



## CLASS DAY MARKED BY PLAY AND ORATIONS

### "God of the Woods" Given

"The God of the Wood," given by the graduates on Class Day, seemed exactly suited to the campus setting where it was given.

The play was under the direction of Mildred Faulstich, and was unusually good. The white parrot helped make the action realistic.

#### CHARACTERS

A Shipwrecked Sailor	Robert A. Boyd
A Princess	Cynthia M. Hunt
A Boy	Elizabeth Ayars
A Prince	Donald L. Burdick
A Soldier	Orval Perry
An Old Woman	Audrey Haynes
A Rajah	Thomas C. Walker
His Son	Stanley Banks
A Fakir	Robert Armstrong

Following the play came the Mantle oration and the Alumni song. The ivy was then planted at Babcock Hall, and the exercises closed with the Alma Mater.

#### MANTLE ORATION

Given by Margaret Glaspey '22

Classmates, Alumni, and Friends: The year of nineteen twenty-two stands, for us, the Senior class, as the end—and the beginning. The end of four years of happy times—sad times; laughter—tears; play—work;—four years of being made broader, of having ideals strengthened, of finding out our weak points, and of growing into manhood and womanhood. It means the end of our life of irresponsibility, of being dependent, of taking all and giving nothing.....

Now it is our turn to begin, not to live because we are and have been living, but to make our lives worth more to ourselves and to others. It is the beginning, for us, of showing to the world that we are now men and women, ready to take up the tasks that we have chosen for a life-work. We have tried and successfully passed the first issue—the test of intellectual ability. The bigger, broader field of life is now open to us to go into and lay what we can at the feet of service.

In our four years of college life we have been preparing ourselves for this bigger, broader aspect of life—becoming more capable of taking up the responsibilities which they put upon us. Our Alma Mater is the one to which we must be grateful. In the years to come we will look back to her as the symbol of the best and truest in our lives.

Here we have made many friendships that will last for years and others that will last as long as we live. Here we have come in contact with and come to know many of our faculty and all have come to love our president. In knowing these men and women, we could not help being made the better and stronger for it. Here we have met with, combatted and overcome many obstacles, but with the successful completion of our College career, we feel amply repaid.

Continued on next page

## FRATERNITIES MOVE INTO NEW HOMES

Last Tuesday was "moving" day for the Eta Phi Gamma and the Delta Sigma Phi. The Delta Sig's transferred from the Castle to the house formerly owned by Susie Burdick on North Main street. This is a splendid location and a very pleasant home. The Eta Phi has moved from the house owned by Mr. Stillman on South Main, to the Prof. Binns' house. Both fraternities take possession in the fall. This general change shows gradual and steady progress in the fraternity life in Alfred. Ownership of the houses by their respective chapters should prove a strong incentive toward advancement.

## THE WEE PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS NEW PLAYS

ORIGINAL BILL THOROUGHLY ENJOYED

Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock the Wee Playhouse presented three original one-act plays, as follows:

"The Furnace," by Charles F. Binns and Elsie Binns  
 "The Election," by Morton E. Mix  
 "The Professor Stubs His Toe," by Paul E. Titsworth.

When the curtain was first drawn aside, the audience looked upon a realistic kiln with an old potter sitting in a thoughtful attitude at one side and a boy watching him with anxious eyes. The part of the potter was ably played by Professor Binns. He depicted the life and difficulties of the potters of early times so naturally that one might have imagined himself carried back centuries ago when the furnace was first known. Interest was centered in the kiln where an image was being brought to completion in the fire. The anxiety with which the potter and the boy awaited the opening of the furnace afforded a situation of intense interest for the audience.

"The Election" was a colorful romance in which the plot cleverly interwove love affairs with politics. Ellis Drake as Lehmann and Margaret Kinney as Kaethe Forster interpreted their parts well. For so large a cast, the acting was unusually snappy. There was no lag in interest from the beginning, when the curtain was drawn back to disclose the group of men at cards discussing the coming election of Rats Herr until the results of the election were made known in the climax.

Paul E. Titsworth's farce, "The Professor Stubs His Toe," was the source of much fun for the onlookers. Humorous all the way through, with parts well selected and well acted, the production deserves a great deal of commendation. Prof. Charles Adamec, acting the role of Darius Duffy, propounder and chief exponent of "Duffy's Memory System," did more than his share to make the play a success. Bertha Titsworth as "Sophonisbe" also introduced a great deal of action by the energetic manner in which she berated the professor when upon occasions the famous "Duffy Memory System" failed to work.

## GIBSON AGAIN TAKES TENNIS TITLE

### Drummond - Banks Team Wins Doubles

In the annual University tennis tournament, completed during the week of June 5, "Red" Gibson, the 1921 champion, again emerged victorious in the singles, defeating Drummond in the final match by a score of 7-5, 6-2. In the doubles the Gibson-Volk team, last year's champions, went down to defeat at the hands of Drummond and Banks by a score of 5-7, 6-2, 6-4.

Drummond easily won the semi-final of the singles tournament against Johnson and also beat Banks by a score of 7-5, 6-3. It was thought that Gibson would be given a tough battle in the final match, but "Red" came through true to form and again holds undisputed title to the tennis crown.

