

**PRESIDENTIAL QUALITIES.**

**How Different Alumni Express Their Ideals.**

The individual expressions of opinion as to the qualities needed in the next president of Yale, have been received from alumni in all parts of the country in such numbers as to make their reproduction in any one issue impossible. A free statement of opinion was secured by the assurance that the names would not be used. It seemed to the WEEKLY that the advantages of this system more than compensated for the omission of names. But here are some opinions taken almost at random:

The following is not from a New Haven alumnus:

"The next president should be a man of God and scholarship, a strong forceful, dignified man (though his body be as frail as that of Alex. H. Stephens), an exemplar of and a type of the best manhood. Ideal collegiate education sifted down resolves into unconscious imitation of high ideals. So I dread the incoming of bald scholarship, too often tintured with cynicism or an absence of human sympathy.

I view with alarm the likelihood of Yale's yielding to the modern clamor for a mere fiscal agent to set the pace of the best manhood for 3,000 chosen youth.

I lay stress on sterling attractive Christian character in our president, which must be attended by a scholarship that commands respect and a supreme royal manhood to which every student defers in his heart, as its possessor passes him on the Campus. The collecting of funds can be attended to by others if the ideal lacks at that point—the most immaterial of all. If such a man does not present himself in the present Faculty, the Yale Corporation would do well to canvass heads of smaller institutions, which would be ready to surrender at this emergency in the history of Yale. I recognize that such men are rare, but there is a large section of this country west of the Hudson river, much of it surveyed and all of it explored."

**A CONNECTICUT VIEW.**

A Connecticut man writes as follows: "First: He ought to be under fifty-five years of age (else I should be an enthusiastic advocate of Andrew White or Professor Fisher for the Presidency).

Second: He must be a man of high personal character; absolute and beyond possibility of mistake in this regard.

Third: He must be a scholar. This is a word of wide range, and I use it in a broad sense.

Fourth: He must be a man of good sense in business matters. He ought not to be an old woman or a Wall street sharp, but he should know the difference between a railroad bond and a French dictionary, and should be a man who has proved by his own life that he has some business ideas, hasn't run into debt or advocated crankism.

Fifth: He should be a man of address and tact.

Sixth: He should be a man of fair health.

Seventh: He should be a man of acquaintance with the men of affairs and also with the scholars of the country.

There are a number of matters outside those which I have gone into, about which I would say a word. If the appointment could be popular with the graduates and undergraduates of the University, it would be very desirable. If he were a full graduate, an A.B. or a Ph.D. of Yale, it would also be most desirable, and I think the catalogue of these men and then of graduates of a higher degree should be searched with drag nets before we look outside the fold for a president.

As to whether he should be a layman or a cleric, I care very little. I should prefer a layman, chiefly because I think that is public sentiment among the friends whom it is most important for Yale to keep. But I have known quite a number of clerical brethren who had common sense and breadth of vision sufficient to run a great university. I agree that such men are very scarce in the clerical profession, but there are such men. President Dwight and President Woolsey have filled our ideal

and they were both clergymen, although Dr. Woolsey was transformed professionally from an international lawyer and Greek scholar into a clergyman between two days."

**FROM NEW YORK.**

A New York man puts it this way: "I think the next President of Yale should be a Yale graduate; a man whose religious views are in sympathy with the religious tone which the College has endeavored to maintain in the past; a man of broad culture and one who would be likely to keep up the standard of Yale scholarship, both in the Faculty and among the students; and a man of some experience beyond the limits of the Campus, who would introduce into the University a suavity of manner that would combine finely with its sterner virtues."

**FROM CHICAGO.**

These opinions are held by an active Chicago alumnus:—

"Personally I am opposed to electing any one of the prominent Yale alumni engaged in other than scholastic pursuits, who have been mentioned by the press of the country for the honor. I favor the election of one of the members of the present Faculty; a man of learning, a man of national reputation, and a man who will preserve the ancient traditions of Yale and who will prevent the adoption of the modern educational fads which now prevail at many of our universities. There are a number of mushroom colleges in this country, and I for one do not wish to see Yale 'modernized' in any way whatever. There is no need to go outside of the Yale Faculty for a President."

**A FINANCIER'S VIEWS.**

This is the brief summary of a Pennsylvania financier:

"In my judgment, it would be well for the University to have at this juncture a man who is essentially pre-eminent, by reason of a varied and vigorous intellectuality, and that while it is essential that he should be an administrator, and even one of the first order, yet that the former should be the dominant quality."

Another Eastern man, a political worker, says:

"First: The ideal President of Yale should be a gentleman and a scholar; a Christian, a man of the world and a man of affairs.

"Second: The essential qualities for an ideal president of Yale seem to me, first, an appreciation of intellectual values. I would not have the scholarly man at Yale limited and hindered in the performance of their best work by a mere business manager whose one idea was to give them twenty-five per cent. less than they ask for, irrespective of their appeals.

"Secondly: The ideal president must be a man of progress; he needs to appreciate educational progress, social progress and political progress.

"Third: He must be a man of executive capacity, in order that he may know how to express and how to realize and aid others in realizing his and their pedagogic and administrative ideals.

"Financial administration, the ability to tell funny stories, to make eloquent appeals, seem to me qualities the essential value of which has been greatly over-estimated.

"The Treasurer can look out for funds, the Alumni can furnish the jokes,

**A BUSINESS MAN'S VIEW.**

Another eastern business man writes: "Superficially you want a presentable sort of a man, who can make an after-dinner speech. His qualities in the begging line should not be overlooked.

"But your ideal. Why the whole size of it is just here. You want a man of good judgment and intellectuals; whether he is a scholar or not makes no difference; whether he is a clergyman or not makes no difference; but

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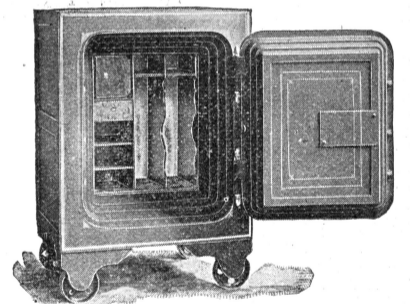
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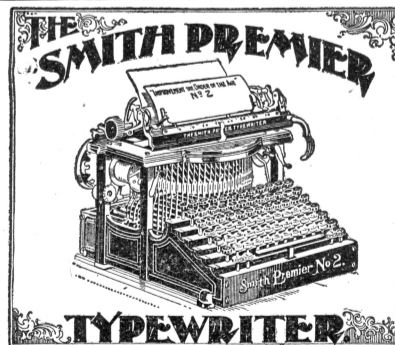
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