

## YALE ALUMNI WEEKLY

SUBSCRIPTION, - \$2.50 PER YEAR.

Foreign Postage, 40 cents per year.

PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

Checks, drafts and orders should be made payable to the Yale Alumni Weekly.

All correspondence should be addressed,—  
Yale Alumni Weekly, New Haven, Conn.

The office is at Room 6, White Hall.

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Entered as second class matter at New Haven P. O.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., FEB. 24, 1898.

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## FREE DISCUSSION.

It is good to hear things said at the alumni meetings. These things may not be the particular ones which you or I have chosen as the final verdict of our observation and thought. They generally aren't. But so long as they are the expressions of honest opinion of men who are loyal to Yale and want to do her good, then it is well that they be put out in clear language. It does good.

We have generally been afraid of free discussion at Yale. Men say that outsiders will think that we are divided or that they will give undue prominence to the evil or the error which it is sought to remove, if anything is said about it. The assumption is hopelessly false. Intelligent people—and we can't spend time in considering the opinions of others—are apt to draw unfavorable conclusions when all the members of such an organization as Yaledom keeps perfectly quiet about all the complicated and vital issues of University government, and make a noise only in applause of polished periods and touchdowns. They can not really conclude it an unhealthy sign when men wrestle with these questions and frankly discuss them. Yale men, young and old, are shoulder to shoulder in support of the University in need, in defence of her under attack from outside foe. They don't become any the less loyal when they contribute criticism, as well as eulogy and means and time, and they are not unreasonable in expecting always the fairest and fullest consideration of their suggestions.

## THE ROWING QUESTION SETTLED.

The result of the conference in New York last Thursday between the three captains of the Yale, Harvard and Cornell crews, though wholly unexpected has met with universal approbation in college and out. All Yale men are delighted that the final solution of the rowing problem has been reached in the way that it has. Although the conditions proposed at the first conference were of such a nature that our representatives had no other course but to decline, there was a universal feeling of

regret when it seemed probable that there would be no race with Cornell. The recent negotiations show the great value of a mutual understanding which can only be satisfactorily reached by a personal conference.

We are all glad that the race is to be rowed at New London. To undergraduates and to graduates, those of recent years especially, the town has come to be so closely identified with Yale's boating interests that a change of place takes half the interest out of the race. Sentiment, it may be, in part which attaches Yale to the Thames, but the superior advantages of the town for a college race cannot be denied. Cornell in yielding to the wishes of Yale and Harvard in this regard has acted in a fair and considerate manner.

The conciliatory attitude of Harvard toward the whole question has had no little to do with the final solution. May nothing disturb the present era of good feeling between the three colleges.

## REGARDING ENGLISH AT YALE.

We publish at some length in another column an extract from the speech of Ex-Gov. Chamberlain, delivered at the Central and Western Massachusetts Alumni dinner in Worcester last week, giving his views of the present status of the English Department at Yale, and also a reply from Professor Beers in which he takes issue with the former's position. Both gentlemen have expressed their opinions before through the columns of the WEEKLY. We will comment on the matter in another issue if the situation calls for it.

## HARTFORD ALUMNI DINNER.

Most Successful Dinner Ever Given—  
Many Good Speeches—The Guests.

The most successful dinner ever given by the Hartford Yale Alumni Association was held in the Hotel Hartford on the evening of Feb. 18. Over one hundred members were present, and throughout the evening there reigned that feeling of good will which goes with the consciousness of having a good time. A "double quartet" of seven of the Glee Club was present and delighted all with its singing. Its number was made up as follows: F. A. King, '99; H. M. Dewey, '99; F. W. Sheehan, '98; M. B. Yung, '98; E. T. Noble, '99; H. M. Gillespie, '98. An orchestra played at intervals throughout the evening. The table was prettily decorated with potted palms and garlands of ferns. At each place was a menu tied with blue ribbon and having on the cover the word "Yale" and a bar of music of "Here's to good old Yale." The members of the Association filed into the hall, headed by President Dwight and Judge Harrison B. Freeman, President of the Hartford Association, who took seats at the table at the end of the hall, where were also seated Governor Lorrin A. Cooke, Hon. Henry C. Robinson, Rev. Joseph H. Twichell, Judge Nathaniel Shipman, Charles Hopkins Clark, Charles E. Gross, John M. Holcombe, Professor Henry Ferguson of Trinity and John H. Buck. The Rev. Mr. Bristol asked the blessing, after which all remained standing and sang with a will "Here's to good old Yale."

