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## The Ursinus Weekly, March 6, 1903

Walter E. Hoffsommer

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# The Ursinus Weekly

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COLLEGEVILLE, PA., FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1903.

PRICE, 3 CENTS.

## LOVE'S SWEET UNREST

Dear Heart—thy love hath made of me  
A man of many moods!  
I sally forth on pleasure bent,  
But, ere the merry quest is spent,  
With wistful thought I think of thee,  
And seek the solitudes!  
I think of thee—and, king of men,  
I kiss the sunlit hills!  
And then—in silence and afar,  
An unattended wanderer,  
I steal to some deep forest fen,  
Where run the dackling rills.  
At early dawn, with flashing lance  
And gonfalon of gold,  
I lead the fight in stern delight;  
When, lo, some sorely wounded knight  
Recalls me to thy gentle glance,  
With tenderness untold!  
One day, I love the stunning tide  
Of mart and busy street,  
And play my role with splendid zest;  
The next—I count the cloister best,  
And linger (as if at thy side)  
Within its still retreat.  
And so I live—nor do I pine  
Save when for thee I long;  
For, be the music wild and free,  
Or hushed and low its melody,  
Its every note is voice of thine,  
My life is all a song!

AN ALUMNUS.

## THE HON. CLINTON R. WOODRUFF SPEAKS

The address by Hon. Clinton Woodruff, on "The Municipal Problem," was fully up to the expectations of the small but attentive audience that greeted him in the chapel on Tuesday evening. The subject was a timely and all-important one and was forcibly presented.

Dr. Barnard, in introducing the speaker, called to mind the fact that this lecture had been planned earlier in the series of college lectures but had been postponed for various reasons. However, he said, the speaker could speak not merely as a theorist, but as a man of practical experience in the municipal field, having been an active worker in municipal leagues and civil service reform movements.

Mr. Woodruff prefaced his remarks by saying that it might be thought that the subject was not exactly appropriate to such an audience, but still we were so near a center where the problem was of such vital importance, that it could not fail to interest us; moreover there was to each one of us an element of personal interest. What was the municipal problem? This was not an easy thing to define, it was so manysided and complex and could be looked at from so many points of view.

If one was interested in politics, he could not fail to be interested in the abuse of public offices, the system of contracts and the nominating and electing machinery, which has been subjected to personal and political ends instead of being conducted for the good of the community. Offices which had been intended for the service of the people were used for a different purpose. The old saying that "a public office is a public trust" did not seem to be accepted in American cities,

but such positions had been made coin for paying political or personal debts. The "bread and butter brigade," which consisted of office holders who kept their positions during their period of usefulness to the politicians, were used to uphold the policies of their masters and the political machine. Then it was only a step from the perversion of public office to that of municipal contracts, franchises and privileges. These favors, instead of being granted with an eye to the public good, were rendered to those who could in turn, render services to the machine. The speaker said he had yet to find a city of any size where this problem did not exist. It was not confined to New York, where the proportion of foreigners was greatest, but extended to Portland, where the proportion of native Americans was the greatest of any American city. Everywhere, the politician who would grant offices to a supporter was willing to grant franchises or privileges to those who would render services to the boss or machine. They evidently believed that "to the victors belong the spoils." So honest government conducted disinterestedly and with public spirit seemed to be the only solution to the problem. All the corruption in the recent scandal in St. Louis arose through a corrupt council and the franchise seekers. The same was seen all about us. But there was no difference between the offering of money and the giving of offices and franchises as political rewards. But men who were willing to go to these lengths were willing to go farther and enforce or refuse to enforce laws according as they were paid. The police problem was an instance of this, due to the fact that the police were willing to barter their honor for money. Nor would such corrupt politicians hesitate long to violate the integrity of the ballot box. In a recent election in Philadelphia it was thought that between 50,000 and 80,000 fraudulent votes were cast. We boast of our great Democracy, of our government of the people, by the people and for the people, but how long would that last if this prostitution of the very means by which Democracy expressed itself were continued?

