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## The Ursinus Weekly, May 29, 1903

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# The Ursinus Weekly

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COLLEGEVILLE, PA., FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1903.

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## THE ENGLISH MYSTERY PLAY

In the early part of the thirteenth century there arose in England as well as on the Continent what was known as the Mystery Play. This was the representation of events that took place in biblical history, especially those of the New Testament. Just as the Greek Drama arose out of the religious feasts and rites in honor of the god Bacchus, so the Mystery Play arose in the religious ceremonies attending the worship of God in the Roman Catholic Church.

The purpose of these plays was primarily to instruct and educate the people in biblical knowledge. At a time when not only the common people but very few even of the nobility could read and write, when the majority of the people had no conception of the divine purpose in the life of Jesus Christ on earth, when, in fact, few had an adequate idea of the great truths involved not only in that life but also in the whole of biblical history, these plays were regarded by the priests and monks who introduced them as a supreme necessity to impress upon the people the important truths of the Bible. Although at a later date other elements crept into these plays, the original purpose was ever present.

The development of the Mystery was rapid and far reaching. Beginning about the thirteenth century with the ordinary religious ceremony, it grew, taking in various elements, until the time of Shakespeare, when it took from one to three days to perform a play. At first the Mystery was performed by the priests and monks in the churches. It consisted of the reading of the passage of Scripture referring to the event to be celebrated and then the priests and monks took the parts of the principal characters. In order to make the presentation more graphic, other features were added, for instance, in the Mystery of the Birth of Christ, characters to represent the Virgin, the Child and Joseph were introduced, a manger and sometimes even the beasts were brought into use. As time went on some of the least important characters were taken by laymen; the presentation was then removed from the church to some open space outside; more and more laymen took part in it until, finally, the priest only read the passage of Scripture bearing on the event represented in the play. By this time the events in the plays included not only the Birth and Death of Christ but many of the events which lead up to them; and these additions kept on increasing until all the events of the Bible from Adam and Eve to the Last Judgment were included.

While these additions were being made, the presentation of the plays came into the hands of the trade guilds and they were then acted on stages built upon wheels. On each movable stage was presented a particular phase of one play and it was transferred from one place to another through the streets of the city. Quite early in the development of the Mystery, Satan appeared as one of the characters and this gradually developed into a comic element which added interest to the play. At an early period these plays centered about the important days of the church year, as Christmas and Easter, but later they were presented

on Corpus Christi Day. About the time of Shakespeare, the Mystery had spread to such an extent that almost every town had its play.

At a time when educational privileges were at their best limited, the Mystery had a wonderful influence not only on the English life of the time but also on the English Drama of which it was the forerunner. The Mystery plays quickened the life of the people by bringing before them in a graphic way the past, present and future. On the day when these plays were presented a general holiday was declared and everybody went to see them. In this way they brought the people into contact with each other, broadened their ideas of life and furnished to them an educative influence at once instructive and far reaching in its results. The influence of these plays upon the Drama is equally important. When William Shakespeare was a boy, he saw some of these plays. Their action, their vitality, their humor, transformed by his wonderful genius, appear in his works and in those of his contemporaries. Their influence was felt long after the last play ceased to be presented on the festive day of Corpus Christi.

E. M. SANDO, '04.

## AN ESSENTIAL FORCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN LIFE

Poetry is the greatest of the fine arts. Its limitations are fewest; its mission, highest, its effects, most abiding. Architecture and sculpture display beauty of form. Painting suggests life. Music strikes the keys of the emotions and for the moment, incites thought. Literature is the only representation of the soul's precise and varied ideas. Of its forms, fiction may embody truth and goodness but only when it takes on the wings of rhythmic feeling and expression does literature become a most potent factor in the evolution of human life. Notwithstanding its true worth poetry does not have a proper hold on modern life. This fact cannot be attributed to the inferiority of our poets. Mental power and moral capacity have not degenerated. Power of imagination and capability for perception of higher truths have always kept pace with the advancement of knowledge and civilization. Nor are circumstances which foster poetry wanting. The unknown, the field of poetic creation, has never failed to become larger in proportion to the known. Our knowledge is always surrounded by a circle of lofty, spiritual mysteries, and a sense of the incompleteness and inadequacy of our experience induces us to unfathom its depths. Lack of appreciation of poetry is due to our ideals of Life. Encourage the spirit of philosophy and commercialism prevails. Life is no longer lived but reasoned. Worldly shrewdness, conventional respectability, and material success are its aims.