At the end of the dinner, Judge Freeman, who acted as toastmaster, was given an enthusiastic reception when he arose to address the assembled company. He said: "We want no sentiments expressed here this evening which are not suited to the occasion, even if these sentiments are not of a kind which would please ex-Governor Chamberlain. If those who speak do not like afternoon teas in Vanderbilt or believe that 'Bob' Cook should no longer coach our crews, this is not the place to say it.

"We are told that Yale is no longer a college; it has grown up into a uni-

versity. But they don't tell what they have torn down. The new buildings are very fine, but I trust that in the passing of the old brick row there will not go with it the simplicity and democracy of those old days.

## PRESIDENT DWIGHT.

As the President was called upon all arose and gave him a hearty cheer. Turning first to Judge Freeman, he said "Mr. Toastmaster, you have first laid down rules regarding the speaking of this evening and have immediately broken those rules yourself. I have learned from my friend, Judge Shipman, that the value of real estate about your house has risen, but I have not heard that you have seriously objected to this. You, sir, live in a better house than your father did, yet I don't know that you think you have lost your democracy. Nor do I think you believe you must sit on the fence in order to increase your intellectuality. The land the old brick row stood on was too valuable for those buildings and so of the fence. When I was in College we did have the sturdy old times, but I for one am glad we've outgrown them. My father used to talk just this way about the good old times, and I used to say that I had one comfort—that times would be worse when my son came on. In matter of fact, intellectuality has not diminished.

Gentlemen, we can't stay in the old times. They were delightful but limited. Judge Shipman and I agree that there has been a great advance since our day. No doubt Mr. Robinson would think likewise if he could disabuse his mind of the greatness of the Class of Fifty-Three. But my son was graduated in Ninety-Three, and as I felt the possibilities before him I felt like quarrelling with my own fate for having been born so early. We want to give the men who come after us still greater possibilities. I want to urge upon young Yale men to do all they can to carry forward the work which the new century is to bring. The coming anniversary is to open up a new era. To the young men we must commit the institution, and you must see that those who come after you have grander opportunities than you have known."

In conclusion, he said that it was the hope of the authorities to give new impetus to the life of the University at the opening of the third century, and that the help of the graduates would be needed. The President's speech was punctuated throughout with hearty laughter and applause.

## GOVERNOR COOKE.

The next speaker was the Governor of the State, who spoke in forcible manner of the position of old Connecticut and of Hartford, its chief city. In conclusion he said: "Yale University is the greatest thing in Connecticut. I need not say what it has done for the State and the nation, for you know all about it. But I will say it is the most distinguishing thing in the State and I hope no municipal taxation or mis-

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applied philanthropy will hinder its onward march."

Professor Henry Ferguson of Trinity College, who spoke next, talked about the Yale spirit as he had seen it exemplified in the acts and lives of Yale men in their undying devotion to the Alma Mater. He said that all the smaller colleges ought to feel thankful to Yale for the example which she had set for them.

## HENRY C. ROBINSON.

The Hon. Henry C. Robinson, who spoke next, first paid his respects to the W. C. T. U. and said: "This campaign of mud-slinging will be but a short one, and no mud will stick anywhere except to the hands of the mud-slingers. And never has the Yale spirit been better represented than in the way the Yale representatives have received these attacks."

Mr. Sheehan of the Glee Club furnished great amusement by his singing of "Upidee" with a wonderful roll. He was encored, and recited "Barbara Frietchie," with German variations. John J. Nairn was next called upon to tell a funny story, which he did.

## REV. J. H. TWICHELL.

Mr. Twichell, on being introduced and after some opening remarks, read the speech of George Ade which Mr. Ade delivered to the team just before the game. It was in substance as follows:

"The welfare of the game demands that it be played in a gentlemanly manner. You are to be praised for your work in the Harvard game and you will maintain that standard to-day. Winning or losing, be gentlemen! Princeton fears that Yale will not give her a close game. See to that! Hold fast to your magnificent Yale sand and discipline. Keep your wits about you; be alert! Stand like a Gibraltar; be like an avalanche! This is your supreme hour. Yale men are waiting to see you win. Fair women are ready to tear out their heart strings for you. Yale calls. Now go, and may the god of battles crown you with victory!"

## CHARLES HOPKINS CLARK.

Judge Freeman said that Hartford was divided into two parts, those who read the *Courant* and those who do not, and thereupon he called upon Charles Hopkins Clark, commonly known as Pendennis. He began by paying his respects to President Freeman and then told of riding up from New York one day with some young fellows from Yale. He introduced himself and asked the name of the man next him. It sounded familiar and he asked if a well-known man of that name was the fellow's father. "No," was the reply, "He was not my father. He was my grandfather. Were you in his class?" On reaching New Haven, his friend assured him that it was the longest ride he had ever had between the two cities. Mr. Clark expressed gratification at the tributes now being paid to Nathan