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WALTER R. BROWN

(ALUMNUS OF BETA.)

ATTORNEY

9 WHITEHALL STREET, ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

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G. B. MABRY. A. J. CROVATT, *Alumnus of Pp.*

MABRY & CROVATT,

ATTORNEYS AT LAW,

BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA.

REFERENCE: Gen. Jno. B. Gordon.

CHAS. Z. McCORD

(ALUMNUS OF B. & A.)

ATTORNEY AT LAW,

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA.

805 Broad Street.

J. H. ARMSTRONG

(ALUMNUS OF BETA.)

ATTORNEY AT LAW,

No. 1, over Post-Office,

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA.

J. W. HORTON, Jr.

(ALUMNUS OF LAMBDA),

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NASHVILLE, TENN.

JNO W. KERR (*Alumnus of M.*, 1856).

JOHN D. GIBSON.

JAS. P. KERR.

KERR, GIBSON & KERR,

ATTORNEYS AT LAW,

215 N. Fifth St. Rooms 4 & 5 Second Floor.

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

HERBERT B. GRASTY

(ALUMNUS OF NU.)

Attorney & Counsellor at Law,

154 West Jefferson St., Louisville, Ky.

Will practice in all State and Federal Courts of Kentucky and Tennessee.

HENRY B. TOMPKINS.

B. A. DENMARK,
Alumnus of Beta.

TOMPKINS & DENMARK,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,

105 BAY STREET, SAVANNAH, GA.

Practice in the United States Courts and in the Superior Courts of the Eastern Circuit.

THE S. A. E. RECORD

IS THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE

SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON FRATERNITY,

And as such will strive to advance the interests of that Fraternity; to disseminate its noble principles for the elevation of man; to cultivate the literary powers of its members, and to advance the cause of education in the South. By the aid of our contributors, we desire to make the RECORD deserving of the patronage of an intelligent public in sympathy with these aims. Meritorious contributions from any source will be acceptable.

The RECORD will be issued *quarterly* until further notice; but we hope, in the near future, to enlarge it, and issue it oftener. In its present shape, the price *per annum* is fixed at ONE DOLLAR. Rates for advertising: One half page, one year, \$9; one quarter page, one year, \$5; business cards, one year, \$2.

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R. H. WILDBERGER,

Prof. Natural Sciences.

KENTUCKY MILITARY INSTITUTE, FARMDALE, KY.

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NOBLE LESLIE DE VOTIE.*

Rev. N. L. DeVotie, founder of the *Σ. A. E.* Fraternity, was born in the beautiful city of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, on the 24th January, 1838. His father, the Rev. Dr. J. H. DeVotie, one of the most eminent Baptist ministers of the South, was, at that time, pastor of the Baptist Church at Tuscaloosa, which city was then the seat of government for Alabama. Just three years previously, the Rev. Dr. DeVotie, while pastor of the Baptist Church at Montgomery, Alabama, had led to the altar one of the best and fairest maidens of the city, Miss Margaret Christian Noble, who thus became the mother of him we now memorialize. In him father and mother eventually found a son of whom to be proud, and one whose life, though brief, was like the sun, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day. In them he possessed parents whose loving devotion and faithful piety led his feet early into wisdom's ways, and created for him that character which, as a garment of serene luster, shrouds his memory while dead, and which, when he was living, excited the love and admiration of all with whom he became acquainted.

* The above sketch of the life and character of the founder of the *Σ. A. E.* Fraternity I am able to give the readers of the *RECORD* through the kindness of the Rev. J. H. DeVotie, D. D., of Georgia, father of the subject of the sketch. It was written by the Rev. Samuel Boykin, a friend of the father and son, DeVotie. Mr. Boykin knew Noble L. DeVotie well, and admired him. He has placed the Fraternity under great obligations to him. I know of no subject more interesting than that of this sketch, whom we have all learned to love in the blessings of the legacy he left us. It is a fit introduction to my work, a history of the *Σ. A. E.* Fraternity.

Yours in the bonds,

WILLIAM B. WALKER,

Historian of Σ. A. E. Fraternity.

In the early days of his boyhood Noble DeVotie was as cheerful, active, and frolicsome as children usually are; but, as the years passed, he grew more thoughtful and studious, and, when but half through his twelfth year, was converted to the faith of his fathers, made a profession of personal religion, and united with the Baptist Church at Marion, Alabama. His father had, in the meantime, removed from Tuscaloosa to Marion, and assuming pastoral relations with the Baptist Church there, had begun a work eminently distinguished for usefulness and laborious faithfulness. A large portion of that usefulness consisted in the endowment of Howard College, an excellent Baptist institution of learning at Marion, in which Noble DeVotie prosecuted his studies faithfully and advantageously for himself, until his seventeenth year, when he concluded to enter the University of Alabama, then presided over by the eminent Dr. Basil Manly, sr. Entering the junior class, he devoted himself most assiduously to his studies, and graduated in 1857 with the first honors of his class.

While in college, Mr. DeVotie's conduct was so unexceptionable, and his character so exalted, that Dr. Garland, who had assumed the presidency of the University, praised him publicly in the highest terms; and Dr. B. Manly, sr., who knew him well during his entire college course, said of him: "I have never seen or heard anything of Noble during his college course which I could condemn."

The influence which he acquired over the young men of the institution by his exalted worth and intellectual capacity was something extraordinary. While it was due, mostly, to his moral excellence and to the uprightness and rectitude of his character and conduct, yet it was, in a large measure, due to the moral heroism and undaunted firmness of purpose he manifested in maintaining a position in accordance with his convictions of right and duty under circumstances of the most trying nature.

It so happened that there occurred in the University one of those unfortunate conflicts between faculty and students which becloud the history of most institutions of learning: the entire array of students joined in rebellion, for some supposed wrong, against the constituted collegiate authorities, and signed a paper

by which they mutually agreed to support each other in opposition to the faculty. One man firmly refused to co-operate with the rebellious students, remained faithfully in the path of duty, and declined to sign the article of agreement. "But you must sign it," said a student, seizing hold of him. "If you do not, it will ruin you for life." "I will see my right arm cut off before I sign that paper without my father's consent," was the heroic reply. Only four others in the whole college followed his example and remained faithful to right and duty. Many of the students who participated in the rebellion were expelled from the institution; and so far from ruining himself in the estimation of his fellow-students and comrades, Noble DeVotie was afterwards most highly commended and admired for his adherence to the right, under such trying circumstances, by the very ones who had made the assertion.

Trials like this show the pure gold in a man's nature and character; but it was the even tenor of a pious, useful life; the earnest and persistent efforts he made to benefit those around him; the noble example he set to friend and companion in his daily conduct and conversation, that exalted him most in the esteem of those who knew him, and gained him the power to exert a beneficial influence upon others.

Most worthy of commemoration are these noble traits of his, and a shining example do they afford to all young men desirous of reigning in the esteem of others and becoming beneficial to the world.

When Noble DeVotie entered the University at Tuscaloosa, he transferred his church relations to that city, and when, after his graduation, the Baptist Church at Tuscaloosa conferred upon him a license to preach the gospel, he determined to enter at once upon a thorough theological course of study. For that purpose he entered the theological department at Princeton, New Jersey, for the reason that the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary did not at that time afford the full course he desired. For three years he studiously reaped the benefits of the advantages he enjoyed, and at the end of 1859 returned to Columbus, Georgia, whither his father had removed in order to accept the pastorate of the Baptist Church in that city.

At that time Noble DeVotie was one of the first Baptist ministers of his age in the South. Young, healthy, full of zeal and energy, highly educated and cultivated, with natural capacities of a very superior quality, and with all that warm-hearted frankness, geniality, and gentlemanly courtesy which make men popular and beloved and influential, he was fully prepared to enter upon a life of honor and usefulness. He accepted a call extended to him by the Baptist Church at Selma, Alabama, to become its pastor, was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry on the 20th of November, 1859, and entered with great energy and devotion upon the duties of a city pastor. Soon he had gained the warm confidence and affection of the young men of his church and of the community, and exerted over them that same beneficial influence that had been peculiar to him in his college course. He was respected by the entire community, and was loved and admired by his church and congregation, and his life, for one glad, useful year, was like the path of man walking with joyous heart and buoyant spirits over a flowery mead, with the brightest prospects in view.

When the tocsin of war sounded, and the young men of Selma flocked around the Confederate standard, and with patriotic ardor took up arms to battle for the cause they esteemed right, dear, and most sacred, he, animated by a like enthusiasm, and desiring to make himself useful even amid war's alarms and dangers, requested permission to accompany them in the capacity of an army Chaplain. They gladly assented, and he went with the "Independent Blues" and "Governor's Guards" to Mobile as their Chaplain. The companies were assigned to duty at Fort Morgan, where Noble DeVotie was appointed Chaplain of the fort by the commander. At that fort the light of his life suddenly, and by a most mysterious Providence, went out on the night of February 12th, 1861. He had gone down to the wharf to bid farewell to some friends on the boat which was returning to the city, and, by some sad mistake, stepped off the wharf in the darkness, and was swept out to sea by the rapid tide. Three days afterwards his body was washed ashore from the briny deep unmutilated and unaltered. It was taken up by loving hands and borne many miles to Columbus, Georgia, accompanied by loving hearts and tearful eyes, and delivered to his grief-stricken parents. Amid universal tears and lamentation at the

untimely end of a life so full of promise, the body was laid beneath the sod in the cemetery at Columbus, Georgia. And each year since then beautiful spring flowers are strewn by those who love his memory, upon the mound which indicates wherein his body lies awaiting the resurrection morn.

Thus early passed away one whose life, character, and conduct are worthy of emulation, and who, though young, made no insignificant mark upon the generation in which he lived. With his death bright talents were quenched; a warm, generous, loving heart ceased to pulsate; a tender, affectionate, and dutiful brother and son passed from earth; remarkable capacities for usefulness were suddenly extinguished, and a shining example for all young men brought to an untimely end! But, no! such is not the case. Noble DeVotie still lives in the memory of those who knew him; and with those who knew him not, the beneficial effects of his short, brilliant, and useful life will be long felt in the steps for good which he set on foot and carried to a successful issue.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE INDIVIDUAL.

The $\Sigma A E$ Fraternity finds its *raison d'être* in the brotherhood of the race—in the duty of each to all and all to each. This Fraternity scorns the thought that its order is, by its bonds, separated from the great social world. However strong the fraternal bond may be, it is not for antagonism with the people, but for a firmer union with them. The aliens to this Commonwealth are not reckoned as its foes. It is its desire and aim to enter the great harvest field of human activity shoulder to shoulder, hand in hand, heart to heart, that strength may be found in union. Hence it is that the great questions of governmental polity concern this secret order. Why secret, do you ask? Simply by reason of the unnatural antagonism existing in the social world. The principles are not secret; they are as open as the day. The extent of secrecy is, that each may know the other. It is not expected that the members of the order should agree (except in principle and in aim) on all the great questions of the day.

In the United States it ought to be a common-place remark to say the government is a creation by the people for the people. We have heard it said you cannot see the town for the houses. That organization called the town is not the houses, nor the streets, nor the people What is it? Is the government an object of sight? A government by the people for the people is not an object of sight, certainly. We do not know we have a nerve, or muscle, or stomach until we have a pain in it. To be continually aware of the presence of any organ suggests the suspicion of a disease in it. May we not say of a government, whenever it becomes *tangible*, and we carry about with us in the social world the consciousness of its presence, that we have a clear symptom of disease—disease either in the government or in our social life? Either the government is tyrannical, or we have violated some social law.

