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The Ursinus Weekly, December 23, 1904

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The Ursinus Weekly

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VOL. 3. NO. 14.

COLLEGEVILLE, PA., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1904.

PRICE, 3 CENTS.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, Jan. 4, 1905, Christmas Recess Ends, 8 a. m.
Regular Weekly Meeting Y. M. C. A., 6.40 p. m.
Friday, 6. Academy Literary Society, 2 p. m.
College Literary Societies, 7.40 p. m.
Sunday, 8. College Bible Class, 4 p. m.

SCHAFF ANNIVERSARY

The thirty-fourth anniversary of the Schaff Literary Society was held on Friday evening of last week in Bomberger Hall. Ideal weather and fine sleighing brought out a larger crowd than usually attends such exercises. The program rendered was of extraordinary merit and elicited much praise and applause.

Promptly at eight o'clock, Mendelssohn's "Athalia" was played while the Zwinglian Society, which was the guest for the evening, and the Schaff Society marched into the chapel. Then Leutner's "Festival" was rendered by Edmund Wolsiefer, pianist, and William Stoll, Jr., violinist, of Wolsiefer's Orchestra, Philadelphia. The Schaff Oration on "Washington Irving," delivered by Mr. Dotterer, '06, was an excellent and entertaining review of the life of America's greatest humorist.

The description of Ichabod Crane from the "Legend of Sleepy Hollow" was recited by Mr. Cook, '07. The humor of the selection was well brought out by the reciter and evoked hearty applause. A paper on "Joseph Jefferson's Rip Van Winkle" was then read by Miss Paiste, '05. This traced the origin of the legend which gave rise to the original story by Irving and showed how Jefferson came to dramatize it. The paper led up to the play which was to follow and was remarkably well written.

Jefferson's version of Rip Van Winkle was then rendered by members of the society. Mr. McCollum, '05, was the star of the evening in the part of Rip. The character with all its fine shadings and wide variations was perfectly interpreted and fairly brought down the house in its rendition. Miss Ebbert, '05, did equally well as Gretchen. The change from the scold of the first act to that of the subdued wife of Derrick in the final acts is a difficult one to in-

terpret and requires delicate acting. Meenie was played by Miss Neff, '07, with unusual ability. The part of Derrick, the villain of the plot, who tries to secure the property of Rip through trickery, was well taken by Mr. Rice, '05. The other characters, Nick Vedder, the inn keeper, Hendrick, his son and Meenie's lover, and Cockles, Derrick's nephew and tool, were also ably presented by Messrs. Trexler, Lenhart, and Myers, respectively.

As a whole, the program is undoubtedly the best that has ever been given by the society on such an occasion and reflected great credit upon those who took part in the exercises and upon the ability of the society. The music was no small feature of the evening's entertainment.

The program as rendered was as follows:

PROGRAM

INTRODUCTORY MARCH—"Athalia" *Mendelssohn*
EDMUND WOLSIEFER AND WILLIAM STOLL, JR.
OVERTURE—"Festival" *Leutner*
SCHAFF ORATION—"Washington Irving" C. S. DOTTERER, '06
RECITATION—Selection from "Legend of Sleepy Hollow" E. I. COOK, '07
MUSIC—Intermezzo, "At Fresco" *Roland*
PAPER—"Joseph Jefferson's Rip Van Winkle" MISS CAROLINE E. PAISTE, '06
MUSIC—Romanze, "Salut D'amour" *Elgar*

PART II.

RIP VAN WINKLE

Rip Van Winkle, H. H. McCollum, '05
Gretchen, his wife, Miss Dessa C. Ebbert, '05
Meenie, their daughter, Miss Evelyn A. Neff, '07
Nick Vedder, inn keeper, C. D. Trexler, '05
Hendrick Vedder, his son, W. J. Lenhart, '07
Derrick von Beekman, L. H. Rice, '05
Cockles, his nephew, J. C. Myers, '07
Seth, inn keeper, C. D. Trexler, '05

ACT I.

