

A HAND WRITTEN PHI SIGMA PAPER PRESENTED IN DECEMBER 1879

VOLUME II NO. IV

THE VOICE OF THE PHI SIGMA

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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 and that excellent assistant - his \$ 3.00 pair of 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 ere this issue appears and 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 more interesting and of making of what we here learn far more beneficial than it has ever before been.

We heartily second our chairman's intention to have frequent extemporaneous exercises and we think that the benefits which arise from such exercises cannot 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 cannot be spent for the class, yet we think it is a wise thing to adjourn for a few weeks. If we continue 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 upon our work and commence upon our new studies with a determination to equal previous efforts and make up the lost time.

When the class, then without a name began to hold meetings the critics reports were sometimes very short, dry and on the whole not very interesting documents but later they began to show more effort and have been constantly improving until now and for sometime past the reports - prosy - poetical, humorous - grave have been something far better than a mere record. We hope that each critic will not under-estimate the benefuits 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 in his meeting and these opinions do not necessarily have to be hastily formed but one can study and think over the subjects until he has made up his mind and 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 and the great mining states
Banker -- 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 villian, 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 and even then it is hardly right unless he likes it very much.

STATISTICAL

The United States contains about:

1,700,000	Baptists
350,000	Congregationalists
275,00	Episcopalians
1,600,000	Methodists
90,000	Mormons
525,000	Presbyterians
600,000	Total Roman Catholic Population
30,000	Unitarians
60,000	Universalists

These numbers do not include the various branches as the Reformed Epis. United Presb. etc.

NOTES

A friend called on Michael Angelo who was finishing a statue. Sometime 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." "Bye no means." replied the sculptor. I have retouched this part and polished that; I have softened this feature and brot out that muscle; I have given more expression to this lip and more energy to this limb." "Very well." said his friend. "But these are all trifles." "It may be so" replied Angelo, "but recollect that trifles make perfection and 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 thot I knew men, but it was fated that I should know them in misfortune only - Napoleon.

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 and was in the prince of trouble someness when the sickle cut him down. It seems doubly sad when we think what strides he was making 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 and 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 Rodent, Canary fricasse - Bootjack sauce

ADS

Special Inducements
are offered to
Literary Clubs
to purchase
Standard Works at Bottom Prices
We have lately purchased at forced Sale
a Heavy Stock of Books
including
"How She Came into Her Kingdom"
on which we will give
Special Discounts
to members of Literary Societies
on Each and Every Book
purchased of us

The Beard Stationery
and Book Pub. Co.,
226-227 W. Madison St.
Chicago

PHUNNY-GRAPHS

We can't tell G. L. what to use to bring out the hair 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 and 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. "I think you'd better go and take a bath."

Mr. H.B.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 reddy animal because they always sleep standing so as to be on hand when the ??cking begins to flow.

MYTHOLOGY

Myths are figurative representations of events and ideas in the garb of history. They were not the products of invention or design but developed themselves unartificially in the minds of a primitive people. Myths have a decidedly religious characteristic and differ from legends in that they proceed from ideas and create facts and legends proceed from facts and create ideas. The one transforms history with reference to poetry, religion or philosophy, the other changes religion, poetry or philosophy to history.

We now know that all the abstract words in constant use among ourselves were at one time entirely unknown to man and that he then could only say the man who is strong, the man who can point out the way to others and he who can pick a thing out of many, where we use the words virtue and prudence. Thus music was represented by the man who makes sweet sounds, and other abstract nouns were represented in the same way, till finally these ideas became indelibly fixed on the minds of the ancients and they having the images in their minds eye constantly made the figures, some of 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 many different ones. The Grecian Mythology represents the world as originally consisting of Earth (Gaea) and Heaven (Uranus) and these were presided over by the Uranids and these were succeeded by the ones over which Cronos ruled but he was finally driven off and superseded by Zeus. In securing the mastery of all, Zeus was compelled to engage in fearful wars with the Titans and the Giants in which all nature was convulsed but at length he was victorious. He gave the charge of Hades to Pluto and was assisted by 11 other gods and goddesses among whom were Appollo, Hermes, Athena, and Demeter. Then there were an infinite number of other gods in power nearly equal - Dionysus, Helios, Dione, Aeolus, the Graces, the Muses, the Nymphs, etc where among these. The offsprings of the gods were some of them said to be horrible monsters and were called Harpies, Centaurs, Sirens, the Sphnix, etc. The Nymphs inhabited the mountains and fountains, the Dryads the forest, the Muses and the Graces inspired poetry and beauty - Eos opened to Appollo the gates of the sky. Aeolus either bound the wind in caves or sent them out to 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 and philosophers until it was very symnetrically developed and embodied the principal parts of Grecian culture. The Romans came to adopt nearly the same system but changed the names to the latinized form. Thus Cronos they called Saturnus, Zeus, Jupiter - Ares, Mars - Hermes, Mercury, etc.

Many scriptural traditions are represented imperfectly by these myths. Of course these myths are now 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 and a deeper interest. The Myths present to us a condition of thought thru which all mankind passed before the dawn of history. They who spoke the languages in which these early tales are told were men and women with joys and sorrows and interests here and hereafter 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 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, and their father married again. But the step mother was very cruel to the children and the days were very sad to them and doubly so because they had previously enjoyed such happy times. At length the step mother influenced the father and he too was exceedingly cruel to them. The children knew that their father and mother were going to kill them and they went out on a hillside to play, but their sports soon ceased, and they sat down side by side to think of some way to escape. Their own mother who after death meant 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 ram with a golden fleece came into 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 became bolder and tho't they would take a ride. So they both mounted the rams back and no sooner had they done this than the ram began to run at first swiftly and then began to fly and 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 little Helle to cling as long as she could but at last all tired out she fell from the rams back just as it was crossing an arm of the sea. Into this Helle fell and was drowned and thus tradition says the strait received it's name which means "Sea of little Helle". Phrixos still hung on and was carried safely into a far country where he grew up to manhood.

We wish we could give more examples, but time will not allow. We will have to close this very brief and imperfect article on the interesting study of myths

F.E. Whitman

RETROSPECTIVE AND PROSPECTIVE

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 on 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 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. How 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 and 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. Little did we then think that he who was foremost in our class and always strove 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 tonight. At length the time for holding our meetings again drew near and 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 and 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 Sigmities. 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 festive days, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a glad New Year.

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