The above fact, if it be a fact, or truth, if it be a truth, is so fundamental as to be applicable in the discussion of every relation of the government to the individual. Since every individual exists in three modes, viz: intellectually, morally or socially, and physically, the general subject enters into the relation of government to the individual, intellectually, morally, or physically. Nearly all agree that the government has nothing whatever to do with the moral life of the individual, only when it becomes an injury to others. Here people are divided very much. Very many seem to think that the government has much to do with the individual in his intellectual relations. Nearly every one thinks government should interfere for the physical health of the individual.

In this paper we wish to call the attention of the reader particularly to State and Education. The thoughtful man can hardly conclude that this issue has been finally determined. The conclusion, from the results of the Confederate revolution, that the South should adopt the Northern plan of public education, is certainly illogical. Success on the part of the North was due to numbers on one side and want of union on the other. Climate and occupation determined numbers, and want of union among the Southern people cannot be traced to ignorance or want of that education which the State systems of the North imposes. Nor does it follow that, because the negro is to vote,

that therefore he must be educated in the three "R's," viz: Reading, 'Riting, and 'Rithmetic. What connection there is between these three qualifications and voting, is a mystery to us: we mean practically. The masses read one side, and are made less susceptible to the appeals of common sense and experience by their reading. The theory that the man who can and does read, does vote intelligently, contradicts the most ordinary observation. We are not opposing education, or public education, but we are trying to make it appear reasonable to the reader that this great question has not been finally decided. The masses of the North seem to be driven to the polls by their masters. Then, to conclude that her State educational systems are making intelligent voters, is not sustained by the facts in the case.

The final test in all such questions is experience. We must look to the effects of a theory in political economy to determine its real merit. If the effects be pernicious, however beautiful the theory may be, it does not apply to the case in hand. Have the State educational systems of the North paid in coin, paid in wealth, paid in production, paid in social elevation, paid in decrease of crime, paid in decrease of cost of government? Have the people subjected to its influence less use for the force in government, less use for criminal judges, less use for sheriffs, less use for attorneys? Are her people more law-abiding, more given to the work of life, more efficient as fathers, as mothers? This is a practical question; keep it clearly before you. For one hundred years or more, from her infancy, the great State of Massachusetts has devoted her wealth, her forces, her energies to the education of the masses. Has she a harvest of good from her seed time, her long tilling? Do you as a Kentuckian, or a Mississippian, or a Georgian envy her her isms, her impoverished masses, her oppressed poor, her full prisons, her bigotry, her selfishness, her fanaticism, her statesmen, her women, etc., etc.? This is a profound mystery, is it? Too much of a good thing!

Now take a State which, during the same century, had no State system of education. Consider Virginia, the mother of States and statesmen. Is she cast in a shadow? Obtain a copy of the statistical reports for 1860. See the reports of her wealth,

her crime, etc. Turn over to Massachusetts. Compare them, rather, you find a contrast, and all in favor of Virginia. She has more wealth to the individual, less crime, fewer suicides; less of everything damaging, and more of everything beneficial. The fact is, that Virginia had an educational system by the people for the people, but not in the hands of the government. Every neighborhood had its school-house and its teacher. The poor, who desired it, received an education because they worked for it. We value that for which we labor, else we would not labor for it. Examine into the facts, reader, for yourself. Let not the platitudes of interested parties deceive you.

MIGHT VS. RIGHT.

A GREAT UNIVERSITY makes the following rule: *No student of this University having connection with any secret Fraternity will be allowed to compete for any honor in the gift of the Literary Societies or of the University, nor will he be allowed to take a degree.* To enforce it, each "honor man" is put upon oath that he has "no connection with any so-called secret Fraternity." We presume that this rule pretty effectually does away with secret Fraternities, for no Fraternity seeks for men who are not distinguished from the common herd in some manner, nor would any Chapter pick out, to perpetuate itself, the dolts who have neither the capacity nor energy to strive for a place on the roll of honor or among the alumni. Neither would any Fraternity of good standing seek to obtain a worthy man with the assurance that, by his initiation, they did him an injury by shutting him out from all hope of attaining a degree without going to some other College or University. The rule accomplishes the end; but is it right? Does the end justify the means? We are free to admit, that if the Fraternities produce party spirit in Literary Society elections; if they lead to discord and hard feeling on account of the struggle for the honors conferred by the Literary Societies, that then there is *some* ground for the first portion of the rule debarring Fraternity men from any such honors; but we fail to see any connection between the awarding of a College degree and the question of whether the applicant is a member of any Fraternity. The degree certifies to the completion of a

certain curriculum, and to the *mental* condition of the one upon whom it is conferred. Suppose, even, that it certifies to a good *moral* condition as well. Can these wise men, who made this rule, mean to say that they believe Fraternities discourage study, decry knowledge, encourage idleness, immorality, bad habits, and, in general, are enemies to the intellectual and moral cultivation of man? Do they aid and encourage unworthy men to obtain a degree under false pretenses, by underhand methods and deception? If they do, if these men even *believe* this of them, then are they justified in making their rule. But the evidence is against them; these things are not even credited to the Fraternities by their most bitter and unscrupulous enemies. On the contrary, the evidence shows that Fraternities are *not* opposed to intellectual and moral advancement; that they are advocates of such advancement. Common sense and experience both say that such organizations must inevitably perish if they set up any such false doctrine. The law of survival of the fittest holds true amongst Fraternities as well as elsewhere.

But wherefore argue with the framers of this rule? Why ask them if it is *just*—if they have any *right* to enact such a law? They have the *power* to establish the conditions upon which they will confer their degrees; the expenses of the great University are paid in advance for an indefinite period, and they are independent of the public; they have at their backs a large and powerful church organization, so the question of right and justice concerns them little. If students do not like their rules, if parents do not think that might makes right, they can find other schools more in accord with their notions; the officers of the *Great University* draw their salaries all the same, whether their lecture-rooms are filled with pupils or not! Herein lies the secret of their strength. What is to prevent them from saying in their next annual announcement, "*No student who is not a member in good standing of the great and good Methodist Church, the only true Church, will be allowed to compete for any honor in the gift of the Literary Societies or of this University, nor be allowed to take any degree?*" What is to prevent it, we ask? Surely not the sense of right and justice which possessed them when they enacted their former rule.

Degrees have a certain definite significance, are universally granted upon the satisfactory completion of certain studies, and have a common meaning among educated men. But our Great University goes a step further than the universal custom of colleges and universities, and says these degrees also signify that the bearers have not been members of those terrible bands, yclept secret Fraternities. They ought in all fairness to insert this important fact in the body of their diplomas; and then, next year, they can print across them in blue and gold the legend, MEMBER OF THE M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH, and thus, from year to year, add to it, until it is as unintelligible as Choctaw; for there is no one to say them nay, and have they not the *Power*?

COLLEGE FRATERNITIES.

BY J. H. ALEXANDER OF "B."

AN ESSAY READ IN AUGUSTA, GEORGIA, AUGUST 30TH, 1878, AT THE TIME OF THE GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE S. A. E. FRATERNITY.

The American College Fraternities are not among the first who have felt the difficulty of combating the errors of prejudice, nor yet are they among the first who have met that particular species of prejudice which, being born of ignorance, hastens to condemn everything which is, in any degree, shrouded in privacy, or kept hidden from the masses of humanity by any kind of exclusiveness. Prominent among other institutions which have experienced the same evil is that most ancient and respected order which dates its origin back of the time of Solomon, and which is supposed to have had its inception among the cultured inhabitants of Attic Greece, who sought refuge in Asia Minor from the oppression of barbarians. Even they have often been the object of persecution and villification by political and private enemies. Therefore, witnessing their triumphs, we are by no means depressed at the thought that so many men have made our unoffending organizations the objects of attack and opposition, or have laid at our doors the blame for many acts of which we were wholly innocent. For so long as we are able to make our appeal and justification to an unbiased public, we feel confident of entire exoneration from the charges preferred against us.

And it is for this very purpose of defending the Fraternities I have been deputized to appear here to-day, and tell you in truth and soberness, and in all candor, what I know to be facts; and to ask the honest disapproval by public sentiment, of the policy which college authorities all over this section of country have so long pursued. We dislike to bring the matter before the public. 'But we have long sought in vain for opportunities to discuss the issue before those who are witnesses and judges in the matter. Therefore, the convention which has assembled in your city deem it proper to lay the matter before you, and ask your favor, if we can win it, as an entering wedge to secure toleration toward our little communities of students; and we ask your attention to the subject, not as favoring us as students—being a class generally looked favorably upon—but as candid men who would be informed upon a matter which some say is detrimental to the educational interests of the country; and now, in making this appeal, we ask no indulgence whatever save an impartial hearing, and that you—

"Nothing extenuate,
Nor set down aught in malice."

To be as brief as possible, then, and not tax your courtesy by detaining you, I shall proceed to reply, as condensedly as I can, to all the charges which have been brought against us, not as opponents or enemies to those making the charges, but as agreeing with them in an honest desire to see the best interests of educational institutions promoted, taking issue with them only when they conceive us to be detrimental to those interests.

In casting about for some incorporation of the general position of our opponents, I have found it best condensed in an article published in the May-June number of the *North American Review*, by President McCosh, of Princeton College. In this article, on the subject of "Discipline in American Colleges," the venerable Doctor takes occasion to express his views upon what he terms "Secret Societies"—that is, our College Fraternities. He doubtless conceives that, in the charges which he brings, he commits no injustice. We, on the other hand, though disclaiming any failure to give him credit for just motives and sincere belief in what he says, yet consider that he does us great injustice and lasting injury,

and beg to submit our reasons. The distinguished author premises this part of his article by asserting that much of what he has said upon the system of "hazing" applies to Secret Societies. He then proceeds to admit that "some of these Societies set before them a good end," but asserts that "they promote it by unbecoming means, when worthy means are available and might be far more effective." Had he been more definite in regard to the number and names of the Societies which he includes in the word "some," and those which he excludes from this category, we would probably have found that the exceptions belonged to a class of organizations of a secret nature, to be sure, but which are organized merely as temporary affairs, existing only during the attendance of a certain set, gotten up for unworthy objects, and designed neither for the perpetuation of any principles nor the exercise of any beneficial influence. The still greater vagueness of the second part of this charge leaves us no means of ascertaining how these confessedly good ends are promoted by unworthy means; except, indeed, he condemns the very secrecy itself in which the movements of the Society are enveloped.

That it is this secrecy, and this alone, which he condemns in the means employed, we more readily infer from his very next sentence. In this he makes the broad, and, we hold, the unsustained and somewhat unkind assertion, that "they foster in youth, when character is formed, a habit of underhand action and underground procedure, which are apt to go through life." Had Dr. McCosh given any instance to sustain that position, either in the person or in the circumstance, we could readily answer by producing instances to prove the contrary; and if it be asserted that individual instances will not disprove the general proposition, we think we may logically answer that much less will they confirm it. Not only, however, does he fail to do this, but he does not even attempt to sustain his proposition by showing how they are to accomplish so disastrous a result. As the matter stands a simple charge, we might well ask the Doctor to show cause why secrecy in our organizations should generate dishonorable conduct more than among Masonic and other similar secret organizations. We have certain reasons for keeping

our own counsel, and we do so, asking those who have no interest in our business to let us alone. Is there anything in this peculiarly dishonorable? If so, let the exponents of this new code of morality publicly proclaim all their private affairs, and all their relations with one another. Let them denounce those doctrines, hitherto considered the promptings of gentility, which teach us that it is the right of every man to withhold the privacy of his thoughts from those who have neither interest nor right in them. By unfolding their souls to the world they might demonstrate the purity of their lives; they would hardly convince us that they were free from fanaticism. Neither would their withholding their confidence prove them abandoned reprobates.