Then to one more interested in the economic problem, the administrative side of the municipal government would be more interesting—that which looked to public improvements, regulating the police department, the water and light supplies. This depended only indirectly on the political condition. We might even have corrupt politics and yet have good administrative service. A specially good example was that of the Philadelphia Gas Works. In spite of the unfair terms secured, by which the city lost \$10,000,000 offered by another company, yet the city was getting better gas than it had previously. However, although England and Germany had widely extended the merit system, yet, in America, it was thought that any one was good enough for administrative offices. But as the government became more complex, the merit system in this country is becoming more widely adopted. As an example the speaker mentioned the Bureau of Public Surveys of Philadelphia, which demanded the best of engineers, on ac-

count of the complexity and technicality of its work.

Next, to the political economist, would come the question of the function of the government. There was now no question as to whether the government should provide for education, hospitals, etc., but how far should its activities extend? He then traced briefly the growth of the school-system and showed how the cities now provided for education up through the high school, and, by scholarship, through technical schools and colleges. Moreover for the poor unfortunates of the densely crowded sections, the opening of the schools at all times and the opening of play grounds, through the year, had great blessings. The direct municipal control of hospitals and reformatories was another step, showing the tendency to realize the responsibility of the city for the poor and unfortunate. The great extension of the municipal function could be judged from statistics from the Philadelphia city budget of a hundred years ago and now. Then the expenses were about \$69,000 or about 69 cents for each person, now about \$33,000,000 or about \$30 apiece. Moreover the question of municipal ownership was arousing much discussion and many cities were taking over to their control both water and light plants and were considering those of transportation as well. This was in line with the growth of civic life,—first the private citizen furnished himself with those necessities, then they were furnished to all by private enterprise, then the city provided for the supply, and at last, the municipality was coming to see the need and reasonableness of supplying them direct, itself.

Finally the speaker claimed that he did not want to appear pessimistic, for the very best sign of the times was that people were discussing these problems, realizing that things were not as they should be, and were endeavoring to improve them. Then he went on to show how the municipal problem affected us. In one hundred years the proportion of inhabitants of cities to the entire population has grown from three per cent. to thirty-three per cent. Then in view of the fact that one or two cities in each state dominate its politics, the importance of the problem was evident. Moreover on the citizen himself the municipal government had more effect than that of state or country. Then how important that that government should be in hands not stained by corruption or wrong! The speaker closed with an appeal for active effort for municipal reform, showing that there was as much honor and more need for heroes in this line than in actual battle, for the preservation of our nation.

## AUDUBON SCIENCE CLUB.

A well attended and interesting meeting of the Audubon Science Club was held on Monday evening. Two papers were read.

Elliott Frederick, '05, in a short paper discussed the "Early History of Algebra." He said in part: "The first trace of a knowledge of Algebra is found in Egypt. The first man known to have made use of it was a priest named Ahmes, who lived between 1700 and 1100 B. C.

Continued on fourth page.

## CALENDAR

Friday, Mar. 6, Literary Societies, 7.40 p. m.  
Saturday, 7, Package Party at Olevian Hall, 8.00 p. m.  
Tuesday, 10, Chorus Rehearsal, 7.15 p. m.  
Wednesday, 11, Olevian Tea, 4.00 p. m.  
Y. M. C. A., 6.40 p. m. "College Sins."

## SUNDAY EVENING ADDRESS

THE NATURAL FORCES OF DEATH AND LIFE AS APPLIED TO THE INTELLECTUAL AND SPIRITUAL WORLD:

"He that hath the Son, hath Life, He that hath not the Son of God hath not Life." 1 John 5—12.

In the phenomena of life, we observe two distinct forces antagonistic to each other. The formative or vital force which builds up the entire universe of life. The chemical and electro-chemical forces which are continually disorganizing and disintegrating life. The great thinkers of the age term the formative force spiritual. Man is an epitome of the whole "Messiah of Nature." Between the body and spirit there is no antithesis. The spirit is active everywhere, not here and there as some would have us to think. The history of every man should be a Bible. The Holy Ghost should be man's teacher in religion. Life is a disease of the spirit, a passionate activity. Rest is the peculiar property of the spirit, from the spirit gravitation. Nothing can be free, so nothing can be forced but spirit. Men make their own fate by the sluggishness of their own spirits. Men are negative because they choose to be so, when men become highly positive the world about them becomes more negative. All power appears only in transition and permanent power is substance.

