

The American University Dinner Club at Paris.

At the beginning of the past Winter, a movement was started in Paris, with a view to promoting the mutual acquaintance and good-fellowship of the American college men in the French capital. The project proved highly successful, and on Thanksgiving Day a banquet of forty-five covers was held at the Hôtel Continental to inaugurate the American University Club. The Hon. J. B. Eustis (Harvard), United States Ambassador to France, presided, and speeches were made in a most felicitous vein by the four foreign guests of the club, M. Lavissee of the French Academy, M. Lombard of the Lycée Michelet, M. Bartholdi the sculptor, and Mr. Austin Lee, C. B., of the British Embassy, as well as by Prof. Wm. Sloane of Columbia. Graduates of twenty American universities and colleges were present, Yale being represented by Ralph Thompson, '90, and Dr. F. O. Chamberlain, '91 M. S.

On Washington's Birthday the second banquet was held, and was even more successful than the first, the company (including five foreign guests) numbering sixty. The occasion was a memorable one, and one of which American college men may be proud, for at this dinner held in honor of the Father of American Independence, the chair was occupied with grace and dignity by none other than Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador to France, Sir Edmund Munson (Oxford). The toasts responded to were as follows:

Washington and the Mother Country—His Excellency Sir Edmund Munson (Oxford), Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador.

Washington and the French Alliance—M. Joseph Fabre of the French Senate. The French Universities—M. Ferdinand Brunetière, of the French Academy.

France and the American Universities—Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

Modern Journalism and the University Man—M. de Blowitz, of the London Times.

The American Universities—Professor Adolphe Cohn, of Columbia University. "Washington"—Mr. Francis Vielé-Griffin.

The banquet was enlivened between the courses and speeches by the college songs of the Quartier Latin Glee Club of American college men.

The following are the members of the club: George F. Barnard, Brown; A. C. Barney, Brown; William Young Brady, Lehigh; Henry Cachard, Paris; Dr. F. O. Chamberlain, Yale; A. N. Connett, Rensselaer; Col. T. Connolly, New York Univ.; John Joseph Conway, Notre Dame; Dr. E. A. Crane, Amherst; Dr. B. T. Deering, Bowdoin; Donald Downie, McGill; Henry P. du Bellet, Paris; Hon. J. B. Eustis, Harvard; Dr. Thomas W. Evans, Jefferson; Wm. Morton Fullerton, Harvard; C. B. Gosling, Columbia; C. G. King, Jr., Brown; Frederick H. Lee, Columbia; Vice-Consul Gen. MacLean, Paris; Morton Mitchell, Harvard; John Monroe, Harvard; Frederick J. Parsons, Williams; Henry Peartree, London; E. K. Putnam, Chicago; Gen. J. M. Read, Brown (deceased); T. Gaines Roberts, Annapolis; Lieut. Com. Rodgers, Annapolis; Fairman Rogers, Pennsylvania; Prof. Wm. M. Sloane, Columbia; Dr. J. H. Spaulding, Pennsylvania; Theodore Stanton, Cornell; Ralph Thompson, Yale; Rev. Dr. E. G. Thurber, Michigan; Ernest Thurnauer, Munich; Dr. Stephen H. Tyng, Williams; George E. Vail, Columbia; Dr. T. H. Walker, Michigan; J. Gould Weld, New York University; G. Smith Wheaton, Hamilton.

Lecture and Concert Program.

The following lectures and concerts are open to Yale students:—

April 8—"Representation of Greek Worship," by Prof. Fairbanks, at 7:45 p. m. in Phelps Hall.

April 22.—Concert by the New Haven Symphony Orchestra in the College Street Hall.

April 23.—"Journalism in England," by George W. Smalley, '53, the New York correspondent of the London Times, under the auspices of the Yale Union.

April 27.—University Chamber concert by Kneisel Quartet of Boston.

April 28.—"The Great Basin," Prof. W. H. Brewer, in Boardman School.

May 5.—"Greenland," Prof. W. H. Brewer, in Boardman School.

Graduate Courses Increased.

The pamphlet of courses of instruction in the Graduate School of Yale University for 1897-8, has just been sent to press and will be the largest one ever published, containing 98 pages, while last year it covered 85 pages, and 35 pages six years ago. The number of courses offered has risen since last year from 269 to 299; the number of students registered from 181 to 230.

