

FALLING BEHIND.

Alumni Fund's Condition—Remarkable Carelessness.

A meeting of the directors and class agents of the Alumni University Fund Association was held at the Yale Club, New York City, Tuesday evening, March 7. Among those present were: W. W. Skiddy, '65 S.; Thomas Thacher, '71; Samuel R. Betts, '75; William M. Barnum, '77; Julian W. Curtiss, '79; Howard T. Walden, '81; Arthur H. Day, '89 S.; Lewis S. Haslam, '90; Edward H. Floyd-Jones, '92; Noah H. Swayne, 2d, '93; Marion B. Phelps, '96 S.; and Frank H. Simmons, '98.

The object of the meeting was to compare notes and consult as to methods of increasing the fund, and especially to hear reports from the class agents as to the results to date in their respective classes. In addition to the reports made by the class agents present, written reports were read from a number of class agents who were unable to attend.

Though it is still hoped that this will be a successful year for the fund, many classes are considerably behind their record of this time last year, and the total amount of subscription received by Treasurer Farnam is more than six hundred dollars less than the amount in hand at the same date last year. It was the opinion of all present that the situation disclosed is such as calls for increased efforts on the part of class agents whose classes are falling behind.

It was a subject of much comment among the class agents that so many men fail to respond to the class agents' notices, or even to personal letters, which would seem to call for the courtesy of a reply, whether accompanied by a contribution or not. This carelessness or indifference on the part of classmates imposes upon the class agents an additional amount of work by making it necessary for them to send a second or even a third reminder to those who do not reply to the first.

Another meeting will probably be held early in May, when it is hoped that a more favorable report can be made.

A Princeton Tribute to Yale.

[Speech of Judge McPherson at the Banquet of the Central Pennsylvania Association at Harrisburg, February 15.]

This is the first Yale dinner it has ever been my good fortune to attend, here or elsewhere, and I may as well say at once that my experience to-night leads me to regret sincerely that the Yale men in this neighborhood have only lately been moved to follow the example that Princeton has been setting them for twenty years or thereabouts. We believe in the college spirit, of which alumni meetings are one expression; and I think you will agree that the Princeton spirit is a determined and aggressive force in more than one department of intercollegiate rivalry. But we are far from denying that the sons of Yale are knit together by a spirit quite as strong and quite as pervasive. We have tried your quality on many a stricken field, athletic and otherwise; and, without attempting to balance the account with commercial precision, we are willing to admit that in certain directions at least you push us close. There is such infernal persistency and grit about the average Yale representative, such stubborn ignorance about his real desert, such deplorable unwillingness to stay behind in his true place, that we have sometimes yielded for the sake of peace, and have allowed him to occupy temporarily a position which of course we knew was rightfully our own.

We have always felt that something must be conceded to a friend; and if perhaps you are exhibiting a sporadic football or other missile in your trophy room, as if you really won it on your merits, we do not intend to dispute the apparent, but misleading, situation. We value your friendship too highly to let the true facts be known. It is always easy to resume the leadership, and meanwhile susceptibilities are soothed, and harmony is undisturbed.

Indeed, I am willing to go further, and to admit for the moment, that you may properly regard as victories those

events, which from our truer point of view only wear the illusory aspect of defeat; for, even after this concession, it is still undeniable that, on the whole and with brief intermissions, we share between us the supremacy of the college world—although Harvard's leg does seem occasionally to get half way over the fence, and some of these upstart youngsters in the west are threatening to be troublesome. I suppose we may be content this evening with a joint glorification, without a serious quarrel over the precise proportion of laurels that should go to either university.

Rivalry aside, there remains our friendship; and this, I am happy to believe, is too firm to be disturbed. It is founded upon a common conception of the true university curriculum, upon similarly widespread sources of supply to the student life of both institutions, and upon an almost identical democracy of spirit, which welds together each body of undergraduates into a corporate whole, active, energetic, eager, resolute, manly—a fine American product, belonging to the nation, and free from the limitations of section or locality. I am far from disparaging the admirable training that may be had at any one of several other universities that I might mention; but I am bound to say, that if a young man is to have the soundest college discipline available in this country; if he is to be subjected to the most varied influences, drawn from sources the most widely diffused; if he is to learn to be a citizen with the widest and therefore the truest outlook, he is most likely, I think, to attain these desirable results by spending his student life at Yale or Princeton.

I love every foot of the Princeton campus. I revisit her halls with a swelling heart, and with an emotion of which I am not ashamed. But New Haven stirs me with a sentiment that I can scarcely distinguish. Only lately I came once more under her charm; and as I passed beneath her elms, as I reviewed her stately buildings, felt (as an alien may) something of the power of her past, and gave myself to the contemplation of her inspiring future, I was sure of this, if I were not a son of old Nassau, nowhere could I find an alma mater to whom my allegiance would be paid with such devotion as to the nursing mother whose sons you are so proud to be. I drink her health to-night with all my heart. May her glory grow with the increasing years, and may her stalwart brood continue to be worthy of her splendid fame.

Vested College Choir.

A Yale graduate, in a recent communication to the *Yale News*, has suggested that a uniform garb be worn by the College choir, at least on Sundays, stating that it would contribute much to the impressiveness of the service and would add to the dignity of the choir, which is detracted from by the usual array of coats of all colors. He suggests that a black gown be worn, the Seniors wearing their own, and the other men wearing gowns distinguishable from them by a blue trimming of some sort. The proposal has met with universal favor, Professor Parker of the Musical Department and Harry B. Jepson, conductor of the choir, giving it their heartiest approval. Many of the choir are also warmly in favor of prompt action being taken in this matter.

Dr. Watson's Visit to Yale.

The recent visit of Dr. John Watson (Ian MacLaren) has recalled the way in which Dr. Watson came to Yale for a Sunday last month. It will be remembered that he came directly to New Haven after he had been but a day in New York, and stayed here through Sunday, preaching a sermon in the Chapel Sunday morning and talking to the students in Dwight Hall in the evening.

When it was learned that he was coming to America for a lecture tour, the students and graduates who are particularly interested in the management of the Y. M. C. A. of Yale, at once desired to have him appear here. They communed among themselves at first whether to approach Mr. Pond, who was his American manager. It was thought possible, however, that this

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might involve delay, and so, without any further consultation, one of the members of the Association went to the cable office and sent this simple message,—“What day can you give Yale? Please answer.” The answer came within forty-eight hours and named the day.

A correspondence between Professor George P. Fisher and Dr. Watson arranged further details. The method of accomplishing the result is worth recalling as indicating the orthodox Yale undergraduate directness of procedure, and also testifying to the loyalty and interest of Dr. Watson in his American University,—as he always calls Yale.

At the meeting of the United States Golf Association the New Haven Country Club was elected to membership.

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