The Gibson-Volk team, apparently too sure of laurels, ran against a snag in the Banks-Drummond outfit and a lack of practice which was manifest throughout the match, lost the tournament for the 1921 "champs."

## ROSE BECKER AND ADA B. SEIDLIN GIVE CONCERT

ARTISTS' RECITAL MONDAY EVENING

Rose Becker of New York, assisted by Ada Becker Seidlin as accompanist, gave a violin recital in Firemens Hall, Monday evening.

The concert was one of the most delightful musical treats of the college year. Miss Becker, an artist of the finest type, chooses charming selections and plays them on a fine, mellow instrument. Her technic is of the Fritz Kreisler variety and, together with these accomplishments, a pleasing personality enables Miss Becker to hold her audience with ease.

Mrs. Seidlin played four selections on the piano together with encores. Hearty applause indicated the pleasure with which the listeners greeted these solos, and showed that townspeople as well as students, appreciate Mrs. Seidlin's playing.

It is said that Miss Becker will be here again next fall and it is certain that her coming will be anticipated with eager interest.

## "ARMS AND THE MAN" IS GREAT SUCCESS

### Footlight Club Play Much Enjoyed

An able cast, well coached by Arlotta Mix, gave a splendid production of Bernard Shaw's comedy, "Arms and the Man" at Firemens Hall Saturday evening.

The play deserves a detailed commendation and criticism, but limited space prevents that. Everyone who helped make this Footlight Club play a success, warrants the highest praise.

#### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Catherine Petkoff	Julia O'Brien
Raina—her daughter	Edith Teal
Louka—maid	Catherine Neuwiesinger
Captain Bluntschli	Robert Clark
Russian Officer	Irwin Conroe
Nicola—servant	John McMahon
Major Paul Petkoff	L. Clyde Dwight
Major Sergius Saranoff	T. J. Ahern

## PROFESSOR WHITFORD DISCUSSES VALUE OF BIBLE

### Assembly Address is Enlightening

In an assembly address, delivered on Wednesday, June 1, Prof. Whitford urged the students to consider the Bible as a guide book to good behavior. The Bible is not always infallible, said he, as times are ever changing and ethical standards as well as customs change from year to year, but the fundamentals of Christianity and the ethical teachings of the Bible remain the same.

Prof. Whitford warned the students against taking any small biblical passage and interpreting it literally. He took as illustrations words of Abraham and Isaiah, and pointed out how the standards of the present day far overreached them.

"Get from the Bible its spirit and its fundamental principles," the speaker urged. "The Bible is not a book of rules but it is a mine which holds solutions for present day problems."

In closing, the speaker urged that every student make a thorough study of the Bible, and he declared that if properly studied it would be found and infallible guide to living.

## EIGHTY-SIXTH COMMENCEMENT

### Twenty-four are Graduated, and Three Honorary Degrees are Conferred

#### HON. G. P. DARROW '80 GIVES ORATION

#### FIVE INTERESTING COMMENCEMENT DAYS

The 86th Commencement of Alfred University was marked by unusually impressive exercises during the five days, starting Saturday, June 10th.

The graduating class was the smallest in recent years due to the war conditions prevailing when the class of '22 entered college. Of the twenty-four graduates ten were students in the State School of Ceramics.

The Commencement program opened Saturday morning, when Rev. Charles C. MacLean of Batavia delivered the thirtieth annual sermon before the Christian Associations. During his address on "The Reward of Adventure," he stressed the value of the service ideal in life.

The subject of President B. C. Davis' Baccalaureate sermon, given Sunday evening at the church, was "Working With God." The deep vision of the president produced an eloquent plea for increased education, social regeneration, and spiritual outlook.

Three programs of plays featured the Commencement exercises. "Arms and the Man," a three-act comedy by Bernard Shaw, was creditably presented by the Footlight Club of the college on Saturday evening. Three original plays by members of the Wee Playhouse were given before an appreciative audience Monday afternoon. The other dramatic offering was "The God of the Wood," given on the campus by the graduates as a part of the class day exercises Tuesday afternoon.

The mantle oration and the ivy oration, with the play and alumni song, comprised the class day program.

The annual concert was given Monday evening by Rose Becker, violinist, and Ada Becker Seidlin, pianist. These two artists were much applauded by the audience which filled Firemens Hall.

The alumni dinner, held Tuesday evening in Ladies Hall, was attended by 250 of Alfred's best friends. F. L. Titsworth '08, of New York, president of the Alumni Association, acting as toastmaster, introduced several able speakers, including Congressman G. P. Darrow and President Davis.

The climax of the festival week came Wednesday morning, when the 86th Commencement added twenty-four alumni from the class of '22. The senior oration entitled "The Spirit of American Literature," was given by Florence Bowden, and the doctor's oration was delivered by Congressman Darrow of Philadelphia.

President Davis gave the annual address before conferring the degrees. In his report the president mentioned the illness of Dr. Ide, professor of philosophy, and the death of Edgar H. Cottrell, a trustee of Alfred since 1899. Those were the two most unfortunate events of the college life during the past year. The review of the attendance showed an increase of 24% over the previous year. Omitting 176 duplicates, there were 544 students registered in all departments. 104 of these were in the Freshman class, which was 27% larger than in the previous year.