The world is forgetting that all material progress is due to mental development and that mind is more than reason. Reason empowers man to make his world larger and better but intuition and imagination must supply the material. Only poetic vision can gaze into the vistas of the unknown and direct men to

truths. Poetic feeling and insight is the polestar of all progress and if it is to continue in future ages, poetry must not be neglected.

But the main object of poetry is the direct development of that which is highest and best in life. Experience teaches us that life is not all thought, that existence is not wholly material. Human life is partly feeling. And it is only in the full and harmonious development of feeling and thought, of the spiritual and the corporeal life that will ever reach its ideal stage.

Nothing elevates life more than truth. In the nature of poetic truth lies its potency. History tells us facts of the past; poetry, truths that are, may, or ought to be. Mathematics teaches the reality of things in space; poetry unfolds what is in neither space nor time. Science treats of existence; poetry of life. Science explains animal; poetry, human life. Science gives ideas, poetry ideals. Such truth as seen by the mind's eye, as felt by the soul, cause man's springs of goodness to move. The sympathetic idealization of common life by Burns has increased the worth of living. Motion, change and repose of nature as transformed into life by Shelley, Byron and Wordsworth afford consolation and companionship. Nothing is more conducive to man's highest nature than the ideals of society and character as presented by our greatest poets.

Humanity also profits by poetic ideals of goodness. Man is by nature moral and religious. He patterns his life after those of better men and after God. The drama especially presents characters as they might exist in a perfect world, and what can give us better ideas of God? The Psalmist shows his goodness; Dante, his perfection; Milton, his power and personality; Tennyson, his love. Poetry has always been the embodiment of an unwavering faith and an earnest attempt to reveal God as He is and by bringing us in converse with Him has made men feel "that they do become like God in love and power."

But truth and goodness are not the only enhancing qualities of poetry. The poet, in adapting his own spirit to the ideal needs of men expresses beauty which lifts man's nature out of itself. The expression of feeling as natural and as rhythmical as life itself makes man a sharer of higher graces and powers. Beauty opens the door to what is best in the universe, noble passion urges man in and there he can partake of that loveliness which pertains to eternity alone.

In order, therefore, that poetry may fulfill its mission it behooves society to show appreciation and to render reasonable criticism. Let people encourage poets. Let them be so reasonable as not to allow intellectual, commercial, and material interests crowd out of life what is favorable to the cultivation of feeling. Let them learn the futility and transience of the worldly, the value and permanence of the most vital, most noble, and most divine in life. Then, will poetry continue to enhance life's use and worth. Then and then only, will it help to free man from the superficial and guide him in the pursuit of happiness. Then and then only, will men be nobler, sweeter and better prepared to enjoy the blessedness of the future life.

A. G. PETERS.

## CALENDAR

Friday, 29. Literary Societies, 7.40 p. m.  
Saturday, 30. Lebanon All-Collegiate vs. Ursinus at Lebanon. (Two games.)  
Monday, June 1. Final Examinations begin.  
Audubon Club at 7.30 p. m.  
Wednesday, 3. Y. M. C. A. Service, 6.40 p. m. Senior Farewell Meeting.  
Phoenixville vs. Ursinus at Phoenixville.  
Saturday, 6. Franklin and Marshall vs. Ursinus at Collegeville.  
Sunday, 7—Wednesday, 10. Commencement.

## BASEBALL

URSINUS, 22. P. M. C., 0.

Ursinus had an easy time with Pennsylvania Military College at Chester, last Saturday. P. M. C. could neither field nor bat, and as a result Ursinus grew tired of running around the bases. Mabry pitched a good game and was given almost perfect support. All of the outfielders made sensational catches, and the infield played great ball. The game was full of hitting, Ursinus making a total of twenty-eight bases out of seventeen hits.