Pascal says—"Nature is an image of Grace." St. John says—"Pure life is in the Son of God." Life depends upon contact with life. There is no more spontaneous generation in religion than in nature. Christ is the source of all life. To know God we must conceive Him as personal and individual; men look upon God in a negative spirit and not in the positive spirit which dwells in each heart. The life of a tree or plant is inside of its own substance and remains there until it dies. It is the spirit of God within man. Men's influence upon the world is either negative or positive. If positive, they call the world up to a higher plane of active and living. If negative, it disintegrates society, producing force and strife. Too much of the preaching and teaching of the present time is negative and is the producer of strife. What the world needs is the meek and contrite spirit of the Master. It is men's spirits that impress the world and not their intellectual smartness. "Whoso has felt the spirit of the highest, Cannot confound Him, nor deny; Yea with one voice, O world though thou deniest,

Stand thou on this side for on that am I." Men do not crave death to win the immortal, but they crave, in the resurrected death of the eternal now, that voice out of Heaven of which St. John speaks in Rev. 21—3, 4.

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FRIDAY, MAR. 6, 1903.

EDITORIALS

In this issue we publish a contribution from one of our alumni. We often wonder whether the alumni recognize the fact that we want their contributions, and that we appreciate them. Well, we do, and we believe that the alumni themselves appreciate them.

\* \* \*

What is there about the college man that makes him a different moral creature from other men? Under what moral code does he live that he is justified in doing things which would not be tolerated in other men? Why are his raiding tours laughed off as mere pranks, when the same deeds by other men would send them to jail? Is he essentially a different creature, and so has he different laws under which he should live? Because he is thrown under the influence of great teachers of great thoughts and principles, does this fact give him license to perform deeds which he would blush to do in his home town? Is there a magic halo about his head because he is apart from the rest of mankind?

We think so; at least we work under this supposition in the excuses we offer. Great opportunities evidently give the privilege for great lapses in standards of morality. The same standard that we live under at home must not be the guide in our college life. Here things are different. We can rob the college or the farms about the college with impunity. We can afford to give strict moral laws a vacation during this unique college course. We may be supposed to learn the fundamental principles of ethics at college—the system which applies to the outside world but from which, we being in college, are thereby exempt. We wish to be treated as gentlemen, because we give voice to intellectual sentiments of truth and square dealing, but we demand that if we are guilty of misdemeanor, or if we act like children, no punishment shall come down upon our heads.

SOCIETY NOTES

Miss Paist read an essay on "Byron's Love for Mary Chaworth" before the Schaff Society on Friday evening and Mr. McCollum one on "James Whitcombe Riley." "A Bachelor's Soliloquy" was read by Graber.

After this informal program, a farce, entitled "The Fatal Message," by John Kendricks Bagns, was given by the society. The cast of characters included: Mr. Perkins, Mr. Hobson; Mrs. Perkins, Miss Myers; Miss Andrews, Miss Howell; Mr. Bradley, Mr. Brownback; Mrs. Bradley, Miss Hobson; Mr. Yardsley, Mr. Dotterer; Mr. Barlow, Mr. McCollum; Jennie, Miss Dotterer.

Our colonial policy will be debated this evening.

A short miscellaneous program was rendered in the Zwinglian Society last Friday evening, the night following the Freshman Declamation Contest. A piano duet was played by Misses Shade and Boston. Messrs. Bausch and Schappell recited. An essay entitled "Art Galleries" was read by Mr Hoyt. "The Importance of Activity in the Social Life at College" was discussed extemporaneously by Mr. Townsend, while Mr. Place spoke on "Favorite Pastimes." The Review was read by Miss Shade.