The charge is, to say the least, a very grave one to make where so many students, generally considered honorable men, are concerned, and should have been accompanied with reasons and proof; for the statement of so distinguished a man as the President of Princeton College is bound to carry considerable weight, though not even an attempt at proof is made. Some reputations may suffer undeservedly from the charge, and yet, when analyzed, it might be found totally groundless. We respectfully submit, then, that the writer should either substantiate or withdraw, and that, if neither be done, an unbiased public should disbelieve.

I am well aware that an attempt to argue this question with so learned and experienced a gentleman as the writer in question lays us open to his implied condemnation when he says: "There will be always a tendency on the part of these organizations to meddle with College management, and to thwart certain of the plans of College authorities." Now, if our efforts to convince College authorities that such of their plans as are leveled at the Societies, and aim at crushing them out, are unjust and inexpedient; if the natural impulse of men to preserve and defend their own institutions be thwarting the plans of College authorities; or if the desire to clear ourselves of unsubstantiated charges, which cast grave reflections on our characters, come under the condemned classification, then we are certainly liable, by our present position, to be so denounced. But the right of an arraigned party to be heard in his own defense is too univer-

sally recognized to need assertion here; and we call attention to the fact, that no instance of "meddling with College management" can be truthfully laid at our door, except in matters that tend to our own defense, and then only by way of simple protest; and if we are condemned for the publicity we give the matter, we ask what other opening have we? What Board of Trustees ever gave the Societies an opportunity to even plead "not guilty" to charges preferred against them of acts laid at their door, simply because the author was unknown, and the movements of the Societies were likewise? Most excellent logic! I know of but one instance, and that was where the visiting Board at the University of Georgia last month thoroughly investigated the matter, and recommended to the Trustees that they repeal their legislation on the subject.

To the next charge we plead "guilty," if, indeed, it be right to plead guilty to an act in which there is no guilt. With certain modifications, he is correct when he says of the Fraternities that "they seek to influence the election of college honors." I say "with certain modifications," because, if by that statement he means that they are a kind of organized clique who expect to divide the spoils, he is mistaken. I cannot speak in this, for any but my own Fraternity; but one thing I can say of it: during the most closely contested races for college honors at the institution where I have been in attendance, I have never known the subject canvassed in a single meeting. Therefore, if he means that the Societies, as such, take organized action to secure the election of any member to any college honor, we respectfully take issue. But if he means to imply that the members, as individuals, will usually be found upon the side of their respective co-members, we admit it. We admit this, and no more than this, that where two men are contestants for an honor, the decision of their relative merits being based upon a mere question of opinion, where there is no accurate standard to be governed by, and where each man votes as his own inclination and judgment directs, in ninety-nine cases out of every one hundred, the voter's choice will be his own Society's man.

And when we have admitted this, we have admitted the strongest, and, indeed, almost the only charge that has ever had any effect against us—certainly the only one which has ever had

any foundation; and now, what is there in this matter which should arouse so much opposition? Would not the same thing happen were there no Fraternities? Would not friend support friend anyhow? The charge is, that this creates rivalry between the members of the respective Societies, and induces men sometimes to support the claims of the less deserving man. Without stopping just here to ask whether this rivalry be really an injury to the standard of merit, or if it does not rather tend to elevate that standard, let us proceed to notice the graver charge, that personal influences have too much effect.

In the first place, we desire it to be remembered that these Fraternities only admit to membership the limited number of individuals who are acceptable as good and true men and promising students, and who are, moreover, acceptable to each individual member as warm personal friends. This being the case, it must be a fact patent to all, that the same personal influences would be at work were the clubs not in existence. For, in a matter of this kind, where suffrage is based upon a mere matter of opinion, personal friendship will always turn an undecided scale. But if this be still objected to, and the Fraternities be still condemned by over zealous advocates of strict and impartial justice and adherence to superior merit, we reply that an evil which cannot be overcome—for men will always support their friends, in a certain degree, irrespectively of merit—that an evil which cannot be overcome had best be regulated. And to show that the Societies regulate this evil, so called, we submit the following considerations:

There being in a body of students no Fraternities, there springs up another kind of evil, which thinking men will admit to be an evil of most disastrous consequences. I refer to the rivalry of caste; the rivalry between the social elements. I do not care, nor indeed do I think it necessary to enter into any full explanation of the results of such an unfortunate rivalry. All know that it is productive of bitter hatred, and is the school for the demagogue. All know that it is a condition in which social distinctions will be seized upon, and the low passions of envy and hatred plied with that skill which characterizes the corrupt school of politicians in the great outer world, who seek their personal aggrandizement by arraying what they call "the

wool-hat boys" against those who are fortunate enough to possess a larger share of this world's goods. Men of mental force will always be found who are ready to array the social elements against one another, and create lasting enmity and bitter hatred between those whose social standings differ; provided, by so doing, they can secure their own ends. Those who are familiar with the material which goes to make up a body of students, cannot but see that, in a contest of this kind, genuine merit will invariably go to the wall, while the incipient demagogue as surely wins the honors.

On the other hand, when these Societies are in existence in a college community, the contest for honors is almost always between men from the different Societies. Just here, our opponents always jump at a conclusion, and argue from this fact that the object and tendency of the Fraternities is evidently to crush out all aspirations on the part of outsiders, and confine the race to a contest between themselves, thus working injustice to honest merit which may exist outside. The fallacy of the conclusion, and the absurdity of the premises, is too obvious to need explanation. They argue that, since members of the Fraternities generally win the honors, therefore the object of the Fraternities is to prevent outsiders achieving any distinction. The true state of the case is, that the same merit which wins for them the prize of fellowship in the Fraternities, is the cause which wins them honors in college. To prove that it is not their membership which wins them the honors, we cite two facts: 1. In general, there are a majority of students who do not belong to any Fraternity, and who could easily outvote Fraternity men, especially as these latter are divided amongst themselves. 2. Those honors and distinctions in colleges which are achieved, not by biased suffrages of friends, but by honest merit and hard work, and upon the unbiased decision of professors, are, *a most without exception*, taken by members of some college Fraternity.

Again, were the honor-men seeking success merely for their own satisfaction, their zeal might possibly be somewhat less than when an additional incentive is lent them by their *esprit du corps*. Feeling that they are responsible for the honor of their Fraternity, they are urged to far more strenuous efforts than

could ever be afforded by any purely selfish considerations; and, again, the contest being on a different basis will, of itself, weaken or altogether destroy the caste disaffections of which I have made mention. But, more than this, I have shown that this inter-Society rivalry tends to elevate the tone of the several Societies themselves. I now propose to show that it elevates the general standard and *morale* of the whole body of students.

The Fraternities are generally limited in point of membership, and always in the quality of their members. They place a certain standard of excellence as a prerequisite to membership; and, while this standard has no definite limitation or description, it is always, we observe, rigidly carried out. True, the Fraternities sometimes make mistakes (but rarely); and, when they make a mistake in the quality of a member, they endeavor to rectify it by elevating him. The general character of the Fraternities and their individual members being, then, considerably above the average, membership with one of them confers a kind of prestige, which makes outsiders emulous of gaining that distinction. They, knowing that the only way to attain it is by honest merit, seek to so conduct themselves as to prove that they are worthy; and thus membership becomes a goal which students place before themselves and seek to win. There are many students who deny that they desire membership with the Fraternities, but I have often seen the test applied in such a manner that they admitted it.

There is but little else in Dr. McCosh's article to reply to. The charge that the social meetings of the Fraternity often tempt young men to drinking, he tacitly admits that he cannot vouch for, but puts it off upon certain published statements, which he does not instance, and which are doubtless as vague as his own. This much I know—that not only is this a mistaken idea, but, on the contrary, there have been many instances—some have come under my own observation—in which the influence of the Fraternities has saved young men from this temptation. But this I leave for my reply to the Doctor's next statement.

He asserts that nearly every Professor he has ever met acknowledges the Societies to have an influence for evil. In re-

gard to this statement, I have this to say: The loved and venerated Dr. Lipscomb, when Chancellor of the University of Georgia, gave our own Society his most cordial and hearty support. Not only so, but he was thoroughly acquainted with all its details and fundamental principles, and, as a fully qualified member, gave us his influence with the Trustees toward securing their permission for our organization. He was recognized in full fellowship, and encouraged his lamented son to become a member with us. Passing over several other names which I might mention, but refrain, for reasons not necessary to state, I take up one other, whose views I will give—possibly the only head of an institution who has ever made the experiment of encouraging the Fraternities as a beneficial influence. Certainly, he is the only one that has ever made them a feature in his college, and mentioned them in his college catalogue. I allude to Col. Robert D. Allen, Superintendent of the Kentucky Military Institute. He has not only tolerated the Fraternities as a plain act of justice, but he has encouraged them as being a beneficial feature in his college. In his annual report to the State Board this year, Col. Allen takes occasion to say: "Especial thanks are due and tendered to the 'Σ. Α. Ε.' and 'Χ. Φ.' Fraternities for the manner in which they have conducted themselves as organizations during the year. They have been productive of much good in the corps, and by surrounding the young man with companions who he knows care for him, who counsel, guide, and restrain him, they have been eminently useful aids in promoting a change to higher and better aims and efforts, in more than one instance, during the year." I have in my possession a written statement from Col. Allen—who is not, by the way, a member of any Society—which I wish I could give in full. I give his concluding sentence. He says: "When, in any case, I have desired especial influences thrown around a student, I have requested members of these Societies to do the work, and right nobly have they responded in every instance."

I have thus, to the best of my ability, replied to the charges contained in the article of Dr. McCosh. The most of them are the same staple charges which have been brought against us in the South, and I have only taken his embodiment of them to reply to, because it was the only place where I could find them

all together; or, indeed, formally charged at all. I desire, however, to do one piece of justice to the authorities who have opposed us in the South. Whatever accusations they have brought against us, I am glad to say that no college officers in the South have ever entertained so contemptuous an opinion of, or have placed so low an estimate upon, the character of the young men who have been under their instruction, and, to be more particular, upon the leading young men of their colleges, as to allow themselves, through the violence of prejudice, to denounce them as scheming, underhand, disreputable characters. Possibly, young men in New Jersey may so far differ from us of the South, as to lay themselves open to the accusations which their authorities bring against them. I trust not. But I leave that to be settled by them. We of the South "will none of it." If our authorities have differed from us upon matters of policy, they have done us the credit to give us good characters, and we give them the credit for good intentions. While they opposed us, we protested but obeyed their laws; and now that the University has tried the experiment and become satisfied of our legality, they have done us the justice to remove their opposition.

We believe that their course will commend itself, by its results, to the approbation of thinking men, and that other institutions will follow its example. In the near future we confidently expect to see this arbitrary ban removed from the young men of all progressive liberal institutions. It must be so. Men will certainly come to see that the former policy has but been a condemnation of the natural desire of man, as a social animal, to form his own associations as his own impulses direct; that it has placed a premium upon habits of sedentary exclusiveness, and has tended to subvert and destroy all fellowship among fellow-students. The strongest and most lasting friendships, of the purest and most disinterested nature, were the objects which it has fought against; the noblest impulses of the human heart were the qualities it has warred upon; and by arbitrary power, unjustly exercised against man's best and purest characteristics, it only tended to sour the disposition and change the social nature of man.

