could only say the man who is strong, the man who can point out the way to others & he who can pick a thing out of many, where we use the words ~~as~~ virtue & prudence.

This music was represented by "the man who makes sweat sounds," and other abstract nouns were represented in the same way, till finally these ideas became indelibly fixed on the minds of the ancient & they, having the images in their minds eye constantly, made the

figures^{some} which have been handed down to us and which they were accustomed to call "the Gods". Everything seems to have been presided over by a separate God and therefore there were ~~several~~ different ones. The Grecian Mythology represents the world as originally consisting of Earth (^{Gaea}~~Waxus~~) and Heaven (^{Uranus}~~Waxus~~) and these were presided over by the ~~Waxus~~ & these were succeeded by the ones over which ~~the~~ Cronos ruled but he was finally driven off & superseded by Zeus. In securing the mastery of all Zeus was compelled to engage in fearful wars with the Titans and Giants, in which all nature was convulsed but at length he ~~was~~ was victorious. He gave the charge of Hades to Pluto and was assisted by 11 other gods & goddesses among whom were Apollo, Hermes, Athena & Demeter. Then there were an indefinite number of other gods, in power nearly equal. ~~Dys~~ ~~Dixximus~~ Dionysus, Helios, Dione, Aeolus, the Graces, the Muses the Nymphs &c were among these. The offspring of the gods were, ^{some of them.} said to be horrible monsters & were called Harpies, Centaurs, sirens, the Sphinx &c. The nymphs inhabited the mountains and fountains, the Dryads the forest, the Muses & the Graces inspired poetry & beauty. Eos opened to Apollo the gates

of the sky. Aeolus either bound the wind in caves or sent them out on their mission. The rainbow was the highway of Iris who was messenger to the gods. But above all Destiny was said to rule but she rarely interfered with the freedom of the world. The Grecian Mythology was elaborated by poets & philosophers until it was very symmetrically developed and embodied the principal parts of Grecian culture. The Romans came to adopt nearly the same system but changed the names to a latinized form. Thus Cronos they called Saturnus. Zeus, Jupiter Ares, Mars - Hermes, Mercury &c.

Many Scriptural traditions are represented imperfectly by these myths. Of course these myths are now ~~xxx~~ stripped of all value as a chronicle of actual events but the very act that has done this to them has given them a new & a deeper interest. The myths present to us a condition of thought thro' which all mankind passed before the dawn of history. They who spoke the language in which these early tales are told were men and women with joys and sorrows & interests here & here after not unlike our own. It is a very interesting way to while away

a time by reading some of these stories, these histories of the Gods. Many traditions are handed down which indicate that the names of places in some instances arose from something that happened or was performed by one or more of the Gods. One of the places whose name is said to have ~~thus arisen~~ ^{been} ~~one~~ ^{there were} of these mentioned is the strait called the Hellespont. It was in this wise — There were two little Greek children the one a boy named Phrixos the other a little girl named Helle. Their own mother died & their father married again. But the step-mother was very cruel to the children and the days were very sad to them & doubly so because they had previously enjoyed such happy times. At length the step-mother influenced the father & he too was exceedingly cruel to them. The children knew that their father & mother were going to kill them and they went out on a hillside to play but their sport soon ceased & they sat down side by side & tried to think some way of escape. Their own mother who after death went to dwell up in the sky behind a great ^{cloud} was well aware of all that was taking place in her former home. So while the children sat talking, a man with a golden fleece came in sight from behind

the cloud and flew down to the side
of the children. The Ram seemed so
tame that the children began soon to
play with it. At length they grew bolder
and thought they would take a ride. So they
both mounted the ram's back and no sooner
had they done this than the ram began
to run at first swiftly & then to fly &
carried them along at a rapid rate. The children
clung to the ram's back but owing to its
long flight the children soon became tired
the boy urged the little Helle to cling as
long as she could & but at last all
tired out she fell from the ram's back
just as it was crossing an arm of
the sea. Into this Helle fell & was drown-
ed an thus tradition says the straight
received its name. ^{which means "Sea of little Helle"} Phrixos still hung
on & was carried safely into a far
country where he grew up to manhood.
We wish we could give more exam-
ples but time will not allow & we
will have to close this very brief & im-
perfect article on the interesting Study
of Myths.

F. E. Whittier

Retrospectiva and Prospectiva.

Since this is probably the last issue of the Voice that will occur before we listen to the funeral dirge of the closing ^{year} and gladly participate in the festivities of ushering in the new, it seems that it would be an appropriate time to glance back over the days that are gone and look forward into the future of our class.

In the early part of the year now nearly spent the class had a few week's intermission so that the members might have an opportunity to attend the meetings then held at the Church. No one will say that we did not profit by them.

Now we followed on in our history and how, when the time for adjourning for the summer drew near we decided to have an open meeting & with what enjoyment that meeting was attended is all fresh in our memory. On the next meeting after our friends were with us we adjourned for the summer months. Little did we then think the he who was foremost in our class & who always shone for the best interests should now be mingling with those who dwell in the metropolis. But

we have not lost him and we hope - yes, we know he will not forget the Phi Sigma class. But for his studies which now occupy all his time we should be able to hear from him to night. At length the time for holding our meetings again drew near & with our attention turned to finishing the several reigns remaining, we set out on our winter's work.

As we look back we see, perchance, many errors, many wrong steps but shining far above these we see the great benefits, the great enjoyment & the many pleasant evenings we have spent.

And now we have a new year before us, a new study, and one new member with us - not exactly new however, but one who has repented of his perverse ways and returned to the bosom of his fellow Phi Sigmas. We want to make the coming year a success and we trust that all wish the same -

And finally the Voice extends to each and every member its heartiest well wishes for him in the New Year. And as the daylight dawns on the approaching festal days, we wish you all a very merry - Christmas and a Glad New Year -

Read Dec. 9th 1878 - By F. G. Whitman.
H. B. Wilson.