The president also noted the changes made in the faculty during the past year. He spoke of the two new fraternity houses to be put in use next fall, and the chemistry lab building, which will be ready then. After telling of the great success of the

#### IMPRESSIVE EXERCISES

Wednesday morning at ten o'clock the familiar tones of the Chapel bell gave the signal for the procession of faculty and seniors to begin their march from the Carnegie Library to Chapel Hall to participate in the Commencement exercises.

Rev. Charles C. MacLean gave the invocation, which was followed by a vocal duet by Hazel Stillman Truman and Amelia M. Tubbs, "Only to Thee." The two voices blended very well and the selection added to the solemnity of the occasion. The senior oration was presented by Florence Bowden, on the subject of "The Spirit of American Literature." Miss Rose Becker, accompanied by Mrs. Seidlin, played a violin solo, "Romance" by Wieniawski, which was heartily applauded. Following the doctor's oration, Florence Bowden gave a pleasing soprano solo. The main points of the annual report given by President Davis are given elsewhere. After conferring degrees in course on the twenty-four graduates, the president conferred honorary degrees on Rev. Charles C. MacLean (D. D.), Frank L. Bartlett (LL. D.) and Hon. G. P. Darrow (LL. D.)

#### Doctor's Oration

The feature of morning's exercises was the eloquent address by Congressman Darrow on "Our Treaty Navy." After devoting the first part of his oration to personal recollections of college and to a review of America's naval history, the speaker emphasized present-day problems in the following words:

In reaching an agreement on the limitation of naval armament, the settlement of Far Eastern and Pacific questions were matters of prime importance.

Until recently the only cloud upon our international horizon was our inability to reach a complete agreement with Japan.

While the objective was Yap Island, yet the problem went very much farther. That was but an incident in the larger sphere. All the Allied nations were involved in the question of war or peace in the Orient.

Our abiding friendship for China, which is quite historic, induced much concern about her future as a sovereign nation, unhindered by outside interference, that no country shall take advantage of her unhappy state to secure any special rights or privileges.

We also had our racial questions in Hawaii and the Philippines, together with a more or less sensitiveness growing out of state restrictions, such as those in California.

Our concern about Japan fortifying her mandated islands on our road to the Philippines, together with our friendly sympathy with Japan in her laudable ambition to expand, in case it was not done at the sacrifice of other sovereignties, such as China and Russia, all produced what has been denominated our Oriental problems.

When viewed in the light of Japan's War with China in 1894, with Russia in 1904, and her claims at the close of

Continued on page four

recent Improvement Fund, which now totals \$437,000, President Davis told of the further needs of Alfred. These include a gymnasium, chapel building, science hall, dormitories and endowments for the professorships of chemistry, biology, english and education.

### MANTLE ORATION

Continued from page one

During this, our last year, we have felt a great pride in certain things. Among these, the greatest is the pride of being allowed the privilege of wearing the symbol and badge which typifies so much. To us, it signifies that we have successfully undergone the strictest test—that of intellectual achievement, it signifies four years of associations with professors and classmates; friendships; and—the honor we now feel in being able to represent our Alma Mater. We are proud because it signifies development of character—socially as well as intellectually and spiritually.

The mantle gives life a new phase. It embodies not only the past and present, but also the future—that work toward the life of service to which we have directed our footsteps. The door is open to us and we must leave behind us all that we love and cherish, keeping only the memories of our victories, defeats and all the rest. That of which we have been so proud must now be handed on to the next class. We are glad to know that it is passing into hands that will cherish and guard it as we have cherished and guarded it; that with its traditions and symbolism you will feel the loyalty to the Alma Mater that it has and does inspire in us. To you the class of 1923, we the class of 1922, pass this cap and gown. Take it—with our congratulations, and may you have a happy and successful future.

Response by Fredericka Vossler '23

In behalf of the class of 1923, it is my privilege to accept this mantle, with the promise that we will carry on the work the class of 1922 has thus far so well advanced. We realize the dignity and worth of the duties and responsibilities this mantle bestows upon us, and pledge ourselves to do our best to uphold the honor, the allegiance, and the tradition which this symbol of all that is good and best represents.

### IVY ORATION

Orval L. Perry

This is indeed, for us the class of '22, an occasion of happy reflections as we look back upon the four years that we have spent here, but also it is one of sadness when we are reminded that the time has come for us to leave. During the few years that we have been at Alfred we have learned to love her most dearly.

Four years we have spent on this campus amidst the beauty of these hills and the grandeur of this valley. Every tree, every sparkling stream, every grassy knoll has a meaning for us that we cannot define. Four times autumn with its varied hues has caused us to wonder at the fineness of God's art. Four winters we have breathed the clear, crystal atmosphere and have seen God's purity written on the landscape. Each spring we have witnessed a new creation, and enthused, we have been filled with a new hope and a bigger faith in man and God. In us there has grown a finer appreciation of things beautiful. We have learned to find infinite meaning in the commonplace.