And now, to be more particular, and bring forward a means by which the question may be settled, we propose to invite your

attention for the future to our own conduct. The University of Georgia has withdrawn its opposition to Chapter "B" of the $\Sigma A E$, and allows us our rights. In return, I make a pledge for her that the result shall satisfy the Trustees of their wisdom. They have entered upon a new policy, and are reforming the College wherever they can. We pledge our undivided assistance in the work. There are departments in all Colleges where improvement rests alone with the students. The $\Sigma A E$ at Athens pledge themselves to effect all the reformation that their influence can do. We are necessarily weak at present, owing to past influences opposing us; but what we can do shall not be wanting, and we entertain no doubt that the other Fraternities there will join hands with us in the work.

[NOTE.—The above was written in August, 1878, and the latter part was largely promissory. How the pledge has been kept may be ascertained by any one curious to know, by addressing the Chancellor of the University of Georgia, the distinguished divine, Dr. Patrick H. Mell.—J. H. A.]

OUR EXCHANGES.

The *Library Magazine* for May is before us, and we are glad to add so valuable a magazine to our exchange list. In it we find entire the best articles from the English and Continental reviews and monthlies, solid articles of permanent value from the best foreign writers, discarding all fiction and light reading. The selections are well made. The style and press-work are excellent, and, taken all in all, it is the best monthly for the price in the United States. The two volumes per annum make about 2,300 pages of the cream of current magazine literature. Published by the American Book Exchange, Tribune building, New York, at one dollar per annum.

The *Chi Phi Quarterly*, in its present dress, is the largest and handsomest journal of any Fraternity. It is ably managed by OSCAR MEYER, Allentown, Pa. Under the new *regime* the literary feature has been abandoned, and its 64 pages are well filled with discussions of Fraternity matters, and news and personals from its large Chapter list. Volume V., Nos. 1 and 2, have been received.

The *Beta Theta Pi Monthly* we noticed in our last; and it is only necessary to add, that each succeeding number seems better

than the last. We extract largely from the February and March numbers of Volume VII. JOHN I. COVINGTON, Cincinnati, Ohio, is editor-in-chief.

Next comes the *Delta Tau Delta Crescent*, for which we are indebted to W. L. McCLURG, exchange editor, Chicago, Ills. It is a neat monthly of 12 pages, published at Meadville, Penn., and devoted exclusively to Fraternity matters. It is well conducted, and must be appreciated by all *Deltas*. The March number, Vol. III, No. 5, is before us.

The *Shield*, of *Phi Kappa Psi*, published in Philadelphia, Pa., is also a monthly of 8 large pages, occupied with interesting letters from the various Chapters and notes of general interest to *Phi Psis* and Fraternity men in general. Although in its first volume, it seems to be in experienced hands. We are glad to note that there are very few instances in any of these journals of any envious or ill-natured remarks about sister organizations. Numbers 6 and 7 of the *Shield* have been received.

LETTERS FROM OTHER GREEKS.

JOS. R. ANDERSON, Chairman of the High Council of *Alpha Tau Omega*, writes:

"I must thank you for a copy of your admirable journal. I regret exceedingly that I cannot comply with your request for an exchange with you, the reason being that *A. T. O.* has, as yet, no journal. The subject of establishing a journal has been long canvassed, but it has not yet come to an issue. I have every reason to believe that at our approaching Congress the matter will be finally and successfully acted upon. In the meantime I shall file your request for action by the proper authority. Pray allow me to congratulate you on the successful *debut* of the RECORD. I see no reason why it should not be a power for good in your excellent Fraternity."

WALTER B. PALMER, a prominent member of *Phi Delta Theta*, writes:

"The RECORD came to-day, and I am much pleased with it. It is certainly a credit to *S. A. E.*, and ranks well with other Fraternity publications which I have seen. I congratulate you upon it, and wish it much success. Our paper is intended only for the members of *Phi Delta Theta*, and I regret that I cannot exchange with you."

W. L. McCLURG, of *Delta Tau Delta*, writes:

"I received the RECORD, and being much interested in Fraternities in general, I read and enjoyed its contents. I am certain *Σ. Α. Ε.* will never regret this step, for it will be sure to awaken enthusiasm, at least that has been the experience of *Δ. Τ. Δ.* In answer to your query as to what Fraternities publish papers, I give you the following list in the order of age: *B. Θ. Π.*; *Φ. Δ. Θ. Scroll*; *Δ. Τ. Δ. Crescent*; *X. Φ. Quarterly*; *Φ. Γ. Δ.*; *Φ. Κ. Ψ. Shield* Psi Upsilon published the *Diamond* in '77-8, but the second volume has never been begun. The *X. Φ.* and *Φ. Κ. Ψ.* publications have both been somewhat intermittent—*i. e.*, they were published several years back and allowed to drop until this year.

Δ. Τ. Δ. is a Southern Fraternity by birth, and I have often wondered how it was that, springing from Bethany, W. Va., in 1859, we did not go further South."

From the editors of the *Shield* we have the following:

"Thanks for the RECORD. Like its appearance very much. Contents are excellent. We mail you the *Shield* in exchange. This, by the way, is *Phi Kappa Psi's* third paper. We commenced in 1875 with the *Φ. Κ. Ψ. Monthly*; this in '77 was merged into the *Φ. Κ. Ψ. Quarterly*, and now again we have the *Shield*, monthly. We find that a frequent appearance of such a paper is what is required to make it a success. We wish you the best success and long life to the RECORD."

W. RAIMOND BAIRD, author of "American College Fraternities," says:

"I am in receipt of the first number of the RECORD, and need scarcely say I am exceedingly well pleased with it. Matter, press-work, and everything about it is good—decidedly so. I will gladly exchange *Beta Theta Pi* with you."

We thank OSCAR MEYER, editor *X. Φ. Quarterly*, for a list of Fraternity papers and for kind expressions.

We give the above extracts from private letters we have received from the leading men of six large and prosperous Fraternities, that our brothers may see how the RECORD is received outside of the fold. We appreciate the kind and complimentary sentiments expressed by the writers, and thank them one and all. It shall be our constant aim to cultivate harmony and good feeling with all sister Fraternities; for envy and petty jealousies only degrade and tend to destroy the very objects for which Fraternities claim a right to existence.

LITERARY NOTICES.

ACME LIBRARY OF STANDARD BIOGRAPHY: Containing the lives of twelve famous personages, as told by the most distinguished authors, viz:

1. Life of Frederick the Great, by T. B. Macaulay. 2. Life of Robert Burns, by Thomas Carlyle. 3. Life of Mahomet, by Edward Gibbon. 4. Life of Martin Luther, by Chevalier Bunsen, with an estimate of his character and genius, by Thomas Carlyle. 5. Life of Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, by Alphonse de Lamartine. 6. Life of Joan of Arc; or, the Maid of Orleans, by Michelet. 7. Life of Hannibal, by Thomas Arnold. 8. Life of Julius Cæsar, Henry G. Liddell. 9. Life of Oliver Cromwell, by Alphonse de Lamartine. 10. Life of William Pitt, by Lord Macaulay. 11. Life of Columbus, by A. de Lamartine. 12. Life of Vittoria Colonna, by T. Adolphus Trollope. In one volume, cloth, by mail, 58 cents.

ACME LIBRARY OF MODERN CLASSICS: Containing the following delightful stories, viz:

1. The Vicar of Wakefield, by Oliver Goldsmith. 2. Rasselas, by Samuel Johnson. 3. Paul and Virginia, by Bernardin St. Pierre. 4. Picciola, by X. B. Saintine. 5. Undine, and The Two Captains, by Baron de la Motte Fouque. Uniform in style and size with the preceding, in one volume, cloth, by mail, 58 cents.

The above works have been received from the American Book Exchange, Tribune building, New York City. Certainly the millennium of book-making is upon us, when, for a sum so paltry, one can buy a handsomely bound volume of several hundred pages, printed in clear brevier type, containing such a collection of literary treasures. Nowhere else can any *one* of the series of biographical essays or classical stories be had for the price of these volumes. We strongly advise every Chapter to begin a Chapter library, and every student of literature to increase his collection by the purchase of these volumes, and others that are to follow them, from the same excellent publishing house.

AN EXTRACT

FROM AN ESSAY READ BEFORE ALPHA MU BY BRO. C. E. BATTLE.

MY DEAR BROTHERS: Allow me to drift away from this, for there is another and still grander theme which stirs the hearts of those whose privilege it is to be connected with it. I speak of our beloved Fraternity. The snows of many winters have not descended upon its head, but it has already begun its slow and sure ascent of the hill of fame, and will at last stand upon its highest pinnacle, shouting to the surging crowds below.

It has been calumniated, misrepresented, and wronged; but let me say to those who have done her this injustice, that she is ready, yea willing, to make any sacrifice which fealty and devotion shall demand of her. She will not come clad in the habiliments of power and glory, but with a countenance as gloomy as

the eternal sadness that looks forever from the marble face of the sculptured Antonius, and lay her all at the feet of those to whom she is devoted.

The voices of coming generations will sound her praises ; and when a thousand years shall have passed away, breaking in noiseless waves upon the dim shores of eternity, the muse of history will fling across its burning streams the stirring tale of her deeds that will roll on and on, in unbroken harmony, as long as brotherhood has an altar or devotion a victory. She will not at first rear her pyramids as high as pride and ambition loves to raise them, nor can she yet reach so high that her plumes will continually be waved by the zephyrs of applause ; but step by step, with increasing strength, she will raise her pyramids into the azure skies of Heaven, and, with a victorious shout that will shake the world, crown her summit with eternal sunshine that will shed its refulgent beams, in a beautiful halo of glory, away down to her very base.

Let us, then, join hands in this grand work of rearing our Fraternity to the "highest point of all her greatness;" and, as we toil, look forward to a glorious sunset of crimson and gold, when work and toil shall be no more.

THE FLIRT.

BY A FLIRTED SIG.

Oh woman who, with angel face
 And mischief-working art,
 Enslaves poor man, with science base,
 And crushes his poor heart;
 Remember, in another land,
 A land where ice is scarce,
 Satan appoints for you a band
 To wreak revenge most fierce!
 Perchance amid that yelling host
 Of devils grim and black,
 You'll see a victim 'twas your boast
 Was always at your back ;
 And he, with fiendish grin and scowl,
 And fierce, exulting laugh,
 A bowl of brimstone, rank and foul,
 Will give to you to quaff!
 And will propose, 'mid loud acclaim,
 A toast unto the flirt,
 And devils will applaud your name,
 And say 'twas your desert.

BETA.

THE NAUGHTY GREEK GIRL.

BY PROFESSOR J. B. L. SOULE.

Miss Alpha, though she led her class,
 Was yet a most unlovely lass;
 She had a little sister θ ,
 And she would often bang and β ,
 And push and pinch, and pound and pelt her,
 And many a heavy blow she δ ;
 So that the kitten, e'en, would μ ,
 When Theta's sufferings she ν .

This Alpha was so bad to θ
 That every time she chanced to meet her,
 She looked as though she longed to η ;
 And oft against the wall she jammed her,
 And oft she took a stick and λ ;
 And for the pain and tears she brought her,
 She pitied her not one ι ;
 But with a sly and wicked eye
 Would only say, "Oh, fiddle ϕ !"

