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The Ursinus Weekly, March 13, 1903

Walter E. Hoffsommer

Charles Grove Haines

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The Ursinus Weekly

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COLLEGEVILLE, PA., FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1903.

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REMEMBERED GLORY

How could I speak—
The sun was sinking
Far from our little world.

I could not feel,
Nor even see
The beauty of the west.

My heart was hard,
My senses numb,
'Twas not for me to speak.

And yet, when homeward we had turned
our way,
And through the silent village street had
trod,
Again I turned—and lo! the sun had
gone
And left a sky all decked in brilliant
hues—
A bit of gold, long streaked strips of
red—
And far round from the north there slowly
crept
A lead gray cloud of such an awful size
As if to blot for ever from our view
The west, the trail left when the sun had
set.
But in that moment's gaze, that flash of
sky
Had struck my heart—'tis strange—cold
hardness fled,
And into every fibre went a thrill
Of joy and beauty I had never felt.

I had not known
Nor felt the joy
Until the sun had set.

M, 1903.

A WIERD IMPRESSION

The time of ghosts and superstitions may be passing. Perhaps the light of the nineteenth century has pierced into the depths of all that approaches the supernatural. The memory of stories which tell of things as they happened "in the good old days" haunts us occasionally and makes the blood course cold through our veins, but the bustle and hurry of life's daily routine soon dispels even the faintest idea of the truth of "Mother Goose" tales or haunted houses.

Not so, however, passes the impression of a weird and strange scene in nature. A halo of the undefinable and indescribable casts a gloom over certain peculiar spots which are too sacred to be illumined by the torch of modern progress. Nature, when left alone, carries a message that sinks deeper in man's heart than the imperfect expressions of man.

Along the Blue Ridge mountains, as they slope gradually toward the Atlantic, can be seen some fine and rare touches of nature. Amid the characteristic beauty of one of these scenes is found a very strange and striking combination,—one which awes and impresses every true lover of nature who finds delight in the peculiar contrasts which she sometimes offers. Here a little mountain stream comes rippling over the hills and winds its way around the rocks. A row of dull, bleak ledges, yielding scarcely a sign of life, suggests a quietness and a stillness which is broken only by the rumbling of the flowing water as it gathers in volume. For a distance the stream is lost in a ravine but disappears only to dart forth unexpectedly and dash over a precipice into a basin which is almost entirely

covered by the dark heavy mists which continually hang over it. Rising, as it were, from the depths of a hidden gulf a huge rock lifts its bald head high into the haze which envelops the whole scene. On the opposite side of the cliff the dim outline of a massive figure may be traced on the back of a still larger rock. The imagination needs little help to picture in its outline the clearly defined features of an enormous body. Something indescribable attaches itself to every sight. A cloud, suggestive in its awe and mystery, gathers about every object. The roll and dash of the stream as its waters fall into dark, hazy depths of the chasm, the sharp, jagged edges of the rocky layers, the massive figure becoming more striking and prominent,—all is shut in by an apparent darkness and pervaded by an oppressive atmosphere. An insufferable coldness and the suspense of an unbroken deadness are heightened by sounds which seem to congeal the blood while they quicken it,—the remonstrance of nature groaning under deeds of darkness, terror and crime. She reflects the traces of acts which make man "shudder and grow sick at heart." She is but giving voice to thoughts which man has molded for her.

* * * * *

My curiosity was stirred by the strange stories which were told concerning this secluded spot. I decided to brave nature (not as such I thought) and venture an investigation for myself. My inclination led me one summer afternoon to turn my path up the mountain side. Soon I was obliged to dismount and carefully pick my way along the ridges of a steep cliff. The way grew narrow and the rocks began to close in upon the passage. Turning around sharp corners and creeping under huge boulders, a feeling of loneliness came over me.

As I advanced slowly upward all signs of life disappeared; the stillness became repulsive. The way had insensibly grown darker until now the few scattering rays of light which were left only added to the gloom that surrounded me. Groping along aimlessly, before me the dim outline of a moving object loomed up in the distance. Two bright, penetrating eyes peered at me through the darkness. An impulse to flee seized me, but before it could issue in action, an old man stood before me. The long white locks spreading in rolls over his shoulders and the rough, shaggy beard covering his breast were faintly discernible in the darkness about us. Without a word I felt myself drawn by some mysterious influence. Under the spell of an unseen power I felt impelled to follow him wherever he might lead. I tried to feel buoyant and shake off this strange feeling. I could not.