The large increase in the number of courses is in the Department of Natural and Physical Science, in which 54 courses are now offered, instead of 43 for 1896-'97. The apparent increase in the Department of Classical Philology, etc., is somewhat greater, from 47 to 60, but this is due in part to the fact that the courses in Sanskrit, which have been reckoned with the other Oriental languages, are now classed with Latin and Greek. The real increase in the number of available and important courses for graduate students is greater than appears on the surface, since some undergraduate courses no longer appear as offered to graduates, and the courses prevailing now run through the entire year, instead of being for a term or a semester, as was the case with many courses at Yale a few years ago, and as is the custom at most universities. The amount of time given by professors of Yale University to graduate instruction is fully twice as much as six years ago, and the Graduate Department is much more fully organized.

Professor Phillips, Dean of the Department, spoke of its progress as follows: "The increase in the number of students within ten years from 56 to 230 has increased greatly the mutual stimulus and helpfulness of the common life of research. In this connection attention may be called to the growing perfection of the system of clubs, or voluntary associations of instructors of advanced students for the reading of papers and oral discussions. No university of the country has more active and useful clubs of this kind."

Called a Bimetallic Victory.

(Denver Evening Post.)

It is in the academic halls of the colleges and universities that bigotry and intolerance on the question of bimetalism has most obtained, and therefore the decisive victory which Yale won from Harvard last night in Cambridge, Mass., in debating the negative of the question, "Resolved, That the United States should adopt definitively a single gold standard, even if Great Britain, France and Germany should be unwilling to enter the bimetallic league," has significance.

The weak point in the affirmative of the question is very self-evident and Yale should have had the decision despite the brilliant showing of the blue's debaters. But the goldbugs are so positive of the truth, morality, and righteousness of their cause and the impossibility to defeat it in argument, that it was well the question was so rigorously stated. It was a clear, intellectual fight between gold monometallism and bimetalism and the defeat of goldism in its stronghold, the colleges, is very pleasant to record as a sign of the times, as having an influence which will make itself felt through the young men who will graduate from these institutions into influential life. Yale deliberately chose the bimetallic side of the question and by her able and successful presentation of the truths that bimetalism is grounded on, has more than atoned for an unpleasantness in the late campaign. It is deserving of notice that Mr. C. H. Studinski, of Colorado, was a leading debater for Yale.

Glee and Banjo Club Trip.

The Easter trip of the University Glee and Banjo Clubs has been arranged as follows:

The clubs will leave New York by the Old Dominion steamship, Jamestown, Thursday afternoon, April 15, arriving at Old Point Comfort on Friday morning, April 16. The first concert will be given at the Hygeia Hotel on Saturday evening, April 17. From Old Point they will go to Washington, where a concert will be given Monday, April 19. The third concert will be given on the following evening in Plainfield, and the last of the trip, in Jersey City on Wednesday, April 21.

Gymnastic Exhibition.

The third annual gymnastic exhibition between Yale and Princeton was held Friday evening, March 26, in the Gymnasium, before a large audience, and was one of the most successful contests that has ever been held here. The University Banjo Club played several selections during the performance.

THE BOOK SHELF.

[Conducted by ALBERT LEE, '91.]

"The Devil-Tree of El Dorado."

It seems that in one of the far corners of Venezuela, somewhere along that famous and elastic boundary line attributed to Sir Robert Schomburgk, there stands a tall and mysterious mountain called, by the natives, Roraima. It rises over five thousand feet into the air, abruptly out of a valley, with steep perpendicular sides; its summit is a broad table land, covered with a forest, apparently, but as no man has yet been able to ascend the cliff-like mountainside to explore the region, no one knows what wonders are there hidden. At least, it is supposed that no one has ever gotten to the top of Roraima in modern times, but those who read the yarn spun by Mr. Frank Aubrey in "The Devil-Tree of El Dorado" (New York: New Amsterdam Book Company) may choose to believe otherwise. Mr. Aubrey brings together considerable testimony to prove that Roraima was at one time an island—that the valley out of which it rises was the bed of an inland sea (for it is several feet below the level of the Atlantic Ocean to-day), and that this island was undoubtedly the location of the golden city of El Dorado, that Sir Walter Raleigh and his fellows told about. Possibly, soon after that time, a great cataclysm turned an ocean bed into a valley and islands into mountains; and so, perhaps, the dwellers on the summits of those inaccessible heights have gone on for hundreds of years as they lived at that time, and a race to-day dwells on Roraima that we know nothing of.