MUSIC—Selections, "Yankee Council" *Robyn*

ACT II.

MUSIC—Waltz, "Ange Amour" *Waldteufel*

ACT III. (Omitted.)

During this act, Rip wanders into the mountains where he meets Hendrick Hudson and his crew. After drinking freely with them, he lies down to sleep and does not rise for twenty years. Meanwhile many of his former companions have died and his wife has married Derrick.

ACT IV.

MUSIC—"Hungarian Dances" *Brahms*
RECEPTION.
Pianist, Edmund Wolsiefer. Violinist, William Stoll, Jr.

After the regular exercises, all were invited to the library where the committee in charge of the evening received. Here every thing was most beautifully and tastefully decorated. After spending some time in conversation, all repaired to the history room where refreshments were served. Everyone spent a most delightful evening and will look forward with anticipation to similar events in the future.

ALUMNI NOTES

Among the many friends that attended the Schaff Anniversary, were Miss Mary Shade, '04, Royersford and Vernon Spurgon Rice, '01, of the School of Theology.

Rev. Geo. Stibitz, '81, Ph. D., preached the sermon at the dedicatory service of the new organ in Dr. Hendrick's church, Collegeville.

Rev. Jno. H. Sechler, D. D., occupied the pulpit of Rev. B. S. Stern, Twenty-eighth and Baring Streets, on last Sunday evening.

Rev. C. P. Wehr, '95, pastor of St. Paul's Reformed church at Summit Hill, has been nominated as pastor of the Lykens Valley charge in Dauphin County.

The joint consistory of the East Rowan charge of North Carolina Classis, at its meeting on December 30, raised the salary of their pastor, Rev. W. W. Rowe, '02, S. T., \$100, to begin January first, 1905.

St. Paul's chapel, of Fleetwood, Pa., Rev. M. H. Brensinger, 89, S. T., pastor, was dedicated on last Sunday. Revs. Daniel Schaeffer and Fred. Kraembick delivered addresses.

Rev. A. P. Frantz, '96, S. T., the new pastor of Salem's Reformed church, Catasauqua, was installed Sunday, December 4, by a committee from the Lehigh Classis.

Among the newly elected candidates for the foreign field is Rev. Paul E. Keller, '01, S. T., of Haskins, O. who will take up the work among the Chinese.

Keasey, '06, is substitute teacher in the Intermediate Department of the Collegeville Schools.

President Ebbert, Dean Omwake and Prof. Kline assisted at the dedicatory exercises of the new organ in Trinity Reformed Church, Collegeville.

GOOD USAGE

The English language is a much abused, oft misused language. In Great Britain, English is much perverted by the lower classes; in the United States, by nearly all classes. A word that is used one way to-day may be used in quite a different sense to-morrow. It was this fact that caused the Frenchman to throw up his hands in utter horror of the language and to exclaim:—"You call ze buttair 'fresh' ven eet ees gude and call ze boy 'fresh' ven he ees bad!" How are we to determine what is good English? Is the decision of the dictionaries final?

The decision of the lexicographers is not final. The Century, International and Standard may, and frequently do, disagree upon the same word. The Century lays no claim to purity. It gives the word or phrase as used by writers generally or by the people of a certain district or community, sometimes discriminating and sometimes not. On the whole, the Century is rather free in its decisions on usage. The International is more strict in its adherence to good English but is behind the times. The quotations, which it uses for its illustrations of the use of words and phrases, are taken from authors who lived and wrote long ago. These men used English which was standard in their time and day but much of it is so no longer. To read Shakespeare intelligently one must make use of a glossary. The Standard, however, compares more favorably with grammarians and rhetoricians on the point of usage. It differs as much from the standard rhetoric and grammars as the Century and International differ from it.