With extreme care and difficult footing I was led along a dangerous path which finally emerged on a prominence along one side of the ravine. As the first glimpse of the scene, mingled with the picture of the unknown guide, came into view, I seemed to lose the sense of my own personality. I was peculiarly open and susceptible to any impression from nature around me.

Directed to a seat which nature had aptly provided, I felt a distinct relief when the old man leaned over his staff

and began in a hollow voice: "From the top of yonder ledge more than one soul has been hurled and lost in the hazy depths beneath the falls. Yonder pictured rock covers a secret hiding place which has sheltered many fleeing from pursuing vengeance. The seat upon which you rest was used by a notorious bandit while planning one of his most daring crimes,—a crime at whose event hundreds had cause to shudder. You are in the midst of a place in which the spirits of convicts found their favorite haunt. For more than fifty years this spot served as their hiding place; its secrets were carefully guarded. To-day not a single place of refuge may be found here. But the terrible, awful—"

The sudden rush of a boulder detaching itself from the ledge above and crashing into the hollow below, brought me to my feet. For a moment I stood; I turned. My guide had disappeared. The vague gloom and horror within me were heightened. I did not stop to reason. I could not. The solitude was agonizing and dementing. Both reason and feeling seemed to mingle and dissolve their identity in the vague horror of a more powerful presence, impelling because it could not speak. Cold, chilly, filled with the vague fear of an instinct struggling for its life against an external influence, I felt the dark pass,—I know not how. And as I left the side of the mountain behind me the light cantering of my horse bearing me upward and outward into the life of men awoke new and more human feelings within me.

C. G. HAINES, '03.

Y. M. C. A.

March 4, the meeting was in charge of Raymond G. Gettel. The subject discussed was "The Power of a Christian Life."

J. E. Hoyt led the meeting this week. "College Sins" was the topic for the evening.

The Nominating Committee has reported the following as their choice for office for the following year: President, Edwin M. Sando, '04; Vice-President, Elliot Frederick, '05; Secretary, Miles A. Keasey, '06; Treasurer, Oscar D. Brownback, '04; Musical Director, David R. Wise, '06. These men will go into office April 1.

Nine men represented Ursinus at the State Y. M. C. A. Convention held at Lebanon, March 5—8. They were: Seniors, Hobson, Poorman, Roth; Juniors, Brownback and Sando; Freshman, Keasey; Academy, Yocum.

The hospitality of the citizens of Lebanon called forth the best of cheers from the Ursinus boys. The time was spent profitably and enjoyably.

The convention was typical of the great work of the organization. Almost six hundred delegates were present, including one hundred and eighty student delegates. Talented and forceful speakers had been provided for the discussion of the leading problems before the Y. M. C. A. to-day. "Conspicuous Foes to the Spiritual Work of the Association" was considered under these heads: (1) "The Misrepresentation of Christianity by Christians" (a) in personal daily life and

CALENDAR

Friday, Mar. 13, Literary Societies, 7.40 p. m.
Saturday, 14, Annual Gymnastic Exhibition, 8 p. m.
Monday, 16, New York University Glee Concert, Norristown, 8.00 p. m.
Tuesday, 17, Chorus Rehearsal, 7.15 p. m.
Wednesday, 18, Song Service, Y. M. C. A. Room, 6.40 p. m. Assisted by Ladies.

(b) in neglect of the Missionary cause, by the Rev. W. F. McDowell, D. D., New York; (2) "The Inordinate Pursuit of Wealth" by the Rev. A. F. Schauffler, D. D., New York; (3) "Civic Unfaithfulness" by Henry A. Fuller, Esq., Wilkesbarre. Mr. McConkey of Philadelphia conducted the Bible Readings. Fred B. Smith, of Chicago, Secretary of the International Committee addressed evangelistic services in the Academy of Music, Sunday, at which almost two hundred men confessed Christ.