Ursinus plays two games at Lebanon on Decoration Day. The score:

URSINUS.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Townsend, r. f.,	2	1	4	0	0
Price, c.,	4	3	6	0	0
Watt, 1b.,	1	1	6	1	0
Kelley, c. f.,	3	2	2	0	0
Faringer, 3b.,	4	3	3	1	1
Snyder, ss.,	2	2	3	2	0
Hoffsommer, 2b.,	3	2	1	1	0
Paist, l. f.,	2	2	2	0	0
Mabry, p.,	1	1	0	0	0
Totals,	22	17	27	5	1
P. M. C.,	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Pool, ss.,	0	0	4	2	1
Best, 2b.,	0	1	0	3	2
Muslin, 1b.,	0	0	13	0	0
Ringle, p.,	0	0	0	2	0
Mooney, c. f.,	0	0	3	0	0
Sweeney, l. f.,	0	0	0	0	0
T'bleston, c.,	0	0	6	3	3
Duckwitz, r. f.,	0	1	1	0	0
Harmont, 3b.,	0	0	0	1	4
Totals,	0	2	27	11	10

Ursinus, 9 0 7 0 2 0 2 1 1—22  
P. M. C., 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0—0

Earned runs, Ursinus, 8. Two-base hits, Faringer, Snyder. Three-base hit, Kelley. Home run, Price. Struck out, Mabry 8, Ringle 7. Passed balls, Tomblestone 1. Base on Balls, Ringle 1, Mabry 1. Time, 1 hour, 30 minutes. Umpire, Hobson.

Associate Justice Brewer of the United States Supreme Court will deliver the Commencement address for Kansas University this year.

The library of the University of Kansas now numbers 40,838 volumes 562 periodicals, and 158 state newspapers. The Board of Regents has increased the appropriation for books from \$5,000 to \$7,000 per year.

# THE URSINUS WEEKLY

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2.00-5.00, p. m.

Staff Meeting, Monday, 1.30 p. m.

**FRIDAY, MAY. 29, 1903.**

## EDITORIAL

One feature which is missed about the college campus, this year, is the evening gathering for the singing of college songs. There is scarcely anything more conducive to genuine college spirit, and to love for the alma mater, than the hearty singing of our local melodies and some of those which are common to all our colleges. In the coolness of the deepening twilight, after the mental contests with the knotty problems or elusive thoughts of the day, it is certainly restful to assemble on the campus and listen to the joyous melody or to join in, heartily, with the pleasing chorus. It is especially delightful at this time of the year when the students are just a little sad at the thought of breaking up the close comradeship with their fellows and leaving the scenes of the year's work and play, perhaps for the summer, perhaps for a year, perhaps forever. Music in general seems to have the power of smoothing over the day's irritations from failure and annoyance, and of cementing the ties of friendship, and this power seems to be particularly evident in the singing of college songs.

## SOCIETY NOTES

A miscellaneous program of high rank was rendered in the Schaff Society on Friday night. Miss Wolff discussed the charm of Dickens' works in a well written paper. "The College Literary Society as an Element in the College Course" was the subject of an essay by Miss Paist. She showed how the literary society benefits its members in three ways: by helping one to become at ease in public, by making one think rapidly, and by the training in systematic conduct of business which it gives.

Two excellent recitations were also given, both of which showed careful preparation and marked ability. "Belshazzar's Doom" was recited by Mr. Smith and "That Naughty Briar Rose" by Miss Miles. The select readings were interesting and instructive.

The musical feature of the evening was Mr. Schweyer's banjo solos. An oration on "Queen Victoria" completed the program.

On June 5, the Seniors will have the entire program and several special fea-

tures have been arranged. The music will be furnished by the Senior quartette, Messrs. Hoffsommer, Hobson, Gutshall and Anson.

Last Friday evening the Zwings debated the question, Resolved that Gov. Pennypacker was justified in signing the Salus-Grady Libel Bill. It was discussed affirmatively by Messrs. Keasey, Butz, Faringer and Wise; negatively, by Messrs. Laros, Rapp, Yocum and Poorman. In spite of the fact that public opinion is so much averse to the Governor's act, the affirmative side presented the stronger arguments and was given the judge's decision.

The affirmative side condensed their points under two main headings; that private as well as public men have been criticised beyond truth; and that past acts of violence and anarchy can easily be traced back to inflammatory and careless newspaper utterance. The negative made one main point; that the Bill was entirely unconstitutional, for the constitution always provides for cases of libel. They proved very extensively that one great object of the Libel Bill was to conceal the aim and lawlessness of the public officers of our commonwealth.

## EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

Monday, June 1.

Psychology 1. } 9-11 a. m.  
History 1. }  
English 1. 11 a. m.-1 p. m.  
German 1. 2-4 p. m.

Tuesday, June 2.

Chemistry 1. 9-11 a. m.  
Latin 1. 11 a. m.-1 p. m.  
Greek A. } 2-4 p. m.  
English Bible. }

Wednesday, June 3.