Not only in nature have we found good and truth but we have learned much in the daily contact with our fellow men. As fellow-students our relations have been fruitful as well as pleasant during the past four years. During that time we have witnessed each others struggle, sacrifices, failures and successes, and we have been broadened and helped by them. There has come to us a realization of the higher ideals that we must attain to as social beings. We have come to know more intimately God's master creation and to appreciate its infinite value. In our relation with each other on the campus and in the class-room, in athletics and on social occasions we have made acquaintances which we shall never forget—which indeed we do not wish to forget.

But above all, to those leaders, who have made Alfred what it is today, do we owe gratitude and appreciation for their patience and perseverance, both to those who have spent their devotion in the past and to those who are now striving to uphold the honor and the names of those who have gone before. Through difficulties, often, have they had to toil to achieve their

ends and yet cheerfully and willingly have they lent their aid and wider experience that we might attain what we sought. In our search for knowledge they have made for us higher ideals. Through their guidance we feel confident that we have attained in some measure true wisdom. Thus it is that we have grown to hold them in high esteem and to respect their wisdom and advice.

These are the ties that bind us in love and loyalty to Alfred and our Alma Mater and it is through these that we have reached those ideals which we now cherish. We have come to know a deeper meaning in life, to appreciate more fully the wonders of God's universe and the wealth of the human soul. Many narrow ideas have been drowned in the past and new ideals have been woven into the fabric of our being. There has come to us a clearer conception of the purpose of creation and with it a desire to co-operate for the furtherance of that end.

With these thoughts and emotions are we filled as we plant this ivy. As it grows and twines about this building, may it be symbolic of what Alfred means to us. May it be nurtured by the soil of that Alfred which we hold dear. May it as it grows and clings to these walls be significant of the attachment we have for those who have been our leaders and guides. And may it as it branches out in every direction represent us going forth into the world, carrying with us the Alfred spirit.

### ORGANIZATION OFFICERS, 1922-23

Student Senate—  
R. M. Campbell '23, Pres.  
Irwin Conroe '23, Vice Pres.  
Mary Mead '24, Sec.  
John McMahon '23  
Max Jordan '24  
Ethel Hayward '23, S. A. G. representative  
Lyle Cady '25, representative  
Class of 1923—  
Burt Bliss, Pres.  
Marion Woodward, Vice Pres.  
Frances Otis, Sec.  
Robert Lyman, Treas.  
Class of 1924—  
Mary Wells, Pres.  
Frank Gibson, Vice Pres.  
Margaret Gross, Sec.  
Howard Griffith, Treas.  
Class of 1925—  
Harry Hoehn, Pres.  
Hilda Harris, Vice Pres.  
Elizabeth Richard, Sec.  
Ray Horton, Treas.  
"Si" Stannard, sergeant-at-arms  
Y. M. C. A.—  
Edward Teal, Pres.  
Fred Gorab, Sec.  
Y. W. C. A.—  
M. Lucretia Vossler, Pres.  
Elizabeth Richardson, Sec.  
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Mary Mead  
Elizabeth Richardson  
Garland Smith  
Delta Sigma Phi—Robert M. Campbell, Pres.  
Brick—Fredericka Vossler, Pres.  
Eta Phi Gamma—Max Jordan, Pres.  
Klan Alpine—Irwin Conroe, Pres.  
Theta Theta Chi—Marjorie Beebe, Pres.

### SENIORS ENTERTAINED

President and Mrs. B. C. Davis entertained the graduates of '22 at a delightful picnic Monday afternoon. After the supper and a social hour, the Seniors left the hospitable home of "Prexy" and Mrs. Davis, hoping that later years would offer many chances to repay their loving kindness.

### BRICK PERSONALS

Miss Ruth Kinney was the guest of her sister Margaret last week-end. Mrs. Haynes and her little daughter of Cuba are here for Commencement.

Lucretia Vossler and Delora Sanford are planning to be leaders at the Allegany county camp for children at Cuba for the summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Faulstick of Oswego, were guests at the Brick during Commencement week.

Helen Smalley is planning to spend the summer in New York.

Mrs. Vossler spent Commencement week with her daughters.

Miss Bleiman, Margaret and Catherine Neuweisinger and Anna Martin will motor home the latter part of June.

The Brick girls were glad to welcome Christine Hurd '21, Mary Hunting '19, and Helen Kies '20, and other alumnae at Alfred.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Hildebrand of Hornell were the guests of Frances Otis Sunday.

Elizabeth Moore and Mildred Babcock are going to summer school at Benoit College.

Beulah Sutton is spending two weeks at the home of Eleanor Craig in Candor.

—C. Loomis Allen of Stamford, Ct., is among the University trustees in attendance at the business meetings of that board this week.

—Dean Paul E. Titsworth is to give the commencement address for the Cuba high school on June 26th.

—Miss Elsie Binns, who has been with her sister, Mrs. Frederic Bonnett at Ridley Park, N. J., has returned home.

—Miss Elizabeth Davis, who is teaching at Pittsford, was the guest of her parents, Pres. and Mrs. B. C. Davis, over the week-end.