Ursinus was represented at all of the Sectional Conferences, although the Student Work Conference bore more directly on the work of the home organization. At the latter, Dr. H. U. Roop, President of Lebanon Valley College, presided. George A. Walton, University of Pennsylvania, conducted a discussion on "Pivotal Points in Association Bible Study." "Our Missionary Responsibility" by H. J. Belting, Dickinson, "The Financial Policy" by H. R. Gold, Lafayette, and "Definite Methods for Winning Men to Christ" by Mr. Pattengill, of Coatesville, constituted the other discussions. A recess in the midst of the program gave the delegates a chance to learn to know each other.

It was a splendid scene as the Pennsylvania man met the Carlisle Indian, not on the gory gridiron, but now in the warfare of the spirit hand in hand. Lafayette and Lehigh, Allegheny and Westminster, Normal School students and "Preps" all met on a level and enjoyed themselves immensely. The conference proved one of the most helpful services of a very helpful convention.

ALUMNI NOTES

The Rev. J. M. S. Isenberg, '93, pastor of the First Reformed church, Spring City, Pa., announced to his congregation on Sunday morning that Mr. Andrew Carnegie had offered to pay half the cost of a new pipe organ. The congregation will at once make an effort to secure the remainder needed in order to be able to accept Mr. Carnegie's offer.

St. Mark's Reformed church Lebanon, Pa., the Rev. I. C. Fisher, '89, pastor, has issued a neat book of sixty pages containing statistics of the congregation for the year 1902. The book is complete giving the condition of the treasuries of the different organizations of the church for the year past, a full list of the present members as well as the pastor's report both for the past year and for the ten years during which he has been pastor of St. Mark's.

Continued on fourth page.

THE URSINUS WEEKLY

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FRIDAY, MAR. 13, 1903.

EDITORIAL

There is an attitude, even among the best of students, which the writer does not fully understand. It is that attitude toward studies and work which manifests itself, for instance, when a professor for some reason or other, is not able to meet his classes. There seems to be a spirit of satisfaction in the fact that the student is cut loose from so much immediate work in recitation hall or in his own private study.

Most of the men who are getting things of value from their college courses are undergoing some privations in order to stay in the institution; and the one thing they feel that they want to do is to do a big amount of work. Sometimes (we might say their weaker moments) they relax into the attitude mentioned above, and really glory in a present diminution of work. The reason may lie in the fact that the hard worker feels that he has earned a breathing spell, and the easy worker is always glad for this relaxation.

The enforced absences of the teacher should be of great value to the students. The stuff a student is made of is readily determined by the way he uses such periods. There is no let-up to life. Continuous work is not needed for the best development. But continuous living at one's best self is. This best self requires relaxation, but this relaxation is an integral part of the development. One loses every time he lets go upon his earnest grip upon life, every time that he loses the sense of the *why* of his existence. Not that one should be in serious mood always; not that he should be in contemplation of the possibilities of his life continually; in doing and being thus he he would lose the very state for which he strove; but his separate actions should tend toward this end at all times; these actions and moods are of a very diversified character.

SOCIETY NOTES

"Resolved, that the United States should continue a territorial policy and not aim to acquire more territory" was debated by the Schaff Society on March 6. Messrs. Haines and Wismer and Miss Ebbert discussed it affirmatively and Messrs. Gettel, Wagner and Rice, negatively.

The affirmative side showed that our newly acquired territory and any that may be acquired in the future must in time become a federal part of our government. It is in this that our strength as a nation lies. The other side brought out clearly the fact that a territorial policy is no longer possible. Our new possessions lie in such a position that any close union is untenable. Besides their climate is such that they do not permit of the proper development. The Judge decided in favor of the negative.

"Resolved, that nature has a greater influence in the formation of character than has education," was debated in the Zwinglian Literary Society. None but Academy students had been appointed to serve on the program as it was the intention to have a strictly Academy debate.

The Academy students who took part in the regular debate were Bausch, Schappell, Bordner, Conness and Alspach. At the close of the regular debate the Academy students carried on a spirited general debate. The question both in the regular and in the general debate was decided in favor of the affirmative. The Zwinglian Review, by the Editor, Miss Shipe, closed the program.

Active preparations are being made for the thirty-third anniversary to be held on Friday evening, March 27.