French A. }  
French 1. } 9-11 a. m.  
Greek 1. }  
Biology 1, 2. } 11 a. m.-1 p. m.  
Greek 2. }  
German A. }

Thursday, June 4.

Mathematics 1. 9-11 a. m.  
Mathematics 3. } 11 a. m.-1 p. m.  
Latin 2. }  
Mathematics 2. }

Physics A. 2-4 p. m.

Friday, June 5.

English 3. 9-11 a. m.  
Latin A. 11 a. m.-1 p. m.  
History A. 2-4 p. m.

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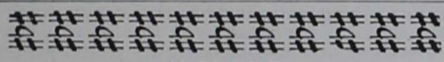
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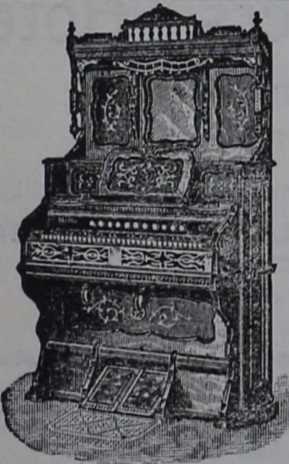


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 In an up-to-date tailor-made gown, U-pi-de-i-da!  
 The boys are wild, and prex is, too,  
 You never saw such a hulla-ba-loo.  
 CHORUS. — U-pi-dee-i-dee-i-da! etc.  
 Her voice is clear as a soaring lark's,  
 And her wit is like those trolley-car sparks!  
 When 'cross a muddy street she flits,  
 The boys all have conniption fits!  
 The turn of her head turns all ours, too,  
 There's always a strife to sit in her pew;  
 'Tis enough to make a parson drunk,  
 To hear her sing old co-ca-che-lunk!

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**MONDAY NIGHT CLUB**  
 The last regular meeting of the Monday Night Club for this year will be held next Monday evening. Mr. Hoyt will read a paper on "Radium and Radio Activity." Prof. Gummere will present a paper on "Variable Stars." Journal Reports by Mr. Rapp and Dr. Murlin containing all the latest news of the scientific world will also be presented.

**FRESHMAN AND SOPHOMORE GAME**

An interesting game was played on the College field last Wednesday when, the Sophomores easily defeated the Freshman, and once more established their supremacy over the class of '06. The Sophomores played a great game all around, and at no time were the Freshman in the race. Miller pitched good ball, as also did Faringer. The score:

SOPHOMORE.		FRESHMAN.	
R.	H. O. A. E.	R.	H. O. A. E.
Townsd, ss.,	2 1 3 2 2	Scholl, c.,	1 1 9 2 3
Clinger, 3b.,	2 3 2 0 0	Hartman, c.f.,	0 0 1 0 0
Price, c.p.,	2 2 9 2 0	Mabry, 3b.,	1 1 3 0 1
Trex'r, 1b.,	c. 1 1 5 0 1	Faringer, p.,	2 2 1 0 0
Wisner, l.f.,	2 1 0 0 0	Schw'r, ss.,	0 0 1 0 2
Place, c.f.,	0 1 1 1 1	Wise, 2b.,	0 0 1 1 0
McCol'm, 2b.,	0 0 1 0 1	Fetterolf, 1b.,	0 0 1 0 1
Miller, p.,	1b. 0 1 3 0	Foltz, l. f.,	0 0 1 0 0
Fred'k, r. f.,	2 0 0 0 1	Bardman, r. f.,	0 0 0 0 0
<b>Totals,</b>	<b>11 9 21 9 5</b>	<b>Totals,</b>	<b>4 4 18 3 7</b>
'05,	3 2 0 1 4 1 X—II		
'06,	1 0 1 0 2 0 —4		

Earned runs, '05, 4; '06, 1. Three-base hit, Townsend. Two-base hit, Mabry. Home run, Faringer. Struck out, Miller 6, Price 4, Faringer, 9. Stolen bases, '05, 6; '06, 1. Base on balls, Miller 6, Faringer 7. Umpire, Halteman. Time, 1 hour, 30 minutes.

**AN EVENING BY URSINUS ACADEMY**

Last Tuesday evening the Ursinus Academy appeared in two plays—"The Jewels of My Aunt" and "Letters for Mr. Smith."

Both plays were given in good style, the characters taking their parts well. The selection of the characters and general acting gave no little credit to the ability of Miss Rankin, the director.