Then θ cried with noisy clamor,
 And ran and told her grief to γ .
 And γ , with a pitying ψ ,
 Would give the little girl some π ,
 And say, "Now, darling musn't χ ."

Two Irish lads, of ruddy cheek,
 Were living just across the creek—
 Their names, \omicron and ω ,
 The one was small, the other bigger;

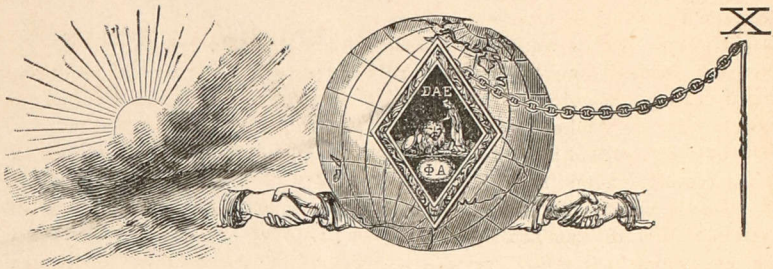
For Alpha, so demure and *striking*,
 Ω took an ardent liking;
 And Mike, when first he chanced to meet her,
 Fell deep in love with little θ ;
 And oft at eve the boys would go
 And on the pleasant water ρ .

So when the little hapless θ
 N Alpha was about to β ,
 She down upon the bank would ζ
 And cry aloud, and shout like fun—
 "Run, Mike! run, Mikey! \omicron !"

MORAL.

Have you a sister? Do not treat her
 As Alpha did her sister θ .

[Appleton's Educational Notes.]



Editors' Portfolio.

The cordial manner in which number one of the RECORD has been received by Sigmas, and by the editorial staff in several other Fraternities, is very gratifying, and encouraging beyond our most sanguine expectations. The brethren generally have responded promptly with subscriptions, and the craft have heartily accepted the right hand of fellowship extended to our sister Fraternities. They warmly reciprocate our good feeling and desire to promote and encourage harmony between those who are rivals only in the common aim to do the most good, each in its own way and particular sphere.

We give extracts elsewhere from some of the many letters we have received in and out of the Fraternity, that our brethren may see how the RECORD is received. We think we may now safely predict the success of what we must confess was thought by ourselves and many devoted Sigmas to be an experiment, the outcome of which was to be exceedingly doubtful. When the subject was first talked of some eighteen months ago, the writer was probably the only one who steadily opposed the proposition to establish a journal with the then almost certain prospect of having to erect its tomb-

stone and write its epitaph after two or three struggling numbers. We had not then so large an active membership; since then there has been an enthusiastic revival in Σ . A. E. circles, and marked energy and ability have come to the front. We believe the newly infused life is healthy and enduring—not the flickering which precedes the going out. Upon these facts we base the conclusion that the outlook for the RECORD is hopeful, and that nothing short of sheer neglect on the part of our active men can endanger its life and usefulness. If we would profit by the experience of other similar publications, we should publish oftener than quarterly. To render the RECORD of full value as a means of communication between the Chapters, it should appear at least every two months, or six numbers per annum, and finally be increased to ten or twelve numbers per annum. To justify this increase in cost, the number of subscribers must be largely increased, continuing the price as it now stands, which is preferable.

Our supplementary catalogue shows a membership of about two hundred, who are either now in college or have not been out longer than two years.

Of that number, nearly one hundred have not yet subscribed, of which number probably two-thirds have not yet seen a copy of the RECORD. The catalogue of 1877 shows nearly one thousand names; but fully one-fifth are deceased, and of three-fifths we have no means of knowing what is their present correct address.

We therefore again urge upon the brothers the necessity of an immediate examination of the catalogue and supplement (which can be had by addressing the editor), and to report to us the *present address of any member* whose address is not therein correctly given. We shall then have the grim satisfaction of knowing that failure to subscribe is due to lack of means or inclination, and not to ignorance of the fact that we have a Fraternity journal. Brothers, active and alumni, will you help us to the extent of giving the above suggestion immediate attention? We desire every brother to see at least one copy of the RECORD, and will cheerfully send a specimen copy to any address sent us. By the act establishing the RECORD it is made the duty of each Associate editor to canvass for subscribers in his Chapter, and we are pleased to state that some of our Associates have reported *every active member* as a subscriber. On the contrary, from some of our largest Chapters we have received the names of but two and three subscribers. To what are we to attribute this indifference? We are inclined to lay it to the charge of the Associate editor in the said Chapters. and if in this we make an error, we trust they will speedily rectify it.

The publication of the RECORD is already assured for one year; but let us not rest content with that; double our subscription list, and we will enlarge the RECORD, render it more attractive, and publish it oftener. Send on the names of those who have not

seen a copy, get every active member to subscribe, and we shall more than accomplish all we promise.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We present elsewhere an essay read in the city of Augusta, Georgia, in 1878, by Brother J. H. Alexander, of *Beta*. The essay was read there at the time of the convention in that year. Its publication was ordered at the time, but has been delayed until we could present it in our own magazine. It is commended to the careful consideration of fair-minded men who have favored the policy of crushing out the Fraternities. We would also, in the same connection, refer to a very able article on the same subject by W. Raimond Baird, in his recent work on American College Fraternities. The question for them to consider should be, is their policy one of strict justice? And in the second place, we would ask them whether they deem the crushing policy the more effective one? So far the Societies have certainly thrived upon it, and we call to their notice the fact that history furnishes few instances where unreasoning prejudice has succeeded in crushing anything by brute force.—*Verb. sap.*

A Chapter wants to know why we have so many Chapters marked extinct in our late Catalogue. The matter is easily explained. The war killed the following: $\Delta T.$, H, I, K, M, Ξ , Π , and P—eight. The institutions declined, became preparatory schools, or became extinct, killing Ky. A., Γ , E, Z, θ , Λ , and Ω —seven. Anti-Fraternity laws caused the demise of B β , N, and P ρ —three. Leaving Tenn. H, Tenn. K, and O, three, “for other causes.” Of these, O (at University of Virginia) had *fifteen* Fraternities to contend with, all of which were more or less of the nature of Alumnus organizations, the members going there having been mem-

bers at some college previously. Our men did not go there in sufficient numbers to continue the organization of our Chapter. Tenn. H gave up the ghost from causes to the writer unknown. And last, Tenn. K, the Chapter making the inquiry, ceased to exist because they had two literary societies to contend with! At least, they wrote that to the Grand Chapter, and the G. C. promptly recalled their charter, convinced that pearls had been cast before swine.

TO OUR ASSOCIATE EDITORS.

Shall we publish a summer number, say in July or August? The question has been asked us several times, and we now answer *yes*, if the Associate Editors will make up their reports just as soon as their Commencements are over. We believe the session of every college where we have a Chapter (save University of Georgia), ends by July 4th. If our Associates will, then, send in their communications by July 15th, we can issue No. 3 by August 1st. As several of the colleges do not begin their sessions until late in September, we cannot issue No. 4 before October 1-15th, and it will therefore, be the more desirable to issue a number in August. There ought to be many items of interest to the brethren connected with the close of the collegiate year, and we trust our Associates will give us a full report of how the Sigs. have borne themselves on that interesting occasion. We would also like to receive some of the most meritorious essays or orations produced by Sigs., if the Chapters deem them of general interest and worthy of a place in the RECORD. As soon, therefore, as this number is received, let its Associate get the sense of his Chapter as to a summer number; drop us a postal expressive of its opinion, and stating time of your Commencement. We

shall then give definite notice as to when we wish your communications sent in. Do not delay, as some of the Commencements come off early in June. It will also be necessary for each Associate to keep a list of the addresses for the summer, of those members now in college who have subscribed, and to forward the same to us, that we may know where to address them during vacation. We would also be obliged if they will collect and forward all subscriptions from their members.

We call attention to an able article elsewhere, in this issue, on *Government and the Individual*, which will be found replete with solid thought. The phase of the subject discussed in this issue is *State and Education*. The views presented are new and worthy of consideration by all who have the cause of education in our Southland at heart.

CORRECTION.—W. L. Broun, jr., *Nu*, writes that it was not he, but P. S. FORD, who took the medal at Vanderbilt over the whole University. We do not know how the error occurred in our Supplementary Catalogue, but take pleasure in giving Brother Ford the honor justly due him.


A tried and true Sig. in Nashville is working diligently in the cause of reviving Tenn. H. We hope success may crown his efforts, if the right kind of material can be had. Let the fate of Tenn. K. be a warning to us to "go slow" in the matter of establishing Chapters late in the collegiate year.


Every earnest Sigma ought to get W. Raimond Baird's book on *American College Fraternities*, that he may see what a large world the Fraternity world is, and just how Σ . A. E. stands in comparison with sixty-three other fraternities. Every Chapter ought to keep a copy for reference.

OUR FOUNDER'S PICTURE.

I have in my possession a picture of Noble Leslie DeVotie, the founder of the S. A. E. Fraternity. His father loaned it to me for the temporary use of the Fraternity. It is a good picture—a strong, well-marked face. Every Sig. should have a copy. Will they manifest interest enough to write me, saying they will take one? If a sufficient number do this, I will have the picture copied by a competent artist, and send a copy to each address. The price of the picture will not be more than fifty cents each, cabinet size. Please respond immediately, that I may return the picture to its proper owner. I will state, that it was taken only a few months before Mr. DeVotie's death.

Address Rev. WM. B. WALKER,
1020, Telfair St., Augusta, Ga.

 Our student readers, and others of a literary turn of mind, should profit by the revolution the *American Book Exchange* is working in the prices of standard literary works. The headquarters of the American Book Exchange is Tribune Building, New York City. Having dealt with them for several years, we are qualified to recommend the house as the cheapest place in the United States to purchase the best books. Send for their circular, and you will be amply repaid beyond doubt. Mention the RECORD.

 Our readers will confer a great favor, and help us considerably, if they will mention the RECORD in writing to any of our advertisers, or to publishers whose works are noticed in our columns. We cannot command their patronage unless they know they receive some benefit from their notices. Simply mention that you "saw notice in the S. A. E. RECORD," and that will suffice.

Why can we not have an Alumnus organization in Savannah, Ga.? We have several good Sigmas there—men who could make the monthly meeting both pleasant and profitable. We hope soon to see them emulate *Omega Alumnus* at Augusta, Ga., our banner Alumnus Chapter. See to it, Brother STARNES. And why not another at Nashville, Tenn.? We have ten or fifteen old and young Sigmas there—such men as Capt. Thos. L. Dodd, Joe Horton, Milam Woods, Leroy Broun, jr., John Thompson, Hume Lusk, S. P. Hand, Bob. Cantrell, and a host of others, ought to make an organization of the highest enthusiasm and merit.

Our Grand Treasurer, Bro. B. T. Farmer, than whom no better officer have we ever had, reports several Chapters in arrears in the matter of March dues. We trust the Chapters will attend to the matter at once. Brother Farmer's office is the most thankless in the whole Fraternity, and he fills it most efficiently. He knows the importance of not letting a Chapter accumulate a load of debt upon its shoulders by a neglect to collect and remit the dues regularly, and he is more worthy of praise than blame when he continues to notify them that certain dues remain unpaid. Give him credit for a desire to do his whole duty to the Fraternity. This, to those who seem to take somewhat amiss his notices.

We have devoted considerable space to the expression of opinions from SIGMAS and others on the appearance and contents of our first number. This we felt justified in doing to gratify the universal desire of SIGMAS to know how the RECORD was received.