At least, so it seems to Mr. Aubrey; and he starts an expedition off in search of a means to ascend the sheer cliff—a feat which travelers have hitherto said could only be performed by means of balloons—and he makes them succeed in climbing to the great plateau above. There the explorers have wonderful adventures, and see marvelous people and things—but far be it from me to spoil anyone's pleasure in reading the book by telling them of any of these thrilling occurrences. If you would know of the Devil-Tree, follow those Englishmen to the top of Roraima.

"Camping in the Canadian Rockies."

One of the finest hunting countries on this great North American continent lies within the vastnesses of the Canadian Rocky Mountains, far from the railroads and the table d'hôte dinner. It is a glorious region apparently, but yet very few books have been written about it, and the traveler who would set out for those happy hunting grounds may look far before he finds any information that will help him in his preparations. Mr. Walter Dwight Wilcox, '93, realized the existence of this "long-felt want," and having camped and hunted for some four seasons in those parts, finally set himself down and wrote "Camping in the Canadian Rockies" (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.). There are a number of very good points about his work, and also some bad ones; but take it all in all it will undoubtedly serve to send a number of huntsmen after the bears and mountain sheep that have hitherto escaped Mr. Wilcox's rifle. The publishers have turned out a very elegant volume. The paper is of the best, the typography of the clearest, and for fellows who, like me, do their hunting in the libraries, the size of the volume is of no disadvantage. But the ill-guided young man who is going up to the Rockies with his body, instead of in his mind, will need an extra servant to carry the book. I imagine it weighs some six or seven pounds at least. I think that, by a skilful cutting out of a few hundred superfluous adjectives, the copies of the next edition might be brought down to weigh, say five pounds each.

The most pleasant, and at the same time the striking, feature of this book are the photogravures. There are twenty-five of these, each one occupying a full page, and I have never seen any better photogravures anywhere. They are made from remarkably clear photographs, and exquisitely reproduced on heavy paper. They give a perfect idea of the region, and show that it must be a truly marvelous spot. Mount Assinibone seems to be as noble a peak as the Matterhorn. All the views are charming, and each in itself is a little work of art. Mr. Wilcox may well pride himself on these illustrations. What he has written, however, is not quite up to the level of the pictorial part of the work. The text might well be cut down one-half, and the reader would

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have left to him all of the original information. The author was so carried away by the beauties of the scenery that he has given us more description than we can comfortably digest. The reader soon grows weary of the beautiful blue sky, and of the whispering rivulets that meander through the emerald valleys, and the harsh and stern and cold mountains. When a mountain has been harsh and cold and stern once, and then another mountain becomes stern and cold and harsh, sharply outlined against a mountain that is cold and harsh and stern—why, a suspicion is liable to grow that there is a certain sameness about the scenery. Fortunately, the photogravures dispel this.

But aside from the superabundance of description, there is much worth knowing and reading in this book, and Mr. Wilcox's work should certainly prove a valuable addition to the literature of sport and travel.

"Ex Libris."

The opening chapter of Mr. Charles Dexter Allen's work, "Ex Libris—Essays of a Collector," recently published by Messrs. Lamson, Wolfe & Company of Boston, is a reproduction of the address delivered by Mr. Allen last winter before the Graduates' Club of this city. It might be said in a measure, we suppose, that this very attractive work, which must be almost irresistible to a lover of book-plates, grew out of this address. This may be putting the cart before the horse, for it is probably better to say that both the address and the book naturally grew out of Mr. Allen's love for this study and this department of book art, and both were natural consequences of his enthusiasm for and the knowledge of his subject.

New England College Registration.

The following figures of the resignations for 1896 and 1897 of the leading New England universities and colleges are obtained from the respective catalogue figures:

College.	1897.	1896.
Harvard	3,674	3,290
Yale	2,495	2,415
Boston University	1,270	1,252
Mass. Ins. of Technology	1,198	1,187
Brown	918	850
Wellesley	721	787
Dartmouth	620	556
Tufts	500	450
Amherst	402	447
Williams	385	351
Bowdoin	378	363
Radcliffe	356	358
Mt. Holyoke	337	331
Wesleyan	309	301
Bates	280	350
Colby	206	207
Trinity	129	131
Middlebury	106	105
Smith	932	875

In order to stimulate more interest in the Courant, the Ninety-eight Board has started a custom of offering a \$25 medal for the best story received every year from either the Academic or Scientific Department.

The University of Chicago is making strenuous efforts to break the alliance between the colleges and the Amateur Athletic Union, in order that it may take part in the Western Intercollegiate meetings.