

# YALE ALUMN WEEKLY

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## YALE'S IDEAL HERO.

**Nathan Hale Should Stand in Bronze Upon the Campus—Dr. T. T. Munger Presents the Case.**

When the newsboys in City Hall Park in New York have nothing else to do, and that does not happen often in these days, they gather about the bronze statue of a man whose hands are tied behind his back, and discuss his case, with as much accuracy probably as the "extras" they have been selling describe the last battle of Cuba. The boys are fortunate if one of their number has been under some teacher in the public schools who has taught him what the histories do not teach, and thus enabled him to tell his fellows who Nathan Hale was, and what he did that brought him to this pass.

Nathan Hale was a son and soldier of Connecticut, but the statue in New York has made him better known there than he is in his native State. He spent four years in New Haven and never a day in Hartford, but every boy in that city knows his story because it has two statues of him. New Haven has no memorial of him save the ruined fort in the harbor that bears his name.

There was a time when every student in Yale was familiar with his history; I fear that many could not today pass an examination upon it. Both city and college have lost sight of him for the two-fold reason that the histories barely name him, and no statue makes up the lack.

### THE STORY OF HIS LIFE.

The story of his life is short because his life was short, and because he did only one thing worthy of mention; *he died for his country.* He was born in Coventry—a town twenty miles east of Hartford, where he grew up in a farmhouse and family of the better sort, and went to school to the parish minister, Dr. Huntington, who prepared him for College. He was a fine lad—strong, could run, leap, wrestle, throw and lift better than any of the boys about him. Well-bred, sweet-tempered and handsome, he was greatly loved and admired. He came to Yale in his sixteenth year and entered the Class of 1773.

But little is known of his college life except that he stood well in his class, made a famous leap on the Green that was marked out and shown for years, and that he was a devoted member of Linonia. So long as Linonia lived, Hale was a household world in Yale. "Statement of Facts" is almost forgotten even as a tradition, but Yale today offers nothing worthier and finer than the lining up of "Linonia" and "Brothers," each with their chosen orators, who made a "statement of facts" as to the claims of their respective societies. The partiality of an old graduate must be pardoned if he ventures the opinion that "Statement of Facts" in the second week of the college year, on a day set apart by the Faculty for the purpose, was quite as dignified as "bottle night," quite as academic as "tapping for societies," and as intellectual as the "class histories" of Commencement week. Some things are better than they used to be, and some things are not.

### TWO SPLENDID SOCIETIES.

One of the things that was better—far better than intercollegiate debates—was the existence of those two societies—"Linonia" and "Brothers in Unity." They comprised the whole body of students, and existed side by side in enthusiastic and healthful rivalry; they taught their members to debate and to write essays and poems; they discussed public and national questions—especially slavery—from Nullification and the Missouri Compromise down to the Emancipation. Their weekly meetings were conducted under parliamentary rules. To be a president of them was a coveted honor;—there was none higher in College. They fostered patriotism and made it intelligent; they trained men to take part in public life and to conduct public business, and above all they fed that democratic spirit which makes Yale what she is and gives her the right to call herself the American University.

It is a calamity that these societies were crowded out of existence by a swarm of minor societies, whose usefulness is strictly guarded from public view. Now Nathan Hale was a member of Linonia, and at every "statement of facts" half the college cheered his name to the echo. He was and he is to-day Yale's ideal hero, but the cheers have died out along with his memory.

In 1853, when Linonia celebrated its centennial, Judge Finch read a poem on Hale that has become a part of American literature, but the speaking bronze is needed to keep alive his glorious story.

After graduation Hale taught school in East Haddam during the Winter, and in the Spring took charge of a grammar school in New London, where the people went on loving and admiring him just as they had in New Haven

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## CORNELL UNIVERSITY CREW; TIME 23:48.



Dalzell, Bow. Bentley, 2. Wakeman, 3. Bailey, 4. Moore, 5. Beardslee, 6. Savage, 7. Briggs, Stroke. Colson, Cox. and Capt.

Photographed at Ithaca June 12.

## "YALE BATTERY" RECRUITING.

**More Fine Yale Names Added—A Few Vacancies Are Left.**

Within the last few days, Light Battery A, First Connecticut Volunteers, better known as the "Yale Battery," having received orders to recruit to the full strength of 173 men, has opened a recruiting station in New Haven. Lieutenant Weston, '98 S., Sergeant Twitchell, '98, and Private Cheney, '98 S., have been in charge of the recruiting station.

The order to recruit made fifty vacancies in the Battery, and it was the desire of Captain Honce, and indeed of all the Battery, that the number should be made up as largely as possible from Yale students and graduates, as the Yale Platoon has proved an exceedingly valuable and popular part of the Battery. The recruiting office was opened at a time when College was about closing and a large number of men had left for the boat race. Yale names, however, began to come in rapidly, both from New Haven and from other parts of the country, applications coming from as far as Washington. With the Yale men other excellent applicants have been received, including two or three New Haven members of the Second Regiment and an ex-member of the Sixth United States Cavalry.

About ten more Yale men have already enlisted in addition to those whose names have been published in the WEEKLY.

While applicants of the first class from any quarter have been received, a large number of applications have been postponed until word could be sent to a number of Yale men who were known to be anxious for a chance

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## CORNELL THE VICTOR.

**Yale Takes Second Place in the Triangular Race at New London—Mr. Cook Satisfied With His Men.**

For the second successive year Cornell has proved that her University Crew is superior to the crews of Yale and Harvard, and she still holds a clear title to the American intercollegiate championship.

It was a great race that was rowed at New London on June 23. There was an element of uncertainty to the last mile, although the figures do not show that the time was fast, as the tide had barely turned and a strong breeze up stream held the boats back.

The official figures for the distance are as follows:

Cornell, 23 m. 48 s.  
Yale, 24 m. 2 s.  
Harvard, 24 m. 35 s.

The postponement from Wednesday to Thursday at noon was almost universally condemned and was certainly most unfortunate, as thousands who had taken long trips to see the three Crews row were obliged to return home disappointed after two disheartening changes of hour, and an afternoon of great discomfort from bad weather.

Yale University endorses the work of her Captain, Coach and Crew, calls it a well-fought race and cordially acknowledges the superb work of Cornell. Mr. Cook said after the race: "I am well pleased with the work of my men. They were beaten by a faster crew whose superior age and experience told in the four miles."

The election of Fred Allen, 1900, to the Captaincy meets with universal approval.

The crowds began to reach New London on Tuesday evening and before