Send to Rev. W. B. Walker, Augusta, Ga., your orders for the cabinet-size picture of our founder, NOBLE L. DEVOTIE.

OUR CHAPTERS.

A ALUMNUS, ATLANTA, GA.

WALTER R. BROWN, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

The following is a list of the Sigs now in Atlanta: W. R. Brown, C. A. Collier, H. B. Collier, T. M. Elyea, G. A. Howell, Col. E. F. Hoge, O. E. Mitchell, C. B. Mitchell, J. S. Todd, M. D., W. T. Trippe, and Howard Van Epps—total eleven. Sidney Dell is now in Portland, Oregon, and R. H. Randle at Union Point, Ga.

BETA, ATHENS, GA.

JAS. F. NEILL, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

EDITOR RECORD: Since last issue of RECORD we have initiated three men: Julian P. Field, Columbus, Mississippi; Charles A. Scudder, Athens, Georgia; Davis Freeman, Savannah, Georgia.

We have received by transfer from Ga. Δ : A. W. Van Hoose, Senoia, Georgia; H. D. Arnold, Washington, Georgia; D. W. Meadow, Danielsville, Georgia; W. Galt, Canton, Georgia.

We have lost by withdrawal from College: Pironius H. Bell, Atlanta, Georgia; J. H. Armstrong, Augusta Georgia.

Bro. Bell was called to Chair of Ancient Languages in the Quitman Academy, Quitman Georgia.

Bro. Armstrong, who had remained in Athens to attend to business connected with the University, has returned to his home in Augusta, where he is now practicing law.

Officers of *Beta*: President, T. S. Mell; Vice President, D. W. Meadow; Corresponding Secretary, G. H. Nixon; Recording Secretary, C. H. Brand; Treasurer, T. I. Hickman; number of members: active, 15.

We graduate this year three men: T. S. Mell and R. B. Russell from the Law Department, and O. H. B. Bloodworth, who is applying for degree of A. B.

It is too early in the collegiate year to determine what University honors our members have in view. Prospects for a fair share are very encouraging. All the elections in the Literary Societies are now over, and we are gratified to state that our brothers have been chosen to many position of honor. In the Phi Kappa Society. Bro. T. S. Mell was elected Anniversarian, the highest honor in the gift of the Society. Bros. Brown and Meadow were elected Spring Debaters.

In the Demosthenian Society, Bro. Bloodworth was elected Champion Debater, after a very exciting contest.

We have four contemporary Fraternities in the University: $\Phi \Delta \Theta$, membership of 11; K. A. (South), membership, 16; A. T. Ω , membership, 8; X. Φ , membership, 13.

As a general thing, our relations to these Fraternities have been of a friendly nature. A personal difficulty between an Σ . A. E. and a member of the K. A. Fraternity, some months ago, engendered much ill-feeling; but the amicable adjustment of the affair re-established our relations with them on their former basis. We regret to say that the great abhorrence of all secret political combinations (which is among the leading characteristics of our Fraternity) does not pervade certain other Fraternities in our college. These combinations, we are glad to say, have uniformly failed to accomplish their object. They are, however, a source of some annoyance to us, at whom they are principally directed, and they occasion us some little trouble. The faculty strongly disapprove of these combinations, and have been engaged for some time in an effort at their suppression. Shortly before the recent elections, resolutions, operating against them, were passed by several of the Fraternities. The others will probably adopt a similar course at their next meeting.

We have no suggestions to make with regard to the method of conducting the RECORD. The form, manner, and editorial management are eminently satisfactory, and our subscription list is continually increasing. We only regret that it is not a monthly publication instead of a quarterly.

In conclusion, it affords us great pleasure to be able to state, in general terms that *Beta* is still on the boom. In October we opened with only seven men—seven as true and enthusiastic Sigs. as ever assembled in College walls—but these seven now form the nucleus of a Chapter of which we have every reason to be proud. We now number fifteen men, all distinguished for that tone and bearing which the glorious principles of Σ . A. E. never fail to inculcate.

Yours in the bonds,

J. F. N.

GA. DELTA, DAHLONEGA, GA.

W. S. WILSON, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

Our officers, who were elected March 13th, are as follows: C. E. Watt, President; C. N. Peck, Vice President; U. H. McLaws, Corresponding Secretary; J. B. Alexander, Recording Secretary; Robert Garner, Treasurer; W. S. Wilson, Sergeant at-Arms. In consequence of Mr. Cousins having left school, Mr. J. J. Gaillard has been elected to fill his place as historian.

Our Chapter is succeeding with her duties finely. We have twelve good working members, who are determined to do everything in their power to promote the interest of the Fraternity. We have recently initiated Col. W. P. Price, the President of our Board of Trustees, and Professor E. H. Beck, as honorary members. We feel sure now that the "Ga. Δ ." is firmly established, and that she will always be able and willing to do her duty.

Several members have gone to *Beta* since the first of the year; we learn they are succeeding well in their studies.

Our college is now in a very prosperous condition, considering the fact that the building was burned a short while ago. We hope soon to have this loss restored, as a new building is in course of construction.

ALA. IOTA, GREENSBORO, ALA.

PROF. C. A. GROTE, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

No new members have been initiated since last number of RECORD. Bros. C. B. Walker and W. Bancroft have left College. Brother Walker left on account of sickness. Brother Bancroft left to accept a situation as assistant teacher in Park's High School, Tuskegee, Ala. Brother Walker is assistant editor of the *Eufaula Times and News*. Our officers are: H. A. Young, President; J. M. Spurlock, Vice President; W. A. McLeod, Recording Secretary; J. M. Kendall, Corresponding Secretary; F. A. Rogers, Treasurer. Nine active members constitute our Chapter. Bros. E. W. De Graffenreid, J. M. Spurlock, and W. P. Hurt will receive degrees. No honors given. Brother De Graffenreid is striving for A. M. Bros. Hurt and Spurlock for A. B. The only other Fraternity here is Σ X, which numbers about 18 or 20 men. Our relations to them are quite amicable. The Chapter is much pleased with the first number of the RECORD.

TENN. KAPPA.

Our last Chapter in Tennessee is no more. *Tenn. Kappa*, with seven men present, has lost heart, and the Grand Chapter has ordered the records returned, reserving further action until more can be learned of the cause of dissolution. The Chapter has struggled along under difficulties, and has never been a source of satisfaction or

pleasure to the order. Although within a day's journey of Nashville, they sent no delegate to the Convention. Had they done so, there would have been no need to write their obituary.

The Chapter was established June 18th, 1879, just as the collegiate year closed. The most active men who had been instrumental in forming it did not return to college in the following September. They began the new year with four men, with no old Sigmas to help them along, and they seem never to have understood or appreciated the true meaning and intent of our order. Negligent of their correspondence, they failed to get by this means the sympathy and encouragement which they could not receive personally. They seem to have thrown all the work of the Chapter upon one man—Frank Colville; and if we read the case aright, we cannot blame him for giving up in despair the effort of carrying so much dead weight. It is the first mistake of the kind we have ever made, and let it not happen a second time.

ALPHA MU, AUBURN, ALA.

H. G. PERRY, ASSOCIATE, EDITOR.

*Alpha Mu, to the Chapters of S. A. E.
Fraternity, greeting:*

The first issue of the RECORD is voted a success by all who have examined it. We are highly elated at having a periodical of our own and will welcome with delight the time when it will be a monthly instead of a quarterly magazine.

Alpha Mu, though young, is strong. At present she numbers *thirteen active men*, six of whom are Seniors, and are striving for the degrees annexed to their names:

Bros. Street, J. C., and B. L. Walker, for Bachelor of Engineering.

Bros. Street, R. Y., and C. B. McCoy, for Bachelor of Science.

Bro. J. J. Sykes, for Bachelor of Agriculture.

Your *humble servant*, for Bachelor of Arts.

Our engineering boys stand a good chance for high class honors. They are now on a tour of inspection of the Iron Works at Birmingham, Alabama.

Alpha Mu has had the honor of graduating some who will always shine as "bright particular stars" in the S. A. E. firmament.

Bro. J. E. D. Shipp, our honored founder, has immortalized himself already by his zeal in our cause. He was graduated from the A. and M. last summer, and is now teaching in Cusseta, Georgia, his native town. He has a flourishing school, and disproves the old adage, "a prophet is not without honor save in his own country." Madam Rumor says that the "good Shipp, Edgar," is about to be launched upon the sea of matrimony. He has the good wishes of Alpha Mu, and will also have her hearty congratulations when he leads Georgia's fairest daughter to Hymen's altar.

Bro. Mark S. Andrews is a Professor in Barton Academy, Mobile, Alabama.

Bro. T. M. Oliver is in the drug business in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Bro. F. P. Quinlan is in the drug business in Mobile, Alabama.

Bro. J. S. Dowdell is merchandizing in Lafayette, Alabama.

Bro. Joe Brown Duke is teaching school in Beulah, Alabama.

Bro. Wm. M. Blackwelder is teaching in Dudleyville, Alabama.

Bro. S. C. Dowdell is teaching in Louisiana.

Bro. Scott Estes, one of our charter members, is with his father in the hardware business in Columbus, Georgia.

Bro. D. Clopton, jr., is attending a select school in Montgomery, Alabama.

Our college is in a very good condition: two hundred and twenty-seven matriculates. We have a fine Faculty. The corps is divided into four companies. Our commandant is a veteran soldier, having passed through two wars; Col. R. A. Hardaway is his name. He was with Lee in Virginia, and is reported in the life of Jackson as a splendid artillery officer.

Besides the Σ . A. E., there are two other Fraternities here—the Phi Delta Theta's, who number nineteen men, and the Alpha Tau Omega's, who have about fifteen. We are on very good terms with both, and I think likely to continue so. Fraternities are not encouraged here, but we all wear badges notwithstanding.

I inclose you an extract from an essay read before our Chapter some weeks ago by our talented young member, Bro C. E. Battle. We predict for him a bright future in the literary world. We have splendid essays from several of our members which we may ask you to publish some time in future.

The officers of *Alpha Mu* are: President, R. Y. Street; Vice President, J. H. Jeter; Secretary, T. L. Ingram; Corresponding Secretary, J. C. Street; Treasurer, F. J. Dudley; Historian, C. B. McCoy; Assistant Editor Record, H. G. Perry.

Since last RECORD, or at least during the present year, we have admitted Bros. C. E. Battle, T. L. Ingram, and J. F. Dudley.

We will anxiously await the arrival of the RECORD. Heartily wishing success to your earnest labors, I am your Brother in Σ . A. E. bonds,

H. G. P.

SIGMA, LEXINGTON, VA.

HELM BRUCE, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

The present officers of our Chapter are as follows: President, J. C. Bullitt; Vice President, Ed. Graham; Record-

ing Secretary, F. S. Kirkpatrick; Corresponding Secretary, Helm Bruce; Treasurer, W. K. Carlisle.

We have a membership of seven men, including the one at the V. M. I., and our progress is very good, with nothing remarkable about it either for good or evil, the principal point of congratulation being our prospect of a much better Chapter next year—a Chapter which I think will be by far the best in College.

As this is only the middle of the year, it is impossible to tell what may be the success of any of our members in College this year, as calculations this far ahead are of little if any value. I know of one honor, however, gained for us this year by one of our Alumni of 1878-'79. Bro. W. H. Dulaney, of Louisville, was chosen Salutatorian by the Junior Class of the Louisville Law School, and delivered his address accordingly at their Commencement a short while ago; and, as Valedictorian is always chosen from the Senior Class and Salutatorian from the Junior Class, this was the highest honor open for his competition, since he was in the latter class.