—Miss Mable Hood of Washington, D. C., is greeting friends in Alfred this week, and attending the Commencement exercises of her Alma Mater.

—Prof. and Mrs. A. H. Radasch left Monday for Springfield, Mass., where they will spend the summer. Prof. Radasch expects to return next fall.

—Allan J. Williams, class of 1911, is to be supervising principal of the schools of Canistota next year and is to teach in the summer school of the Potsdam Normal.

—Dr. Daniel C. Main of Washington, D. C., who has been attending a medical convention in Quebec, Canada, and who was one of the speakers, is visiting his father, Dean Main.

—Lewis T. Clawson of Brooklyn, N. Y., a student in Alfred in 1861, has been an interested visitor in town this week. Mr. Clawson sees many changes on the campus since his last visit.

—Harry Boyd, one of Alfred's recent football stars, who has been located on the Bonilevo Farms at Batavia, has changed his location to the West Lawn Farm, Johnson City, N. Y.

### SCHOLARSHIP INDICES

Organization	Year '20-21	1921-22		1922	
		First Term	Second Term	Third Term	Year '21-22
Whole College	1.76	1.49	1.52	1.62	1.57
Seniors	2.12	1.79	1.83	1.97	1.91
Juniors	1.68	1.56	1.70	1.87	1.74
Sophomores	1.68	1.51	1.54	1.62	1.58
Freshmen	1.66	1.39	1.38	1.47	1.42
Delta Sigma Phi	1.37	0.81	1.02	1.17	1.00
Eta Phi Gamma	1.38	1.39	1.39	1.54	1.44
Klan Alpine	1.60	1.90	1.43	1.73	1.68
Theta Theta Chi		1.47	1.61	1.81	1.63
Fraternities		1.28	1.30	1.50	1.36
Non Fraternities		1.61	1.76	1.72	1.69

In determining the indices — each hour at A counts 3 points, and each lower mark one point less.

The average for the college as a whole as well as those of the four classes was obtained by dividing the total number of points by the total number of hours for the year and is not, therefore, the average of the indices of the three terms. For the fraterni-

ties the average for the year is the average for the three terms.

It is very pleasing to note that the index of every organization for the third term was higher than the corresponding one for the second term. The non-fraternity group, which is not organized, had a slightly lower index the third term than the second.

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## GOOD BYE! GOOD LUCK!

With this issue of Fiat Lux the present staff makes its "fade-out." At the last meeting of the year the staff chose Lloyd Lanphere editor for the coming year. To him and to his associates we give sincerest wishes for good luck. We hope that at least 100 alumni will be added to the subscription list next year, so that enough money will remain in June, 1923 to print a 6-page Commencement issue. Good bye! Good luck!

At the final meeting of the Footlight Club, the following new members were elected: Catherine Neuweisinger, Edith Teal, Frank Gibson, Anna Martin, Constance Spaulding and Ernest Eaton.

Ralph Smith has the honor and responsibility of leading the 1923 track team. He was recently elected captain by the Varsity squad of 1922.

## MR. BONHOMME

A short time ago a certain clique of some of our diligent and conscientious citizens, genus gossipiphus, got together to—well—to talk over a few matters. One result was a remarkable census which we take the liberty to print.

Census April, 1922

Widows in Alfred.....53

Post Debs .....31

Bachelors .....20

Laus Deo! What a reputation for our village. Yet it is from this group a town derives much of its distinction and in which it finds those peculiarities, human hieroglyphics, such as one could describe Dickens-wise. A town is known by its vagaries. There is another type not so noticeable but equally characteristic, including those quiet persons who form a natural and essential background. Where they came from one does not know, or forgets; they simply are. Such a one is Don Roof.

Don is a jovial-looking person although rather quiet and unobtrusive. His chief walk is from one of those mysterious stairways leading to dim upper regions, where Don evidently lives, to a certain brick block of which he is the sole custodian. Thus one may meet him on the street. He will be seriously intent on some business—Tenant Fidget says her door squeaks or drummer wants a room for the night. Then when he sees you he is always ready with a greeting. He is a happy combination of workman and gentleman. Khaki-colored trousers denote the workman. The picture is completed by a black coat, snugly fitting a robust figure; a dapper little bow neck-tie; a black top derby which does service for a good share of all the seasons, a round, ruddy face, and finally a certain pen de chose superimposed on the upper lip, popularly termed a mustache. It's very brevity gives the wearer a youthful semblance increased also by a pair of

round tortoise-shell glasses behind which Don's genial eyes look at you. Don Roof belongs to the twenty. He is a model bachelor—there is no mistake in the fact. Proofs? He tends strictly to his own business, cooks his own meals, cultivates a garden, cans his fruit and other garden produce, is never seen with a woman, and sews on his own buttons. Could more proof be needed?

There is a bit of art in every man. That which Don enjoys is the careful and precise outlining and painting of letters or figures. When one sees them on some sign board or on some class banner one is apt to forget they were drawn by a skillful and ready draftsman. No matter how busy, he is always ready to accommodate. Such is our Don Roof: "and he was a jolly old fellow—always cheerful."

OUIJA.

