

THE BOOK SHELF.

[Conducted by ALBERT LEE, '91.]

"American Lands and Letters."

One of the most interesting, and in many respects one of the most important, of recent contributions to the history of our American literature is "American Lands and Letters," by Mr. Donald G. Mitchell, Yale '41. It seems hardly possible to some of us younger chaps that this book can have come from the same pen that gave us the "Reveries of a Bachelor."

The present volume is not of that strain. It is reminiscent, but in a different fashion, and along other lines. Here we are told of those other writers of our nation's early days, and we can only regret that the author, fearing to write too long a book, has dwelt upon no man whose birth date belongs in the present century.

To us Yale men it is interesting to read of what names the University has sent out into literary history, and for that reason I am induced to quote somewhat freely of one of our tallest figures in that company:

"In 1802 * * * there entered at Yale, in the second term of Freshman year, a young lad of thirteen, who had passed so much of his boyhood in a border settlement among forests—who had prepared for college with an English Churchman at Albany, and who (though the youngest in his class) took his prescribed studies easily; so easily, in fact, and with such waywardness in his courses—whether athletic or ethical—that before Junior year was ended, he received his dismissal at the hands of President Dwight.

"His father being a member of Congress, large landholder, and otherwise important, came to argue for a stay of Faculty proceedings—but vainly; and the lad, then fifteen, took his rustication by going to sea. Twenty years after, he was known all over Europe and America by the stories he had written about Leather-Stocking and Tom Coffin. Fortunately we have an excellent biographer of Cooper—in Professor Lounsbury, who shows a charming inaptitude for being overawed by professional critics; and he has made the book, in a degree beyond most current biographies—honest, searching and fair."

It will be a consolation to many a man to read this passage. Cooper got "shipped," but he became great nevertheless. All ye who have to leave for "Faculty reasons" buy pen and ink and become Coopers. He would not have been eligible to the University Club, either, had there been a University Club in those days, and so there is good company for that small band lacking sheepskins.

"American Lands and Letters" is full of anecdote and besides bearing the charm of personal reminiscence, it is written in much the same easy confidential style that made the fame of the "Reveries."

Yale Club Plan Approved.

The New York Yale Alumni Association at its meeting on Friday, May 7, approved the general plan of the proposed Yale Club as submitted by its promoters. Noah H. Swayne, 2d, presented the proposition to the Alumni Association, and the result was that a resolution was passed to the effect that the Alumni Association approved in general the plan as submitted. A resolution was further adopted authorizing the executive committee to meet the promoters of the Yale Club, and if necessary, call a special meeting of the Alumni Association. Speeches in support of the proposition were made by Julian W. Curtiss, '79, and Charles H. Sherrill, '89.

There is a chance that the Club will start in the not very far distant future in the old club house of "The Lambs," where they can get a fully equipped plant and a good comfortable club house on fair terms.

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UNION SQUARE, NEW YORK.

YALE LOSES IN DEBATE.

(Continued from first page.)

inet system and the committee system and that Yale's attempted combination would fail.

The judges required only five minutes to form their decision and then rendered it unanimously in favor of Princeton. The spontaneous applause of the house showed the approval of the decision, in spite of the disappointment that was felt universally and very keenly. A long cheer was given by the Yale audience for the work of the Princeton team.

THE BANQUET A LIVELY AFFAIR.

At the close of the debate, a banquet was tendered the debaters at the New Haven House. It was a very lively affair, the best of good will prevailing, as evidenced by the many expressions of cordial feeling exchanged between the representatives of the two Universities. Long cheers were given by Yale for Princeton, and in return Yale was heartily cheered by Princeton.

Covers were laid for fifty, and Col. Norris G. Osborn, '80, acted as toastmaster. The list of toasts was as follows:

- "Princeton".....
...Professor Covington of Princeton
"Yale".....Professor Hadley
"Debate as an Aid to Government".....
.....Col. Waring
"Statistics".....Hon. C. D. Wright
"The Debate".....Hon. Josiah Quincy

It was agreed by all who responded to the toasts that Yale was exceptionally poor in form. Professor Hadley, who has been the prime adviser of all Yale teams since intercollegiate teams were organized, especially commented on this fact. Afterwards, in explaining more clearly the meaning of his remarks, he said: "Relative to the debate, it seemed to me that the substance of the Yale men's arguments was equally as good as that of Princeton's, but we were far below them in our form and style."

Hon. C. D. Wright marked out the debate on the system of a civil service examination, by which it was shown that Yale came out two points below Princeton.

The complete list of guests included besides the judges, the debaters, and the speakers above mentioned, Professors Wheeler, Adams, Smith, Fisher and Drs. Robinson and Reynolds of the Faculty, Dean Wayland, Mr. Black, Mr. Clark of the New York Evening Post, Dr. Matthewson, the officers of the Yale Union, the Presidents of the various debating organizations in College, the members of former debating teams and members of the University who have evinced a special interest in debating.

In the College Pulpit.

The list of preachers in the College Chapel for the remainder of the College term is as follows:

- May 16—Rev. A. J. F. Behrends, D.D., of Brooklyn, N. Y.
May 23—Rev. W. R. Richards, D.D., of Plainfield, N. J.
May 30—Rev. A. J. Lyman, D. D., Brooklyn.
June 6—Rev. J. W. Cooper, D. D., New Britain.

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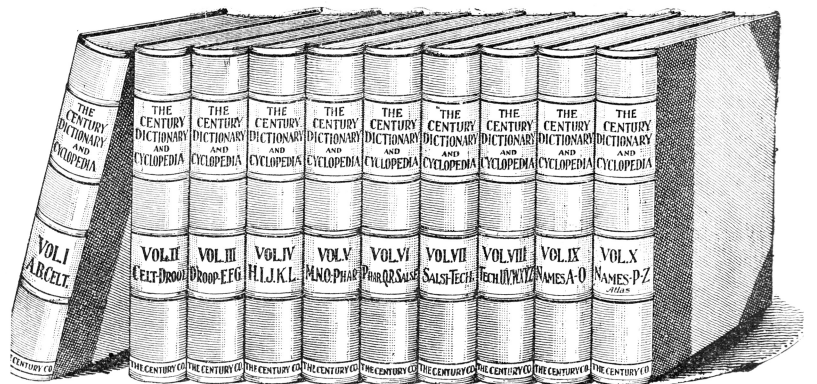
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Kindly mention the Yale Alumni Weekly.