**PROGRAM**  
 MUSIC MANDOLIN CLUB  
 PLAY, The Jewels of my Aunt  
 PIANO DUET  
 MISSES HOBSON AND DOTTERER  
 TABLEAUX, Secrets of a Nunnery  
 FRIDAY NIGHT. SISTERS OF ST. OLEVIA  
 I. SILENT HOUR (For Meditation)  
 9.30 P. M.

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- STUDENTS OF THE ACADEMY  
 RECITATION—"It Just Comes Nat'al." ALBERT THOMPSON.
- 2. FAST DAY 10.30 P. M.  
 STUDENTS OF THE ACADEMY
- INDIAN CLUBS MR. HUGHES  
 (PIANO) MR. DOTTERER.
- 3. RIPPLE IN THE NUNNERY 11.30 P. M.  
 STUDENTS OF THE ACADEMY  
 RECITATION—"Photographin' Craze." MR. WM. B. ASHENFELTER
- 4. Nunnery Asleep 12 M.  
 STUDENTS OF THE ACADEMY  
 MUSIC MANDOLIN CLUB  
 PLAY, Letters for Mr. Smith.

Dr. Wilson, the new president of Princeton, though a very cultured man is practical as well. Yet he recognizes that the modern idea that a college can be a mill, a farm or a machine shop has certain flaws. Dr. Wilson's view is that a college is a college. The college should seek to make the men whom it receives something more than excellent servants of a trade or skilled practitioners of a profession. We must deal he says, in the college, with the spirits of men, not with their fortunes, releasing the preception of the mind for a wide and catholic view of life, which shall constitute a preliminary orientation. And this catholicity of view is, in his opinion, best derived from history, philosophy, and literature, in which the experience of the world has been condensed.

*Ansgar Collegian*  
 Brown University has just received a valuable gift, namely, the entire library of the late Rev. Dr. Lysander Dickerman of Boston. The books are mostly on Egyptology and include some very rare volumes.  
 Leland Stanford, Jr. University has made a valuable acquisition in the shape of the library of the late Mr. Konrad, chief hydraulic engineer of the Netherlands.

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#### COMMENCEMENT

The thirty-third annual commencement of Ursinus College will be held during the week beginning June 7. The Program as arranged.:

SUNDAY, JUNE 7TH.

8 p. m. Baccalaureate Sermon by President Henry T. Spangler, D. D. Music by Trinity Church Choir.

MONDAY, JUNE 8TH.

2 p. m. Class Day Exercise, in the College Auditorium.

8 p. m. Junior Oratorical Contest. Awarding of the Hobson and Memminger Medals. Music by Spring City Band.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9TH.

10 a. m. Annual meeting of the Board of Directors, in the President's Rooms.

2 p. m. Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association, in the College Chapel.

8 p. m. Alumni Oration in the College Auditorium, by Irvin C. Williams, Esq., A. B. Royersford, Pa.

9-11 p. m. President's Reception, at the President's House.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10TH.

9.45 a. m. Music by the Wolsieffer Orchestra of Philadelphia.

10.30 a. m. Commencement.

Orations by two members of the graduating class.

Conferring of degrees.

Commencement Oration, by Professor Albert H. Smyth, L. L. D., Head of Department of English Language and Literature, Central High School, Philadelphia.

2 p. m. Open Air Concert, on the Campus.

3 p. m. Baseball Game.

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#### AMONG THE COLLEGES

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An item of interest to those scientifically inclined is the recent appropriation of \$4,120 by Carnegie institution, for the investigation of the action of screw propellers under varying conditions. The work will be under the direction of Prof. W. F. Durand of Cornell, who has excellent facilities in the hydraulic canal at Beele lake for carrying on the work. Leland Stanford, Jr., University has

#### ALUMNI NOTES

Rev. Morgan A. Peters, '74, who has been received as a member of Philadelphia Classis, having accepted a call to Bethel Reformed Church, Philadelphia, will be installed on June 7th.

The Classis of Philadelphia licensed Carl G. Petri, '00.

Rev. J. C. Leonard, B. D., pastor of the First Reformed Church, Lexington, N. C., will, on May 25th., deliver the address before the Alumni Association of Guilford College, the well known Southern institution of the Society of Friends.

H. R. Miller, '02, is acting division manager of Phoenixville Division of the United Telegraph and Telephone Co.

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All Ursinus College students are cordially invited to inspect the College and the Clinical Amphitheatre at any time.

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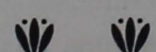
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