## SENIOR ORATION

### The Spirit of American Literature

By Florence Bowden

The spirit of a people, like the spirit of a man, is influenced by heredity, but this heredity is not merely physical, it is spiritual. There is a transmission of qualities through the soul as well as through the flesh. There is an intellectual paternity. The soul of America today is the lineal descendant of the soul of the Puritan and Cavalier. Thus in all our literature, veiled by the mannerisms and egotism of men lie hidden the flowers of thought, America's Ideals, which were planted many years ago in our struggles for Independence.

Europeans assert America has not produced "intellectual giants," men with master minds, whose works show the unmistakable stamp of genius. Methinks we have done so—and more; America has brought forth men of unflinching courage, of simple faith and kindly heart; men, like Jonathan Edwards and Franklin, who saw the birth of the new nation; men like Lincoln, who saw that nation strengthened by the results of a Civil War; men like Lowell and Whitman, who have written to preserve that nation. Those men, to whom we bow in reverence, as the makers of our country, have given marrow to American Literature. Had not our forefathers who had the power to build an independent America, the power to build an independent literature? Can not a nation who has produced leaders in affairs, produce leaders in letters? Were not those fathers of a generation ago, who fought for the abolition of slavery, inspired by that spirit of humanity which is found in our writings of today?

Our Colonial forefathers were an intellectual people; they were a race of idealists and England wondered that they wrote no literature of their own as the work of an individual people. We Americans know that those men were engaged in the fundamental work of laying the physical foundation of a nation. It was for those stern, God-fearing Puritan fathers to build homes in a vast wilderness; it was for them to establish colleges that future generations might be bettered; it was for them to erect churches as a monument to that ideal for which they left the English fire-sides. Theology dominated the first century of our independent history. Men talked theology, lived theology and wrote theology. They cherished an intense inner and other worldly life, and contributed quickened conscience to American spirit. Literature in our modern sense meant little to them. The Bible was their inspiration and reference. Jonathan Edwards and Cotton Mather reflected the religious interest of Colonial life.

They were giants in their own generation, but their works did not live as literature.

In the second century of our country's history theology gave way to politics. As American literature thus emerged from its isolation, it had become more practical, more worldly, more intent on solving the problems of the present—of society, and of government. The eighteenth century men were unimaginative. The establishment of a state was their thought and aim. They contributed the ideals of equality and even-handed justice to American life. They created works of worth but not of literature.

Even at the beginning of the nineteenth century Sydney Smith, an eminent English critic, could rightly ask, "Who reads an American book?" America then was young. She was a country of fact and not of legend. Hers was, apparently an unromantic past and a practical present. Her written works, few of which were literature by 1820, had not impressed the reading public. Yet as if in challenge to Sydney Smith's question, with Washington Irving's Sketch book published in 1819, America had launched her first ship upon the sea of liter-

Continued on last page

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ELOISE CLARKE, EDITOR

ELIZABETH BACON, SEC.-TREAS.

## MANY FRIENDS OF ALFRED GATHER HERE

The alumni and visitors who returned to Alfred for Commencement included Amey VanHorn and Burdette Crofoot of the Milton College faculty, David Robinson of Zanesville, Ohio, Eloise Clarke of Wellsville, all of '21; Christine Hurd of Olean, Hollice Law of Kane, Pa. G. A. Vossler of Wellsville, Catherine Langworthy of Scio, and Harold Reid of Yonkers, all of '20; Mary Hunting of Lockport, Vincent Axford of New Orleans, and Mrs. Clesson Poole of Pittsburgh, of the class of '19; Ruth Phillips '11, who has spent the past year studying in Boston; Norah Binns '12 of Columbus, Ohio; M. G. Babcock '15, of Pittsburgh; C. L. Allen of Stamford, Conn.; Mathilde Vossler '14, who has spent the past three years in Y. W. work in Russia and Turkey; Rev. A. G. Lawton '08, of Angelica; Olin Simpson '13 of Avoca; Col. W. W. Brown of Bradford, Pa.; Hon. and Mrs. J. J. Merrill of Albany; Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Spicer of Plainfield, N. J.; Mabel Hood '17 of Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Parsons of Rochester; Dr. and Mrs. R. C. Taber of Buffalo; Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Clausen of Syracuse; Dr. Anna L. Waite and son of Westery, R. I.; Mrs. Belle Hawkins of Bradford, Pa.; Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Bowden of Shiloh, N. J.; Judson G. Rosebush '00 of Appleton, Wis.; Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Bliss of New Bedford, Mass.; Mr. and Mrs. John Haynes of Rushford; Mr. and Mrs. Lamott Breese, Mrs. O. J. Bowman and Mrs. Halsey Sayles of Horseheads; Mrs. Laura Quackenbush, Rev. M. G. Smith and C. J. Clark of Hornell; Orra S. Rogers '94 of Plainfield; Dr. Herbert L. Wheeler of New York; Judge E. W. Hatch of Friendship; F. L. Bartlett of Olean; Hon. Horace B. Packer of Wellsboro, Pa.; Mrs. Della Sullivan of Clyde, N. Y.; Mrs. Peter

B. McClellan of Syracuse; Wm. Dunn '07, of LeRoy; Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Boyce of Buffalo; Marjorie E. Beebe '04 of Coudersport, Pa.; Wm. H. Garwood '14 of Canaseraga; and Rev. Walter Greene '02, Andover; S. B. Crandall '97, Anna Laura Crandall and Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Clark of Independence.