The condition of College is of course the same that it was when I last wrote, and as it is described in the first issue of the RECORD.

Of the other Fraternities, the K. Σ . K. have eight men; the Σ . X. have, I think, five men at College, and a large Chapter at the V. M. I. (as also have the K. Σ . K.); the A. T. Ω . have four men at College, and Chapter at V. M. I.; the Δ . Ψ . have five men at College; none at V. M. I.; the B. Θ . II. have one man at College, and Chapter at V. M. I.; the Φ . Γ . Δ . have three men at College; the Φ . K. Ψ . have two men at College.

Concerning the RECORD, I think that the first issue was a success, and fully

came up to my expectations of it. I hope that you may be able to keep it up to a high standard; and if I knew how to do so, I would willingly aid you to the utmost of my power; but really I am not able at present to furnish any news from these regions that would be of general interest, and I have long ago come to the conclusion, from actual experience, that the writing of essays is not my strong point.

I see that we were reported at the Convention for not sending a delegate. All I can say concerning this is, that we sent one last summer through a mistake made concerning the time of the Convention. Being in Lexington, Va., when the Convention was held Christmas, and this being so far from Nashville, it was the unanimous opinion that we were absolutely unable to bear the expense of sending a delegate. We then telegraphed to Louisville to some of Alumni members to represent us, but they also were unable to make it convenient; and from these several reasons, which seem good to us, we were not represented at the Convention of 1879.

Every member of *Sigma* indorses the RECORD, and shows his appreciation by promptly subscribing for it.

Brother J. C. Bullitt, of Louisville, is a candidate for the Declamation Medal in one of the literary societies. I am the only member of *Sigma* who will graduate this year. I hope to take the degree of B. A.

PHI, GREENVILLE, S. C.

— — —, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

Since the last issue of the RECORD, Brother Armstrong, of *Beta*, has re-established *Phi* with four promising members, as follows: J. T. Duncan, Newberry, S. C.; Alvin Etheredge, Graniteville, S. C.; W. S. Pope, Aiken, S. C.; and J. B. Watkins,

Greenville, S. C. A letter from Brother Etheredge, under date of April 10th, informs us of their steadfastness, though laboring under difficulties, as they have not yet secured a place of meeting. The honored and respected Dr. J. C. Furman, President of Furman University, is a devoted member and enthusiastic promoter of the Fraternity. Under his protecting wing, we look for *Phi* to soon take a high stand on the roll of the Chapters.

TAU ALUMNUS, MOBILE, ALA.

Brother M. S. Andrews, jr., writes under date of April 15th that *Tau* may be considered henceforth as an established Alumnus Chapter. The meeting elected Bro. Andrews President and Bro. F. P. Quinlan Secretary, both formerly of *A. M.* The names of Bros. W. F. Kirkbride, *Chi*, and J. A. Johnson, *Beta*, were enrolled. Several other Alumni in Mobile will soon be added, and the organization will be completed. Visiting brothers can find Bro. Andrews at the Barton Academy, and Bro. Quinlan at Geo. Coster & Co.'s.

CHI, FARMDALE, KY.

L. B. McBRAYER, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

Since the last issue of the RECORD we have initiated three men: Messrs. W. Mc. Rankin, J. W. Mitchell, and R. J. Owen—all from Kentucky. Our present number of active members is eighteen.

The officers of *Chi*, who are elected tri-yearly, are: Maj. R. H. Wildberger, President; S. Burton Bottom, Vice President; L. B. McBrayer, Corresponding Secretary; Henry McHenry, Recording Secretary; W. L. Beard, Treasurer.

Complete harmony reigns in the circle of Sigs. here. There is that brotherly feeling one for the other, for the promotion of which the organization was designed; and, while we have

peace within our own doors, there are no jars, no clashings with our neighbors.

The Kentucky Military Institute will send forth nine Σ . A. E. graduates this year, five of whom are A. B.'s, viz: S. B. Bottom, R. A. Holloway, W. L. Beard, E. D. McBrayer, and Mack Rankin. Two of whom are B. E.'s, viz: H. D. McClure and J. C. Harbert, and the remaining two B. C. S.'s, J. W. Mitchell and R. K. Ferguson.

On Commencement the Σ . A. E. Fraternity is to be well represented. Messrs. R. S. Goss and H. D. McClure are contestants for the Oratory Medal given by the Philomathean Literary Society. There is only one other contestant, and he is not a member of any secret Fraternity. J. W. Mitchell is in the field for the First Declamation Medal given by the same Literary Society, and has a number of opponents, some of whom are members of the Chi Phi Fraternity.

Capt. W. G. Dearing, of Kentucky, the successful candidate for the Wildberger Medal in 1877, and a graduate of the K. M. I. in 1879, will represent the Philomathean Literary Society on Commencement Day. He is a staunch and enthusiastic Sigma

Capt. W. R. Bridgforth, of Mississippi, another graduate of this place in 1878, and a young man of marked ability, is expected to put in his appearance and deliver an address on that day.

Our facetious and whole-souled Bro., Henry McHenry, author of "Cadet Life at the K. M. I." and of a parody on Poe's "Raven," will cause the walls of K. M. I. to resound with his eloquence on the eventful day when homesick students wend their homeward way. He won a medal for the best declamation in 1879.

As a Chapter, and the writer, individually, we take this opportunity of expressing our high appreciation of the interest our Bro., Maj. R. H. Wildberger, has taken and does take in all matters regarding the welfare of our beloved Fraternity. His enthusiasm has gone forth, not in words, but deeds. No sacrifice upon his part has been too great wherever good can be accomplished for the Fraternity. He has been untiring in the duties devolving upon him, exercising, at all times, paternal care, and with that cheerful spirit which marks him as a Sig., soul and body.

Again we tender our heartfelt thanks.

L. B. MCB.

PSI, MACON, GA.

W. M. WIMBERLY, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

Since the last issue of the "RECORD" a part at least of our boys have been studying hard; as spring advances, bringing with its soft skies and gentle breezes not only budding flowers and strawberries, but also certain spring examinations which drive away that pleasant but indescribable sense of laziness, they have had to spring forward with new vigor to prepare for "the finals."

Our little band has added another name to her roll since the first of March, Mr. F. B. Gregory, Lumpkin, Georgia; he is a member of the Sophomore class. He promises to make a good and determined Sig.

Our number of active members is twelve, three of whom will graduate; R. D. Brown, P. M. Atkinson, and W. M. Wimberly. Brother P. M. Atkinson is Anniversarian elect of the ϕ . Δ . (Phi Delta) Literary Society. F. H. Greaves, from the Ciceronian, and the writer from the Phi Delta, are elected debaters in the annual champion debate during commencement.

Besides the Σ . A. E. there are three other Fraternities here. The Chi Phi, 5, Kappa Alpha, 10, and the Phi Delta Theta, 13 members.

Our relations to them are most friendly. There are no jealousies between any of them as Fraternities, and there has not been a personal encounter between two secret society men in several years. We think our prospects for speakers' places at commencement are bright—counting on half of our number being heard from, if no more.

When we read the "RECORD" we wonder why it was not established sooner. All of our members take it with the exception of one or two. The alumni generally express themselves as highly gratified with the "RECORD." In our humble opinion, its success is mainly due to the indefatigable energy of our editor-in-chief, and we know if he continues to work in the future as he has lately, its success is assured.

Ω ALUMNUS, AUGUSTA, GA.

REV. W. B. WALKER, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

The RECORD was well received by the twenty-four members of Ω Al. Although we are engaged in the active pursuits of life, our meetings on the first Monday evening of each month are largely attended, and, socially and intellectually, they are a success. The members take a live interest in all pertaining to Σ . A. E.

Our officers are: W. M. Jordan (cotton merchant), *President*; Dr. C. W. Hickman, *Vice President*; Rev. George T. Goetchius (pastor Second Presbyterian Church), *Recording Secretary*; C. Z. McCord (lawyer), *Corresponding Secretary*; T. R. Gibson (local reporter Evening News), *Treasurer*; W. B. Walker (rector Church of the Atonement), *Historian*.

They are engaged in diverse pursuits. Lawyers: J. H. Armstrong, Davenport

Jackson, Wm. E. Jackson, jr., W. K. Miller, Leonard Phinzy, and T. C. Walton; L. L. McClesky, railroad Agent; Carlton Hilyer, Auditor Ga. Railroad; W. H. Fleming, Superintendent of Schools; P. A. Stovall, journalist; J. U. Jackson, broker; P. E. Pearce, cotton merchant; H. P. Moore, hardware merchant; C. E. Clark, merchant.

NOTICE.—As historian of our Fraternity, I earnestly urge upon all members the necessity of collecting material for our history. The older members can do much toward clearing up the obscurity resting upon the origin and existence of the different Chapters. Incidents connected with the life of these Chapters are essential. They will clothe and make comely the dry bones of dates, &c. I would like *very much* to be placed in correspondence with a charter member of each Chapter, and one member at least of each year of its existence. As a member of *Beta*, and acquainted with her older members, I can write her history. Let those bearing the same relation to their respective Chapters take the interest in this matter to impart to me like information.

THE CONVENTION OF 1878.

At the Convention held in Augusta August, 1878, the members of the Σ . A. E. Fraternity, as well as the citizens of Augusta, met the delegates in a most hospitable manner. Friendly greetings were given upon all sides, and no attention was wanting on the part of this noble people. The entertainment given the Fraternity by Major Joseph Ganahl at his residence, at Summerville, proved a festive occasion, and most enjoyable to Σ . A. E. The dance, music, and the literary feature, all alike in interest, proved charming to all present. The members of the Society return their very highest appreciation to the Major,

Mrs. and Miss G., for their kindness to the Sigmas; and those who had the good fortune to be there can never forget this agreeable affair. But for the sad misfortune happening to the President of the Grand Chapter, our brother, Major R. H. Wildberger, our Augusta Convention would have been perfect. We missed Brother W.'s toast at the Σ . A. E. supper; we missed the rap of his firm, authoritative hammer at the President's desk; we missed his views upon Fraternity points; and lastly, but most important, we missed the Major himself, with his handsome, commanding presence. I do not mean to flatter our Grand Chapter President, but desire to express to him in this way his importance to the Fraternity, and what its members think, and how they felt when this link was missing at the Augusta Convention.

Whenever the Convention "recessed," the Sigs were always met by some good Augusta citizen, ready and glad to take them for amusing recreation. The time, wherever we were, was always most agreeably passed away, and when it came to adjournment, we all should have liked the convention to hold a month longer. We would like, in conclusion, to say thanks to our brothers at Augusta, if they have not had them expressed sufficiently. We hope the time is not far distant when A. will be set apart as a place for another meeting.

ONE OF THE DELEGATES.

OUR ALUMNI.

Hon. B. W. Marston, of *Chi*, 1859, is now a member of the State Senate of Louisiana.

The following on a postal from H. S. Halbert, Choctaw Agency, Miss., explains itself:

"I took a card out of the office today addressed to H. P. Halbert, who was a cousin of mine. He was killed

at the battle of Gettysburg, Pa. At the time of his death he was Captain of Co E, 11th Miss. regiment. He was buried at Gettysburg, but his remains were several years ago removed and re-interred at Richmond, Va., in the Confederate Cemetery."