But if the lexicographers are at variance, the grammarians and rhetoricians are even more so. They differ in their decisions more than do the compilers of the dictionaries. Grant White is an ultrapurist; Alfred Ayers makes hair-splitting and sometimes absurd discriminations; Genung is sound in some of his decisions, at fault in others. Hill, Sweet and Lyte are vrey safe guides to go by, yet these differ among themselves.

When doctors disagree who shall decide? What, then, truly constitutes good usage? Good usage of the English language is that

Continued on fourth page.

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FRIDAY, DEC. 23, 1904.

EDITORIAL

It is doubtful whether any magazine article has ever created as much comment and discussion as that of Thomas W. Lawson on "Frenzied Finance." Attempt after attempt has been made to gain a knowledge of the inside workings of the vast corporations of to-day, but in every instance such attempts revealed little. Mr. Lawson, however, had every opportunity to study them from within and should be able to give the public knowledge that may be made the basis of useful legislation against the ravages of the trusts.

Nevertheless, everyone is led to seek the motive which prompts the production of such an article. If he is doing it in order that the public may be on its guard against the misrepresentations and trickery of the magnates, his object is to be commended. On the other hand, if he is striving only to gain for himself the publicity which his "Frenzied Finance" has given him, the questioning of his motive may be excused.

It is true, however, that no matter what his object may be the work which he is doing should receive the attention of every one interested in finance and the public welfare. Much good should result from the exposure which he is making, if it is based on fact. By means of it, the public may be taught to see the evil effects of the unrestricted monopolization of industry and be brought to influence the legislative body to provide proper restrictions upon such pooling of industry. As students, we

should feel a keen interest in the developments which will follow as a result of Mr. Lawson's work.

Christmas has again brought with it the customary period of rest for the student. After spending several months with close application to study, the college man looks upon vacation much as the traveler on the desert does upon the oasis. However, too often its helpfulness is destroyed by its being made a time in which to do special or neglected work. If the most is to be gained during this period of recreation, all thought of study and college activity should be laid aside.

Many of the students have been enjoying the skating on the Perkiomen during the week.

Sleighing is also a favorite sport and many rides have been taken.

FORCED TO BE A SOLDIER

In some of the countries of Europe, every male between certain ages is required to render military service to his native-land. In order to escape the life of the soldier, many men maim themselves or in some way make themselves incapable of bearing arms. A greater number, however, steal out of the country and make their way to America. Among the latter was William Mall, a young German from Hamburg.

When quite small, the lad was taught the horrors of war at his mother's knee. Often did the poor woman tell her child of his father's death in the army. How his heart beat when he thought he would be permitted some day to avenge his father's death! But the kind hearted mother discouraged such ambitions and gradually turned his life into other channels. They were the last ones of that family and, if their name were to be preserved, the boy's life must be spared.

As Mall became older, he began to take more of his mother's views and when the time drew near for him to enter the army, they both busied themselves in planning for his escape. They had no money. Their only income was what he could earn on the farms around his home. By great privation and economy, they found that enough money could be raised to send one of them to America. Should he leave his mother behind, to look out for herself, or could some way be found to take her along? No way was to be found, so she had to be left in Hamburg.

Sad was the parting but he promised to send her money regularly and assured her that he would come for her as soon as he could secure the money.

After a rough voyage, the young

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man reached New York. He felt confident of securing work in the big city but little he new of the ways of the great western metropolis. The first difficulty he encountered was to make himself understood for he could not speak English and this hindered him greatly in securing employment. His little pile of money grew less and less until he was forced to sleep on the sidewalks at night.