—Gilbert M. Fess '12, who has been teaching the past year in Philadelphia, was in Alfred Saturday.

—Miss Marion Roos was down from Buffalo over the week-end. Miss Roos graduated from Alfred in 1920, and is president of the Alfred alumni Association of Buffalo for the coming year.

—Elmer Mapes, Alfred '20, who had been elected principal of the Richburg high school for another year, has resigned that position to accept the position of assistant in history in Cornell University.

—Mr. and Mrs. Clesson O. Poole are spending a few days with Supt. and Mrs. George Smith. Mr. Poole is on his way to Pittsburgh, where he will again take up work with the Aluminum Company of America.

—Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Titsworth of New York are in Alfred this week. Mr. Titsworth is to give up his work as manager of the circulation department of Scribner's Magazine, on July 1st, and will go to Providence, R. I., where he will take up the advertising end of the oldest established paint manufacturing company of New England.

## DOCTOR'S ORATION

Continued from page one

the World War, it was clear to the mind of the President that no agreement would be reached by the Conference on the Limitation of Armament without the settlement of these questions too.

Great as was the result of the Limitation of Armament, it is the general opinion that it fades in comparison with the results of the Far East and Pacific questions.

Shantung goes back to China, and one wrong of the Versailles Treaty was righted. Whereupon Great Britain turned back to China Weihawei. While the 21 points were not given up by Japan, the serious Group 5 was given up, which was an additional achievement not included in the agenda.

On December 10, 1921, in the fourth plenary session of the Conference, Mr. Hughes called the roll of the world and entered upon the record a unanimous vote on the most sensitive foreign questions effecting the sovereignty of China and the amity of nations.

The Arms Conference not only succeeded in the acceptance of our original proposals, but went further by limiting warfare, so the Far East and Pacific problems succeeded beyond the original purposes, succeeding in the adjustment of items not included in the agenda since they had been covered by treaties.

The Senate of the United States has ratified all the Seven Treaties negotiated by the Washington Conference, including a declaration accompanying the Four Power Treaty, which perhaps was the most important one of all, by which we have made the greatest sacrifice and the greatest renunciation ever made by a nation in the cause of peace.

Under the terms of the Treaty for Limitation of Armament we have agreed to scrap 28 battleships, 13 of which, now building, were to be the most powerful engines of war ever conceived by the mind of man.

We scrap property at a value estimated at \$400,000,000. We renounce for a generation to come the power to be the reigning mistress of the Seven Seas.

We of Congress, and you of the people, approve the sacrifice and the renunciation, because we have no sordid ends to serve, because we contemplate or apprehend no contest—content with what we have we seek nothing which is another.

Competitive building against friend-

ly nations with whom we desire only friendship and good will is unnecessary, extravagant and ill-timed; when in its place we can substitute an agreement whereby our present proportion of relative strength may be maintained.

In arriving at the 5-5-3 ratio our delegates cut to the bone and went to the very limit in generosity. The sacrifices of other great powers were less than ours. Great Britain had no new ships to scrap; her four Super-Hoods had been authorized but not laid down.

There seems to be a general impression that the Treaty Navy consists of 18 battleships with little else, whereas it consists of 18 battleships and 5 plane carriers, including 2 of the 43,000 ton battle cruisers now building which may be converted into 33,000 ton airplane carriers of 34 7-10 knots speed, and in addition all the light cruisers, destroyers, mining ships and auxiliaries we choose to build.

While the Conference was unable either to abolish or limit submarines, it stated, with clarity and force, the existing rules of international law which condemned the abhorrent practices followed in the recent war in the use of submarines against merchant vessels and in the use of poison gas.

To return to our pre-war basis would be impossible, for at that time we had no aviation service, no mining service, or no submarine service worthy of mention.

It is most essential that in times of peace we should have all types of ships in commission and a personnel of sufficient strength for safety and to meet emergencies.

We should not seek total disarmament in the vain hope that it will prevent war, or assume that the Navy is only a destructive force, when as a matter of fact it is really a constructive arm of the government, and wherever the Navy goes it betters local conditions, establishes schools and improves public health. A fine example of such work is the accomplishment of the Navy in this direction in Panama, and in Cuba and Porto Rico following the Spanish War.

## SENIOR ORATION

Continued from page three

ature. Irving painted an America of legend and romance. He was a discoverer, having a seeing eye and an understanding heart. Every valley offered him the blue flower of sentiment; every hill and mountain yielded him its unspoken legend. With golden threads he interwove romanticism

with reality. Thus America made her beginning in letters.

Since 1819, the United States has assumed a definite part in world literature. Cooper, Simms, and Hawthorne, men, inspired by the histories of our forefathers, have written stirring novels, which have filled the American mind with awe and wonder at their courage. Longfellow, Whittier, and Lanier, poets, rich in the love of God and home, have won their way into a multitude of hearts. Lowell and his fellow critics have planted our ideals of democracy in fertile fields and have lived to see an abundant harvest.

