

Prexy's Preachment

Probably no pedagogical subject is so frequently attacked as the teaching of English. Critics ask why it is that English is given the largest share of time from the kindergarten to the Junior class in college and yet college graduates find difficulty in writing, spelling or speaking the mother tongue. Usually a foreigner who has learned English in his native country surpasses the American born in the purity of the English he uses. The college places the blame largely on the high school and so it is passed down through the grades to the home.

I often have written graduate letters of application written by students with the suggestion that we should teach spelling and composition with our other arts in the home and local environment where instruction is more common than correct form? Is it due to the constant deposit of a foreign stratum of speech which corrupts our English? Does the fault lie with the earnestness, yes, even slovenliness, of the student who makes no special effort to keep his speech pure? Is the blame to be put on the method of teaching which by intense classification and ramification has made such a complex subject out of English that the simple art is lost in a maze of technicalities? The one who can find a remedy will rank with the famous discoverers of quinine, inoculation, antiseptics and other means of saving victims of contagious and deadly disease. I wonder whether the formation of societies, say the S. I. C. D. (Society for Using Good English) with a promise to obey would work the miracle.

Do you look with admiration or with wonder on those faithful people who have read the Bible "from cover to cover" three or more times? I must confess that I could never get up much enthusiasm for the general reading tables and parts of the prophets.

Yet there are portions of the Scriptures which are always fresh. The first chapter of Genesis and parts of Revelations cause me to feel as if my finite existence were bordering on the margins of infinity; as if I were getting glimpses of the beginning of life and of its end. Also I love those portions which involve the rhetorical figure called Vision, for instance where Elijah saw Elijah ascending into the heavens in a chariot of fire and could only cry out "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof," or the pathos of the cry of King David who went into the chamber over the gate to mourn alone: "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

Ex-President Eliot, of Harvard, has recently evaluated certain portions of the Scriptures. The first three verses in Genesis are the most superb sentences in the English language, the Epistle of Job the most unsurpassable as literature; the 19th Psalm the most magnificent of sacred songs, and the 10th Psalm the most glorious inscription of praise ever written.

Look them over.

MILITARY NOTES

The Military Department announces the addition of two new members to the military staff of the college. Sergeants Harry Loan and James McDonald are the men added to the staff and they will assist in the various instructional courses the department is planning.

The requisition to the War Department has been entirely filled and the material is here now. It consists of automatic rifles, machine guns, small arms and other supplies.

Applications are now being received for entrance to the advanced course of the R. O. T. C. All men who have completed two years of training in a basic course and will sign an agreement to take training for the balance of the course and also between their Junior and Senior years in college are eligible.

PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

Pies—Bread—Cakes
Ice Cream a Specialty
State College Bakery

INTERESTING MATERIAL IN COLLEGE COLLECTION

Humorous Advertisements in Old Time Newspapers—Donation Made by Alumnus.

Mr. C. F. Reeves '78, of Seattle, Wash., has contributed to the college Museum in the Library an interesting collection of materials relating to the early history of this institution, including copies of the annual newspaper issued by the "Crescent Literary Society" in 1873 and 1871. The former was dated at "Agricultural College" and the latter at "State College." The name had been changed in the meantime.

On the two pages devoted to advertising, all the firms mentioned are located in Belton, except three. One of these firms, W. J. Jackson, Agricultural College, advertises anything from dry goods to agricultural implements and adds "No need of going to Belton for anything. We will send you soil tobacco and 'segars' and will repair watches and clocks. He also has a foot-note—"Produce taken in exchange." The third advertisement is worth quoting in full:

VISITORS TO THE COLLEGE
are informed that the **HOTEL**

at the foot of the College lane furnishes

First-Class Accommodations & Careful

Attention at Moderate Rates

Daily Stage to Bellefonte.

JAMES JACK, Prop'r.