"BIOLOG" DINNER

On Saturday evening the students of the Chemical-Biological Group dined at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Murlin. The young "biologs" dexterously plied the domestic prongs and scalpel in dissecting the barbecue placed before them. The menu, a suggestive memento of the evening, follows:

MENU

- Sus scrofa Var. domestica juv. *du roti*
- Gelee de Malus*
- Solanum tuberosum
- Phaseolus lunatus
- Apium graviolens
- Pain de Triticum sativum*
- Beta Vulgaris *sur*
- Lactuca sativa
- NaCl-*ted Gaufres*
- Drupe d' Amygdalus Persica*
- Decoction de Caffea Arabica*
- au creme frappe*
- Gateau

Science, for the nonce, lost its distant reserve of technicality. The remainder of the evening was spent in games. At a business meeting at the close of the evening M. P. Laros, '03, was elected Vice-President of the group.

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ALUMNI NOTES

Continued from first page

H. D. Johnson, M. D., '99, is practicing his profession in Cheltenham, a suburb of Philadelphia.

The Sunday-school room of Trinity Reformed church, Hanover, Pa., has been recently remodeled and repaired at a cost of about \$500. Dedicatory exercises were held on Sunday, March 11. The Rev. M. J. Roth, S. T., '93, is pastor.

St. John's Reformed church, St. Clair, Pa., was dedicated on February 22. Special services in honor of the occasion were held in the evenings of the week following. The Rev. Morgan A. Peters, '95, is pastor.

The Rev. C. E. Wehler, '87, has resigned his position of Superintendent of the Keystone Telephone Company in order to take charge of the Phoenixville Daily Republican, Phoenixville, Pa.

Grace Reformed Church, Hazleton, Pa., the Rev. Wm. Toennes, S. T. '97, pastor, was dedicated on Sunday, March 8. Special services were held both in the morning and evening. The dedicatory sermon was preached by the pastor, assisted by the Revs. Dr. Dippel and Stofflett. Although the new church can seat one thousand yet many were turned away from the services for want of room.

The collections of the services were very good owing to the fact that only cash contributions were accepted. \$3,293.00 were subscribed and paid in during the day and it is expected that at least \$3000 more will be collected during the present week. The value of the church and property is at least \$50,000. During Rev. Toennes' pastorate of five years the old debt has been liquidated and \$23,000 raised toward the building of the new church.

LEBANON VALLEY ALUMNI

The second annual meeting of the Ursinus College Association of the Lebanon Valley was held at the Eagle Hotel in Lebanon on February 26. At the business meeting officers were elected for the coming year as follows: President, Rev. E. S. Bromer, '90, Lebanon; Vice-President, Secretary, Prof. Hiram H. Shenk, '99, Annville; Treasurer, John C. Houck, '01, Lebanon. The Associa-



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tion interpreted its constitution as unequivocally establishing the eligibility of women to active membership. Under the leadership of President Henry T. Spangler, the members of the association engaged in an interesting discussion of the newer developments and future plans of the College.

The dinner was held at two o'clock, Rev. E. S. Bromer was toast-master and in a very happy way introduced the speakers. The toasts were as follows: "Things in the Making," G. L. Omwake, '98, of the college faculty; "The School of Theology," James I. Good, D. D.; "Ursinus from a Layman's View-Point," Mr. C. H. Rauch of Lebanon; "The Boys of the Lebanon Valley," Rev. J. Lewis Fluck, '88, of Myerstown; "Athletics," Thomas H. Matterness, '02.

AMONG THE COLLEGES

Enthusiasm and ambition are the prime movers in the affairs of men. Enthusiasm, however, is the nobler of the two, being self-forgetting, even self-sacrificing, whereas ambition is selfish. A number of people may grow enthusiastic for the same object, but only the individual is ambitious.

Yet ambition often accomplishes more because it is more lasting. It is not hard to kindle enthusiasm in a student-body, for instance, but the difficulty lies in keeping it up.

M. H. Aerolith.

The five hundredth anniversary of the University of Leipzig will be celebrated in 1909.

The University of Chicago is establishing an annex at Paris.

Students in the Department of Railway Engineering at Cornell will soon carry on a locomotive test.

The Alumni of Yale from the Hawaiian Islands provide a scholarship fund of \$500 a year to send some student from the islands through Yale.

The David B. Henderson library building, Upper Iowa University, located at Fayette, Iowa, has been completed, and was dedicated November 11. The building cost \$25,000 and is erected in honor of ex-speaker Henderson.

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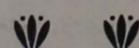
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