Fortunately, one day he met one of his countrymen and through him, he secured employment on a farm near the city. While he worked for almost nothing, he rapidly learned the English language. It was not long until he was induced to go west to seek better wages. So with his friend, he started for Illinois. Part of the way they went on freight cars and part they walked, finally ending their journey at Aurora, Illinois. Success here rewarded their efforts. From farm hand, he was speedily promoted to clerk in a store. After three years of faithful service, Mall had saved a little money which he invested with his employer. During all this time he had not forgotten his mother. She was receiving regularly a portion of his hard earned money. But his ambitions grew. He would provide a home for her before he brought her over. A few years more and he would be an American Citizen, then he could safely return to his former home. During the next two years, he became so valuable to his employer that he was taken into partnership and on the death of his employer, a short time later, he came into possession of the store.

Immediately he began his preparations to bring his mother to the new home. A few months later, when everything was satisfactorily arranged, he started for

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Germany. How happy his mother would be!

The meeting of the mother and son can not be described. Completely carried away by their joy, they talked until late in the night. Little did they know that their joy would soon be turned to sadness. It became known that William Mall was home from America where he had accumulated a small fortune. A few days after his arrival, he was sitting at the table with his mother when heavy steps were heard on the outside. The visitors entered and after a brief conversation, one of them, a German officer, arrested the young man and hurried him away. He was to be taken to the army. In vain were all his protests. He was forced into military service despite the fact that he produced proof of his citizenship in America. The army left immediately for a foreign country and before the American Consul could intervene, young Mall was gone.

Today in Hamburg dwells a sad little woman. She has a comfortable home and enough money to provide for her the remainder of her day but something is lacking to her. At her death, the family becomes extinct for her son never returned. His body lies beneath the sod on the battlefield of Sedan.

L. DALE CRUNKLETON, '07.

NOTICE

In order to complete certain back files of the College Catalogue as well as the Ursinus College Bulletin a number of single copies are very much desired.

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GOOD USAGE

Continued from first page.

form of language which is sanctioned by:—

1. The best writers of the day;
2. Common sense;
3. The ear.

Very little need be said in explanation, concerning the three ways just mentioned for determining good use. It is obvious what is meant by saying that, to a great extent, good usage is the language used by the best of our late writers. Common sense determines good usage in the discretion shown by the individual in discriminating between vulgar English and the narrow distinctions made in some of the grammars and rhetorics. Even when both of these conditions have been fulfilled, a word or phrase may sound peculiar to the ear and seem to be questionable. It is unmusical, out-of-joint, rasping and produces a jarring effect. In such an instance, that which seems to be objectionable should be discountenanced—it will produce the same effect on others as it has upon the writer.

MARY E. LONG, '06.

Y. M. C. A.

The meeting on last Wednesday evening was in charge of Mr. Cook, who spoke on the parable of the pearl of great price, Matt. 13:

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45-46. The leader's remarks were brief but to the point and concerned mainly the question, "What is the kingdom of heaven?" Both from his discussion and from the various remarks that followed, it was believed that the kingdom of heaven is nothing absolute and is really never completely attained. It is a noble discontent, which makes one dissatisfied with himself as he is, and which causes him to strive for a higher spiritual existence. The meeting as a whole was marked by a spirit of investigation and thought which made it extremely interesting. Let us have more of these general discussions in the weekly prayer meetings.

RAINY DAY DREAMS

The rain beats furious and fast on the pane,

The leaves fall thick as the snow;
"The wind's from the east," says the weather-vane

"From the sea, from the sea it doth blow."

And my heart, my heart, is as heavy as lead

And I couldn't sing if I would;
No matter what laughable things were said

I wouldn't smile if I could.

Just let me be quiet while I pray.

Of comfort I need not a mite.

Let me think of friends of a former day

And bring old fancies to light.

There's work to be done while I dream,
you say;

So ho, you're a bird of queer feathers!

The work I will do some other day;

I must dream while we have such weather.

Perhaps before the morning is by

The wind will drive from the west,

And the sky be clear and the sun be high

And to labor I'll go with zest.

But now while it blows and the cold rain beats

I pray you let me be sad.

God knows that while time flies, time fleets,

'Tis not good to be always glad.

REISNER, '07.

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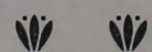
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