In his oration on "Historic Spots," the orator, Mr. Rapp, showed the importance of caring for the great battlegrounds of the Republic, the part they should play in our national life and our duty to instill a due reverence for them into the hearts of the youth of to-day.

"A Bunch of Roses" will be played Friday evening, March 13.

IMPORTANT!

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1905 RUBY

The class of 1905 elected their staff on Wednesday of last week for the publication of the "Ruby." It is composed of: Editor-in-chief, Elliot Frederick; Assistant Editors, R. F. Wismer, C. A. Townsend, and Miss Dessa Ebbert; Business Manager, Claude D. Trexler; Assistant, J. B. Price; Artist, Ralph E. Miller; Assistant, E. C. Wentz.

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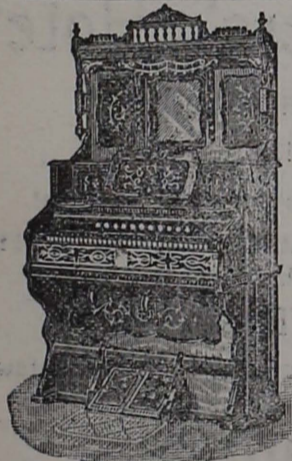
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At the same time the class elected its officers for the second term, as follows: President, J. B. Price; Vice-President, Miss Ebbert; Secretary, E. C. Wentz; Treasurer, D. J. Clinger; Business Manager, R. E. Miller; Poet, J. B. Price; Historian, H. H. McCullum.

### ITEMS

Chess playing has become quite a diversion with some of the students, and an effort is being made to organize a club, which will have regular meetings and sets of games. We wish entire success to the fellows who have this project under attention.

Last Saturday night the Fing Wing court trial, which many will recall from two years ago, was reproduced at King of Prussia, a few miles below Norristown. The celebrated troupe with anomalous equipages, rode through ten miles of mud and were finally dumped out of Henry Yost's breakdowns at the "King" dancing hall. After much stretching the Banjo Club and "James Whitcomb Riley" entertained the plentiful and happy audience with their best selections. Then the play was run through without a break. The Sophs and Freshies mingled in the affair, but the Sophs carried off the honors, having the "judge," "cop," district attorney, the Dutchman, Jew and court crier. Prep. Bordner carried Fing Wing Chinese style, but Brother Watkins' shod club hung over his head like the sword of Damocles. After the play came the dance, and taking all in all King of Prussia girls are the best Miss Smith ever grappled. Only one incident marred the beauty of the trip. On the way home the ammunition train broke down and a disgruntled set tore up two miles of trolley track until Yost's reserve tally-ho came to the rescue.

President H. T. Spangler, D. D., and Professors C. E. Dechant and G. L. Omwake were in Harrisburg on Wednesday attending a meeting of representatives of Pennsylvania colleges in the interests of higher education.

### ALUMNI NOTES

The Rev. O. R. Frantz, '95, is assisting in the organization of a union mission at Vera Cruz.

The Rev. Carl H. Gramm, S. T., '02, Swanton, O., and Henry B. Reagle, '00,

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Bangor, Pa., have been elected assistant pastors of Zion's and Calvary congregations, Reading, respectively.

The Rev. A. H. Hibshman, S. T., '90, Harrisburg, has been elected pastor of the St. Vincent charge near Phoenixville, to succeed the Rev. H. H. Long, '94.

The Revs. C. B. Heller and W. H. Stubblebine, '96, have been elected President and Secretary of the Ministerial Association of Western North Carolina. The association is actively building up a mission at Lenoir.

S. W. Beck, '02, has accepted a call to the Catawba charge in North Carolina.

The family of the Rev. H. E. Jones, '91, have been quarantined owing to the illness from diphtheria of their daughter Marion.

### PHILADELPHIA LETTER

Dr. Good delivered his lecture on "The Land of the Czar and the Midnight Sun" in Tamaqua, Pa., Thursday evening, February 19.

Several of the students are planing to attend the State Y. M. C. A. Convention to be held in Lebanon, Pa., March 5-8.

The Rev. E. Clark Hibshman, of Stroudsburg, Pa., called at the Seminary Thursday.