Striving always for a country's interest, and working for the heart of a people, our men have written of a land of freedom, of love and humanity, of an eternal faith and hope in God. America has been called the "Melting Pot" of the world and from the lips of those to whom she has been a refuge, will flow prayers for her existence, and from the pens of those to whom she has given liberty will flow words which will keep her immortal.

Now, what are the true characteristics of American literature? But first, what are the characteristics of the literature of any nation? Literature the expression of the observations and aspirations of a country in the form of beauty—beauty of language and of thought. Foreigners have been so anxious to find something strikingly original in our literature that they have neglected to catch the true spirit of America herself, that spirit which inspires our authors to write as they do.

One, outstanding fact in our literature is an illimitable faith in our Father. Are we so far removed from the past that the teachings of our Puritan ancestors lie dormant within us? Can we not feel in the works of such men as Whittier and Longfellow, the influence of an Almighty heart and mind? American literature is American in holding and revering those ideals of generations ago. The heart of our people is still old-fashioned in its adherence to the idea that every man is responsible to a higher moral and spiritual Power. Even writers, like Whitman and Mark Twain, who are moved by a sense of revolt against the confusion and severity of theological creeds, attempt not so much to escape from religion as to find a clearer, nobler and more loving expression of that religion. Even in those works which deal with non-religious subjects, one feels the implication of a spiritual background, a sense of moral law, and a Divine Providence.

A second notable fact in our literature is the expression of love for Nature. We are lovers of the big out-of-doors, the handwork of our Creator. How many like Parkman have written of the bounding and boundless prairies? How many like Longfellow have delighted us with the murmurs of the forest? Lanier has given melody equalled by no other poet in his "Marshes of Glynn." Yes, nature is beloved by Americans, and the ideal has wound its way into the hearts of our poets and found expression there. Bryant, that noble man, to whom we are indebted as the first poet of our nation, appears as the High Priest of Nature. The solemnity of the forest, the beauty of the flower, the mystery of human life found expression through his pen. Nature's grandeur, her immensity, her sublimity appealed to him profoundly. In her presence he bowed down his soul as one who worships. She was alive and he responded to her life. His thoughts centered around her mysteries, and in "To a Waterfowl," he writes:

"Whither, midst falling dew,  
While glow the heavens with the last  
steps of day,  
Far, through their rosy depths dost  
thou pursue  
Thy solitary way?"

A third important fact in American literature is its humour. In a region of incongruities created because of the contrast between things as they really are, the way in which dull or self-important people usually talk about them, American humour plays. It is not irreverent toward the realities, but for the conventionalities the absurdities, the pomposities of life, it has a habit of friendly satire and good-tempered

raillery. It delights in exposing pretensions by gravely carrying them to the point of wild extravagance. It usually wears a sober face, and speaks with a quiet voice. It finds its material in subjects which are laughable but not odious; in people who are ridiculous, but not hateful. It flavors the talk of the street and of the dinner table, and our books abound with a general tone of mock gravity, good nature and inward laughter. All the world knows Mark Twain, America's greatest humorist. Lord Curzon, Chancellor of Oxford, said on June 26, 1907, in conferring degree of doctor of literature on Mark Twain; "Sir, you shake the sides of the world with your merriment."

A fourth characteristic of American literature of which I wish to speak, is its spirit of humanity. It is not an unkind country, this big republic where manners are so "free and easy" and where life seems to move at such a rapid pace. The feeling of philanthropy, the impulse to help, the desire to sympathize, is in the blood of our people. Underneath the surface of American life, often rough and careless, lies this wide spread feeling that it is every man's duty to do good, and not evil to those who live in the world with him. Our literature overflows with this spirit. It has led writers to look for subjects among plain people; it has given a noble note to our prose and poetry; it has opened a way to the American mind and heart. Walt Whitman, our American poet, to whom no other poet in the world can be compared, wrote from a heart of sympathy.

"One self I sing—a simple separate person,  
Yet utter the word democratic, the

word En-masse  
Of physiology from top to toe I sing,  
Of life immense in passion, pulse and power,  
Cheerful, for freest action formed  
under the laws divine,  
The modern man I sing."

Love for humanity is the goal toward which we strive; it is the essence of our life-blood; it is the full blown flower of the seeds of liberty and justice; it is the token of our country, symbolized by that huge statue which sheds its light o'er all the world. America is a democratic country made so by the toil and prayers of those who by their noble work have made possible an American literature with justice and faith as its watchwords.

Has American literature failed? Not when we understand the motives of the men who have written it, men inspired by the ideals of our country. Our authors have spoken surely to the heart of a great people. They have kept the fine ideals of the past alive in the conflicts of the present. They have lightened the labors of weary days. They have left their readers a little happier, perhaps a little wiser, certainly a little stronger and braver for the battle and work of life. More and more in the discerning observations of life; in the exalted aspirations and in the expression of the beauty which form the glory of our American letters, the American people find a pillar-cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to lead them on their way to the eternal sky.

"O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties,  
Above the fruited plain!  
America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea."

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