The articles printed in the papers include original contributions from members of the Society on "Can Gravity be taught in a Vacuum?" "The Value of Literary Societies," "Deal Gently," "Memory," "Give the Boy a Chance," "Our Native Silk Worms," and "Men's Influence upon Man." The collection includes a pamphlet containing a copy of the addresses given by Professor John Hamilton, still a resident of State College, and Gov. James A. Denver, at the dedication of the Mechanics Arts Building on February 10th, 1886. The building cost about \$1,800 and was of wood, with two rooms on the first and two on the second floor. It stood between the present boiler house and the street, about opposite the COLLEGIAN office. It accommodated all the work done in wood and iron, in pattern making, forging, drawing and the like engineering subjects. It was replaced in 1891 by the Engineering Building which was burned in November, 1918. The concluding sentence of the pamphlet has a familiar sound although written thirty-four years ago: "It is a pleasant occasion and greatly enjoyed by all present, the only discouraging feature being the long wait at Lemont, the train being one hour and a half behind time."

The gift of these valuable papers by Mr. Reeves, once professor of Modern Languages in the college, will increase the interest in the Museum which is now placed in the rear room on the second floor of the Carnegie Library. It is hoped in time to have a building in which the collection can be appropriately housed and worthily displayed.

COUNTRY LIFE CLUB NEW STUDENT ORGANIZATION

A new college organization came into existence on December eighth when the students in Agricultural Education and Vocational Home Economics decided to unite their interests in the "Country Life Club." The purpose of the club is twofold: to promote the acquaintance of those students whose work will be in rural schools, and to meet and keep in touch with the leaders of the country life movement.

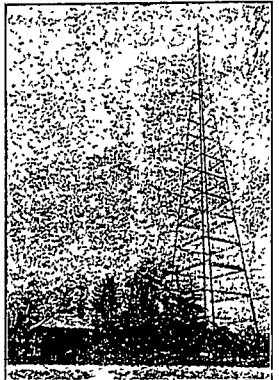
Officers were elected to guide the new organization and the following were the ones chosen: R. M. Cole '21, president; P. O. Van Ness '21, vice-president; Miss Elizabeth McWilliams '20, secretary. The next meeting of the club will be held in 100 Horticulture building on Tuesday, January twentieth. An interesting program has been arranged and all members are urged to attend.

Right training wins the race.

That's as true in life as on the cinders.

Dixon's Eldorado is the choice of the world's greatest engineers. It should be yours now.

DIXON'S ELDERADO
"the master drawing pencil"



PENN STATE'S WIRELESS TOWER

WIRELESS STATION IS AGAIN IN OPERATION

The wireless station which is located west of the engineering buildings on the campus has again started operations after a period of relative inactivity. The station was closed down over a year ago due to the stringent rules enacted by the government during the war, by which all but government stations were prohibited from operating.

The experimental station at this college has had a rapid growth. In 1910 the Department of Electrical Engineering installed the first wireless station at the south end of Engineering F. The antenna consisted of four wires stretched horizontally between two iron poles that were erected on the roof of the same building in which the apparatus was located. At this time Mr. N. H. Slavter who was a lieutenant-colonel in the Signal Corps during the war, was instructor in radio communication. Shortly after the establishment of the station, it cooperated with the Pennsylvania Railroad Company in emergency means of communication for operating trains in case of impairment of the telegraph lines. The railroad company erected a station at Harrisburg and one at Philadelphia for this same purpose.

OUR AIMS TO SERVE TO PLEASE

The tower is about 293 feet high and is entirely of steel with the exception of the lowest section which is built of wood, which serves as an insulator. An estimate of the weight of the tower can be gained from the fact that two tons of concrete were required for each one of the piles on which it rests. A two-kilowatt sending outfit is installed in the station house, although there are facilities for a five-kilowatt outfit. No permanent hook-up is maintained for the receiving set as this part of the equipment is always being experimented with in order to secure best results.

GIRL STUDENT HEARS FROM LOST BROTHER

Miss Rose Brind '21 Receives Letter After American Consul Investigates in Vain.