The following, clipped from the Albany (Ga.) Advertiser, refers to our able Assistant Editor, and no more than does him justice:

"The ladies of the Memorial Association of this city have invited Mr. J. H. Alexander, of Thomasville, to deliver the memorial address on the occasion of the usual decoration of the graves of the Confederate dead in our cemetery, on the 26th inst. Mr Alexander is a graduate of the State University, and a young gentleman of brilliant mind and rare literary culture. Although quite a young man, he is very acceptably filling a professorship in the College at Thomasville."

Bros. A. D. Smith and Lott Warren, also of *Beta*, have accepted similar honors—the former at Quitman and the latter at Bainbridge, Georgia. We congratulate all three upon the honors conferred upon them, and are glad to know that the public is so quick to reward true merit and talent.

B. A. DENMARK, *Beta*, Savannah, Ga., sends five dollars to help along the cause of the RECORD, and gives some interesting items concerning his doings since graduation at Athens, Ga., in 1871. In January, 1872, he began the practice of law with G. A. Howell (also of *Beta*), under the firm name of Howell & Denmark. The partnership was dissolved by Brother Howell's removal to Atlanta in 1876. In 1879 Brother Denmark continued his practice with Hon. Henry B. Thompkins, Judge of the Superior Court of the Eastern Circuit of Georgia, under the firm name of Thompkins & Denmark. Brother D. has rapidly advanced to an enviable position in his profession, and we congratulate him on the success he is reaping.

J. H. ARMSTRONG, *Beta*, 1880, has hung out his sign in Augusta, Georgia, and announces his readiness to do hard legal work and receive large fees. We hope he may have an abundance of both. As a parting gift as an active member, he went over to Greenville, South Carolina, and revived Chapter *Phi*. He promises before the year closes to have his name entered in the charter of another one in South Carolina, and we wager he will!

R. W. KAVANAUGH, of *Chi*, now with D. H. Baldwin & Co., 80 Fourth street, Louisville, Ky., called on us last month, and subscribed to the RECORD. The "Bishop" seems to be doing well; has a good position—*musico-commercial tourist*, as he styles it—a happy wife and one child, and plenty of experience in the ways of the world. May his shadow never grow less; and that is saying a great deal, for he weighs 220 pounds.

DIXIE DOUGLAS, of *Nu*, has been getting into trouble in Nashville. A correspondent writes: His trial will soon come off in the criminal court, on the charge of "assault and battery, with intent to kill." What is peculiar about the case is, that J. W. Horton, jr., and W. H. Washington are to prosecute him, while Milam Woods is the chief witness against him, and all three are Sigs.

The story goes, that a few months since Vanderbilt Medical College lost a "subject," and it was reported that the Nashville Medical College had stolen it. Douglas, a few days afterward, in passing the office of Drs. Paul and Duncan Eve (who are connected with the latter college), went in to speak to Dr. Paul Eve about it. From words they came to blows, when Duncan Eve came in, and ordered Douglas out. He refused to go, whereupon the two 6½ feet giants kicked him out. This was more than Dixie could stand; so he got a pistol, and, when coming out of the post-office, met Dr. Duncan Eve, who advanced towards him. Douglas quietly drew his pistol, and informed him

that, if he moved an inch, he would supply the place of the missing corpse. Eve sensibly took the hint, and remained quiet. And now the criminal court will settle the matter.

The *Portfolio* received the following a few weeks since: *Dr. and Mrs. Geddings request the pleasure of your presence at St. Philip's Church on Tuesday evening, April 6th, at eight o'clock, Charleston, S. C.* Inclosed were the cards inscribed SAMUEL Y. TUPPER, jr., MISS DEAS F. GEDDINGS. Receive our hearty congratulations, Brother T., and a Sigma's greeting to Mrs. Tupper.

Dr. W. M. ROGERS, Starkville, Miss., sends subscription for himself and Chas. E. Gay, and writes: You must not let the Chapter go down at the University of Virginia. We have a resident member there, and he should be kept awake. It is with pleasure I subscribe; and in memory to revisit the happy scenes and renew the dear associations of college life will be to me as a cooling draught as I drag my "weary footsteps over the burning sand" of life's pilgrimage.

S. P. READ, of Memphis, says: I am in receipt of RECORD, and find it so very interesting you may send it to me for one year.

J. W. HORTON, jr., Nashville, sends us six subscribers, and hopes to double the number soon. He is an earnest advocate of the RECORD.

W. R. BRIDGFORTH, Pickens, Miss., says: I welcome the RECORD as a sure indication of prosperity. I feel a peculiar pride in its success, as it emanates more directly from *Chi*, and makes me feel as though I had a personal interest in its welfare. I congratulate you upon the appearance of this copy.

JOHN W. KERR ('57), St. Louis, Mo., writes: The RECORD is well gotten up and exceedingly interesting. I will with pleasure try to get you further subscriptions from Sigmas here.

SAM. W. YOUNG, Martin's Depot, S. C., writes us a good long letter, from which we extract: I was but fifteen

when I entered college, and felt lonely among strangers. When I became a member of the $\Sigma. A. E.$ I found myself among *brothers* who felt an interest in me. I was compelled to leave college before graduation. I found it sad to leave school-mates, but doubly so to part with my Sigma brothers. Since then I have within my heart an affection for all brother Sigs., and it will be buried with me. I was proud to see the RECORD, and will be a life subscriber. Will do all in my power, financially or otherwise, for the prosperity of our beloved order.

OTHER FRATERNITIES.

Phi Kappa Psi has a Japanese brother, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

Phi Delta Theta has thirty-five living, twenty extinct, and three Alumni Chapters.

The Editor would like to exchange Catalogues with any other Fraternity. Our address is Farmdale, Ky.

Several Fraternities are at odds with their jewelers on account of high prices for badges.

The *Kappa Sigmas* are said to have a Chapter of twenty men at Vanderbilt. A correspondent now there says he has heard nothing of them for three years.

The *K. A. Journal* does not respond to our invitation for an exchange. Neither does $\phi. \Gamma. \Delta.$ at Delaware, Ohio. Are they still alive?

Alpha Tau Omega has entered the A. and M. College, Auburn, Alabama. The A. T. $\Omega.$ is an excellent *ante-bellum* Southern Fraternity.

It is rumored that *Beta Theta Pi* refused a charter to ten men of Vanderbilt University. Certainly the part of wisdom. We had to leave that ground some time ago.

The Grand Arch Council of $\phi. K. \psi.$ convened in Washington, D. C., February 18th, with delegates from seventeen Chapters present, of which seven are in Pennsylvania, three in Ohio, two in Virginia, two in Indiana, and one

each in Washington, Michigan, and Maryland. The next meeting will be held in Pittsburgh in 1883.

$\Delta. T. \Delta.$ and $B. \theta. \Pi.$ are both strongly against the practice of initiating *honorary members*. So are we when they are not connected actively with some college. But we find it an advantage to have one or more "honorary" members in each college faculty. They are a power for good in their personal influence.

$\Phi. \Delta. \theta.$ has gotten itself into trouble with another Fraternity on account of the loose way in which the *Scroll* speaks of its rivals. This time it is $B. \theta. \Pi.$ $\Phi. \Delta. \theta.$'s seem to have no idea how to use such an edged tool as an official journal, and they pay no regard to the rights of others. The November *Scroll* had an article in it, speaking in a scurrilous way of the *Beta's* Chapter at the University of Mississippi. That body was naturally very indignant, and one of the members justly cowided the writer of the piece. Will $\Phi. \Delta. \theta.$ never learn to respect the rights of others?

$\Delta. T. \Delta. Crescent.$

The *Beta Theta Pi* seems to think we are on the decline. It also credits us with a Chapter at Vanderbilt University. The charter for the Chapter named was long since withdrawn, and we have no organization in Nashville. As for being in a decline, we beg to deny the soft impeachment, and to state that we have our usual number of active Chapters, and more than our usual number of Alumni organizations. Our active Chapters have each a good membership, and they are in a prosperous condition. The $\Sigma. A. E.$ is rather conservative in the matter of placing new Chapters, and has this year refused several applications for charters. We do not desire to go upon forbidden ground, nor to enter where the best material has been exhausted. This is the only reason we have not striven to advance Northward. We are not sectional from design, but from circumstances.

Sigma Alpha, or *Black Badge*, is slowly losing ground. It was one of the many Fraternities founded in the South immediately after the war, on a sectional basis. It has a very complicated system of degrees and other tomfoolery.—*Beta Theta Pi Monthly*.

They must be unfortunate in selecting their members. Their Chapter here became extinct by the expulsion of most, if not all, of their members from the Institute.

In the last Catalogue of the Kentucky Military Institute, issued by the Faculty, the Fraternities to which the students belong are indicated by reference marks. We believe this to be the only catalogue in the country so published.—*Beta Theta Pi Monthly*.

Examine further, brother, and in the same Catalogue you will find a very complimentary notice, in the report of the Superintendent, of the conduct and work of the Fraternities—something more unusual still, as coming from one not a Fraternity member.

We shall be glad to receive any college papers or other publications our friends and subscribers can send us.

D. G. K. (German letter, and confined to scientific schools) publishes the *Cycle*.

The first Fraternity paper ever issued was called the "Shield," and was under the protection of *Theta Delta Chi*. It was born and died in 1868. This was followed by the *Star*, now also deceased.

It is said the faculty of Butler University (Indiana) has forbidden young ladies to belong to secret Fraternities with young men. "The faculty believed, that in the initiation ceremonies, each female candidate was kissed by each of the members in turn, as she was led between two lines of them." Queer girls they have over in the Hoosier State if they have to be *forbidden* by the faculty after a statement of that unique initiatory ceremony!

A writer in B. θ . Π ., in casting about for new ground to sow *Beta* seed, among other colleges suggests Emory College, Ga.; Wofford, S. C.; and Kentucky Wesleyan. Of the two former we cannot speak positively, but concerning the latter we know whereof we speak when we say, *let it alone*. At Wofford there are four Fraternities now, viz: *Chi Phi*, *Chi Psi*, *Kappa Alpha*, and *Phi Delta Theta*.

Chi Phi has an Ode Book, and *Delta Tau Delta* is preparing one. *Beta Theta Pi* has waltzes and odes also.

X. ϕ . *Quarterly* credits Psi Omega (a local society at the Kentucky Military Institute) with two Chapters. It has only one.

X. ϕ . has twenty-one living Chapters.

We clip the following items from that excellent monthly, the *Beta Theta Pi*:

New catalogues are in course of preparation by Alpha Delta Phi, Beta Theta Pi, Delta Tau Delta, Phi Delta Theta, Phi Kappa Psi, and Chi Phi. Mr. Smilly, in editing Psi U's catalogue so ably, inspired a host of followers, and we may expect some very handsome results in a year or two.

The first number of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon RECORD has reached us. It is a neat forty-page magazine, which it is the purpose of the Fraternity to issue quarterly. The present number is occupied chiefly with the proceedings of the last convention held at Nashville, Tenn., commencing December 22d, 1879. Aside from this, there is an elevated tone pervading the work, which it is a satisfaction to see. Through its organ, the RECORD, Sigma Alpha opens out to the world in the most ingenuous and cheerful manner. Exclusively a Southern Fraternity, with a small number of Chapters, and a total membership of about one thousand, this organization, recovering from the disasters of the war, has struggled to its feet, and, with a courageous front and a lofty purpose, has again entered the arena of fraternity life.

The RECORD expresses a high regard and esteem for our own Fraternity, a friendly feeling which we hope will be maintained on both sides in all of our future dealings.