

Penn State Collegian

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Wednesday, November 19, 1913

The October number of The Interregnum. Mid-West Quarterly begins an article in the following way: "In a Phi Beta Kappa address given last year before certain university audiences of the middle west, the head of the Columbia School of Journalism, Dr. Talcott Williams, made something of a text of the dearth of contemporary literary activity of the highest order. His reference was chiefly to poetry, but he seemed to feel that there is now relative sterility nearly everywhere in the literary field. Thirty years ago, he pointed out, advocates of the retention of classical study as basic in education made the prediction that with the relative elimination from the curriculum of the "humanities," tested by centuries as an inspiring influence in education, there would come decline in the intellectual output of our colleges and in literary creation. This prediction, he added, has come true."

Some of the advocates of the modern system of the education, maintain that the literary decline, and the absence of types of men such as Dickens, Thackeray, Carlyle, Macaulay, Tennyson, Browning, Meredith, Hardy, and Stevenson, is not due to modern tendencies of our own universities and colleges, but is merely a reactionary period—a period of rest. The fault very probably does not rest chiefly with the policies of the modern institutions, but may be found in the attitude of the student himself.

What is the chief topic of conversation of the ordinary college student today? Does it consist of sociological problems? Are debates and discussions dealing with philosophy, psychology, ethics, literature, modern governmental policies, and the like, very frequent? No! On the whole students discuss athletic topics, football scores, batting averages, pugilistic events, the modern comic opera, the mod-

ern sex drama, and the modern defilement of literature, as exemplified in some of our present magazines and novels.

Of course it is hardly fair to generalize in this regard, but it is evident from the present day tendencies that society is not idealistic enough. The college bred man is supposed to represent the highest product of culture, but if he will not cultivate his ideals, what is to be expected of those situated in lower planes of culture and education?

As Dr. Williams advocates, the college man should read the classics, which were produced by men who were famous philosophers, humanitarians, and idealists. As Ruskin brings out in his "Sesame and Lillies," "There is a society continually open to us, of people who will talk to us as long as we like, whatever our rank or occupation; talk to us in the best of words they can choose, and of the things nearest their hearts. Do you ask to be the companion of noble? Make yourself nobles, and you you shall be. Do you long for the conversation of the wise? Learn to understand it, and you shall hear it. But on other terms? No. If you will not rise to us, we cannot stoop to you."

Literary geniuses cannot be produced in atmospheres that are indifferent to good literature; nor can they be developed in the presence of the modern materialistic tendencies, which have secured a strong foothold in cultural circles. Scientific progress thrives in the presence of spiritual ennoblement. Develop the latter, and you increase the rate of the former.

Competition is the key-unsung note of efficiency in all heroes lines of endeavor. This is clearly brought out in our athletic activities. Every man, when he reports for the call, knows that his degree of success depends on his individual ability, aggressiveness, and the amount of himself that he is willing to put into the game, and on these is the final selection made.

The same is true of the assistant managers of our teams. Here the choice is often, perhaps, even harder to make. The candidates are, as a rule, men of equal ability in general affairs, working for the same end, and each willing and desirous of giving his best to win the coveted reward. Generally speaking, the most deserving man is elected but the selection is often, from necessity, based on the most finely drawn differences. To the fortunate aspirant comes honor and reward and to less fortunate comrades comes a type of honor that rarely outlives the current season.

It would be unjust to ignore the fact that the assistants are, to a degree, remunerated by the privilege of taking, at least, one of the trips during the season in which he serves but this if figured down from a financial standpoint it will be found to fall far short of a fit reward due these men for the time and labor spent.

A solution to this problem under the present existing circumstances would be the creation of additional

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offices, for example that of "Senior Assistants". This office could be considered either as exclusively honorary or, if practical, could embrace continued assistant work with the manager and perhaps the trip privilege throughout the season year.

Mining Commission

The commission appointed by the governor consisting of Dr. W. R. Crane, Dean of the School of Mines, Pennsylvania State College, Mr. W. Calverly, General Manager of the Berwind-White Coal Co., Windber, Pa., and Mr. J. E. Roderick, Chief of the Department of Mines of Pennsylvania, met with Director J. A. Holmes, of the United States Bureau of Mines, at Pittsburgh, Monday, November 17, to discuss the work of establishing a State Mining Experiment Station as provided for in a recent act of the legislature. The purpose for which the commission was created is to extend the work of the Federal Bureau of Mines to the Mining and Metallurgical Industries of the state. An initial sum of \$25,000 has been appropriated to begin the work of the commission.

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1.00	9.00	1.00	9.00	1.00	9.00	1.00	9.00	1.00	9.00	1.00	9.00
4.18	11.35	4.18	11.35	4.18	11.35	4.18	11.35	4.18	11.35	4.18	11.35
7.50	3.40	7.50	3.40	7.50	3.40	7.50	3.40	7.50	3.40	7.50	3.40
7.58	3.00	7.58	3.00	7.58	3.00	7.58	3.00	7.58	3.00	7.58	3.00
11.42	7.15	11.42	7.15	11.42	7.15	11.42	7.15	11.42	7.15	11.42	7.15
12.25	8.15	12.25	8.15	12.25	8.15	12.25	8.15	12.25	8.15	12.25	8.15
1.30	7.36	1.30	7.36	1.30	7.36	1.30	7.36	1.30	7.36	1.30	7.36
12.10	8.15	12.10	8.15	12.10	8.15	12.10	8.15	12.10	8.15	12.10	8.15
12.00	10.15	12.00	10.15	12.00	10.15	12.00	10.15	12.00	10.15	12.00	10.15
2.07	10.20	2.07	10.20	2.07	10.20	2.07	10.20	2.07	10.20	2.07	10.20
2.21	6.25	2.21	6.25	2.21	6.25	2.21	6.25	2.21	6.25	2.21	6.25
2.17	6.43	2.17	6.43	2.17	6.43	2.17	6.43	2.17	6.43	2.17	6.43
2.21	6.46	2.21	6.46	2.21	6.46	2.21	6.46	2.21	6.46	2.21	6.46
2.26	10.31	2.26	10.31	2.26	10.31	2.26	10.31	2.26	10.31	2.26	10.31
2.32	6.55	2.32	6.55	2.32	6.55	2.32	6.55	2.32	6.55	2.32	6.55
2.36	10.45	2.36	10.45	2.36	10.45	2.36	10.45	2.36	10.45	2.36	10.45
2.50	7.12	2.50	7.12	2.50	7.12	2.50	7.12	2.50	7.12	2.50	7.12
3.10	11.10	3.10	11.10	3.10	11.10	3.10	11.10	3.10	11.10	3.10	11.10
3.10	7.27	3.10	7.27	3.10	7.27	3.10	7.27	3.10	7.27	3.10	7.27
3.10	7.31	3.10	7.31	3.10	7.31	3.10	7.31	3.10	7.31	3.10	7.31
3.10	7.35	3.10	7.35	3.10	7.35	3.10	7.35	3.10	7.35	3.10	7.35
3.10	7.35	3.10	7.35	3.10	7.35	3.10	7.35	3.10	7.35	3.10	7.35
3.10	7.35	3.10	7.35	3.10	7.35	3.10	7.35	3.10	7.35	3.10	7.35

*Daily, except Sunday. Connection—With Pennsylvania R. R. Eastern Time