After several years of waiting, with no word from the war-stricken world over the Atlantic, Miss Rose Brind, a member of the Senior class, has at last received word from her brother, now returned to his native land, that he is well and has escaped the horrors of the German instrument camps, but no word of her parents, a sister and two other brothers, who, it is feared have not survived the privations and cruelties of that terror-stricken country.

At the close of the war, Miss Brind attempted to locate her brother, but after repeated failures learned nothing new. The last reply to her communications came from the American Consul at Constantinople, stating that no trace of him could be found. The very next day, as fortune would have it, Miss Brind received a letter from this brother from Jerusalem, to which city, after two years of internment in Bulgaria, as a Russian subject, he and two hundred others, three months previous had returned, having been freed and given passage to Palestine. As to her parents, Miss Brind has learned nothing, except that they, during the first period of the war, had returned to Russia and that she has no knowledge as to whether they are alive or not.

In December 1914, Miss Brind with her family left Jerusalem to return to Russia, but she stopped to see her brother who at that time was in Greece. At the invitation of some American friends, she came to this country to complete her education. Her brother later went to Bulgaria to better position and remained there until he was interned. Miss Brind will complete her course at this institution in June, 1920. After that time, she plans returning to Palestine and turning her education to practical value. Another sister, who is at present a trained nurse in New York City, will accompany her to the homeland.

AMERICA FACES CRISIS IN EDUCATION

(Continued from Page Two)

should feel called upon in this emergency. Their number is less than one per cent of our total population. The other millions have benefitted directly or indirectly from the work done by our colleges. In every activity of our normal lives we are forced to rely upon trained minds. School teachers, doctors, law firm, dentists, ministers, trusted public officials, have been able to carry on for the community their individual work because of what the colleges gave them. Without these educated men, how could we have advanced as a nation to our present position in the world?

America's place is unique. We have everything that we had before the war and infinitely more. Our wealth has grown amazingly. The whole world is in our debt. Our industry in advanced in four years beyond anything we could have hoped without the stimulus of war demands. We have learned to unite in our efforts toward foreign trade, rather than to decree such unity an offense. We have become the main reliance of millions of people for food and raw material with which they may make a new start. We have a heritage from this world catastrophe which staggers the imagination. Whether we do well or ill with it depends on each of us and on our collective effort.

Like an army, we must have officers. It is upon the type of men who are allowed to lead during the next

few years, in education, in commerce, in banking and in politics, that our future greatness will depend. The colleges are asking for funds which must be considered as the best insurance for the future. This situation can be solved in many ways other than by education. Can we fit the coming generation to do the work of the nation?

All told, the amounts asked are not much more than the first war fund asked by the American Red Cross—\$100,000,000. America gave this fund gladly, and in less than a year gave another fund of \$175,000,000 to the Red Cross. The need to relieve suffering, the desperate necessity of winning the war, brought forth these gifts.

Today we are faced by another form of emergency. On meeting that emergency depends much of our future. If the people will understand, if the mass of great wealth will realize the true meaning of these college campaigns for enrollment, there can be no question of the outcome. American business success, great individual wealth piled up in safe deposit boxes, will mean little if we of this generation allow the nation to turn back on the path of education and social advancement, which it has so nobly followed since the pilgrims first landed at Plymouth.

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CLUETT PEABODY & CO. INC. Makers

Men's Clothes a Specialty

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Smith's TAILOR SHOP

About two hundred satisfied customers are now wearing my shoes. "THERE MUST BE A REASON."

WALT SPURRIER
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\$100 buys an interest in 5 wells.

Shares now

Our 4 leases are located in the great McKeesport Gas Belt, surrounded by producing gushers.

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J. K. Ruby, Agent
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THE TURKISH CIGARETTE

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Because Murads are 100% PURE TURKISH—THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS TOBACCO FOR CIGARETTES

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THE TURKISH CIGARETTE
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Fine Assortment of Fancy Cakes Candies

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Special attention given to Fraternities and Clubs

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Fine Assortment of Candy and Confections

Exclusive Agency for UNITED CIGAR CO. JAPANESE TEA ROOM

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