Howard E. Bodder, '03, is mimeographing Dr. Good's lectures on systematic Theology.

Edgar V. Loucks, '03, delivered the address at the second anniversary of the Young Men's Association of St. Paul's German Reformed Church, this City, the Rev. Vollmer, Ph. D., D. D., pastor, Sunday evening, February 22.

Every college, as well as every individual, has a character of its own; it has a multitude of traditions, associations and good old customs which influence what it will do under certain conditions, just as an individual carries with him a bundle of habits which are apt to determine his action. Also it is true that the college paper reflects the character of the institution which maintains it. In looking through our exchanges, the nature of their contents at once tell us, "This paper comes from a college of gentlemen," "This from one of scholars," "This from a set of roudies." *Haverfordian.*

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Continued from first page

He formulated a process for solving problems of one unknown quantity and made use of a few symbols, although his work was almost entirely rhetorical, that is, fully written out. After Ahmes no progress was made in Algebra for one thousand years.

The Greeks next took up the study, but did little with it. Euclid's problems are geometrical in form, but many of them may be reduced to algebraic expressions. Diophantus (cir. 300-350 A. D.) was the first to use any algebraic symbols among the Greeks and probably was the first to use syncopated algebra. He could not realize a negative quantity and discarded all such results as impossible.

It seems that the Arabs obtained their first knowledge of algebra from the Greeks and later from the Hindus. Among these latter two names stand out prominently—Brahmagupta and Bhashkara. Bhashkara's work is entirely syncopated and partly symbolic. The Arabs made little use of the knowledge obtained from these sources, and their treatises remain rhetorical.

In the twelfth century there arose a man of genuine mathematical ability. This was Leonardo of Pisa. He made use of the Arabs' work in algebra and added much that was new. Lucas Pacioli in the fifteenth century, however, was the first modern man to use syncopated forms. His book on Algebra was the first printed text on the subject. His successor, Bembelli, another Italian, still further simplified the algebraic expressions.

It remained, however, for Vieta to use symbolic forms. He was born in France in 1540 and lived until 1603. He published numerous works on algebra and geometry. He used letters to denote both known and unknown quantities but avoided confusion by using consonants to represent the known and vowels the unknown. The present system was introduced a few years later by Descartes, who also originated our system of indices."

Prof. G. L. Omwake read an interesting paper on "The Modern Child Study Movement." He said in brief:

"The child study movement has its roots far back in history. Rabelais



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bade the youth study the things about him. Here was the first step away from book learning to nature study. Bacon demanded universal knowledge. Comenius tried to give Bacon's universal knowledge universal currency. His course of study extended from infancy to manhood. Here was education brought down to childhood. Then came Lock urging the education of the senses, and Francke with his demand for the training of the moral nature. At length all these gathering forces culminate in Rousseau by whom educational interest was made to center in the child. But the child was still regarded from the adult point of view. Pestalozzi followed, making education a personal matter between the teacher and each individual pupil. Next came Herbart the psychologist and Froebel the educator, studying the nature of the child. Thus, through three hundred years we see the gradual process by which education both objectively and subjectively was brought from the man down to the child.

But the modern child study movement is mainly American, having been started about twenty years ago by Dr. G. Stanley Hall. It is not a science in itself, rather the application of several sciences to the study of child nature. The movement was originally in the interest of psychology, but it has yielded more valuable results for education than for psychology. The employment of doubtful methods and the scrappy character of much of the work has, in a measure, discredited the movement. However, much valuable work has been done that has already gone far to reform the curriculum. The greatest reforms due to modern child study are yet to be worked out.

These will be in the fields of physical and moral education. What we need now is a great body of wise interpreters to put results into practice."

Journal reports were made by Messrs. Peters, '03, and McCollum, '05.

E. M. Sando, O. D. Brownback, M. A. Keasey, W. F. Harman, W. E. Hoffsommer, J. L. Roth, R. Yocum, and J. H. Poorman are attending the State Convention of the Y. M. C. A. at Lebanon.

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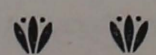
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