

FOR CORPORATION MEMBERS.

A Plea for Other than Connecticut and New York Members.

To the Editor of YALE ALUMNI WEEKLY:

Sir:—In the recent articles that have appeared in your paper relating to the filling of the two vacancies in the Corporation which are to be filled at the next election, with the exception of the article signed by "Alumnus" in your issue of March 15, it appears to be assumed, quite as a matter of course, that both of these vacancies must need be filled from the alumni of the State of Connecticut or the City of New York, that is to say, from those residing almost under the physical shadow and quite within the immediate influence of the University; and "Alumnus," in his article, takes the distinct position of opposition to what he calls "the fallacy of Western representation in the Corporation." It is not unlikely that "Alumnus," by his express opposition, only gives voice to a current of sentiment upon which the above-mentioned assumption is based.

That assumption, and the grounds therefor and that opposition ought to receive the serious consideration of all alumni before they are admitted or yielded to. "Alumnus" then says, in substance, that the East, North, and South are entitled to be represented in the Corporation as well as the West. Granted. But where, since the death of Mr. Mason, is or has been the representation in the Corporation of the West, the South or the North? The exact existing situation is that the Inside (namely, Connecticut and the City of New York) has the whole Corporation, and the Outside (namely, the West, South and North) has no part of it; and the assumption above mentioned and express position of "Alumnus" are that the Inside shall continue to have the entire Corporation.

"Alumnus" appears to concede, however, that there should be in the Corporation "a man of Western ideas." But has he not himself fallen into the fallacy of assuming, as he does, that one at least of the two new members, both of which he would have chosen from the Inside, would be "a man of Western ideas?" It is, of course, possible that one or both of the new members might be such, measurably so at least; but the contrary is the more probable, and besides it might require demonstration to satisfy the Outside of his or their representative character. Further, the successor of Mr. Mason should not only be "a man of Western ideas," but he should be one who is in touch with the Outside and so be able to impress its sentiments upon the essentials in the affairs of the Corporation.

Thanks are due and rendered to "Alumnus" for giving the reasons why neither of the existing vacancies should be filled from the Outside, the chief of which are (1) the unlikelihood of a Western member being able to attend all regular and special meetings, and (2) his inability "to run up on a moment's notice for special committee work, inspection of sites, conference with architects, etc." It is to be assumed, it may be granted, that whoever, if any one, shall be elected from the Outside, will, with reasonable constancy, give attention to the duties of the office, by attendance on meetings and otherwise; but it could and would be hardly expected or required, that a Western or Southern member, if he be a true representative of the Outside (for he is likely to be a man of affairs), should run up every time a site is to be inspected or an architect to be conferred with, for that would be reducing the province and representation in the Corporation of such Western or Southern member to too narrow limits as well as requiring him to perform an equal part of all details.

The true representative of the aggressive and progressive Outside would be one who, by his character, standing, thought and ideas, should rather impress himself upon the essentials in the policy, government and controlling purposes and plans of the University, educational and otherwise; and the details, the committee work (even of the Prudential Committee), the inspections of sites and the conferences with architects might largely or wholly be left to the "ninety and nine" other members of the Corporation who are in close proximity to the University.

It is seriously submitted, whether it is wise or expedient that the Corporation should be composed solely of those in closest touch geographically with the University and its affairs. Will not the University be the better for a larger horizon in its governing board? And has Yale (the greater Yale, if you please) no need or disposition to keep, be or get in touch with the Outside, a great field, geographically at least, from which she has hitherto had a fair quota of students, now alumni, whose interest in the real welfare of the University is not second to that of those who are so fortunate as to live in close proximity to the University. The Outside has only had a single representative in the Corporation for a part of the time since the elective representation in that body went into effect.

Something more than three years elapsed after Chief Justice Waite's death before Mr. Mason, the next Western member, was elected. "Alumnus" not only expressly writes down Chief Justice Waite as "an illustrious figure-head in the Corporation;" but also disparages to some extent the service of Mr. Mason. It may be that neither of these Western members were as constant in attendance on meetings of the Corporation or its committees as the local clerical and lay members, including those not alumni of Yale; but "Alumnus" and those agreeing with him may find it more difficult to discover in Connecticut or the City of New York a true representative of the Outside than to convince it that Chief Justice Waite and Mr. Mason were not each entitled to their places in the Corporation as fair representatives of the Outside upon the essentials in the government and controlling purposes and plans of the University.

It has been supposed that there was a broader gauge to the service of at least a Western member of the Corporation than "running up to inspect sites and confer with architects"; but, if not, "Alumnus," the Corporation and the University can rest assured that a true representative of the Outside will hardly be found who would accept service on such narrow gauge, and the University will be a decided loser by restricting the scope of the duty and service of Western members of the Corporation to such narrow limits.

"Alumnus" also names Judge William H. Taft, and says he will not do for a member of the Corporation. "Alumnus" is right, if he wants a Western member to run on the narrow gauge above suggested, but he is wholly wrong, if he wants, or the Corporation needs, a member of the broader gauge and pattern also above indicated, since no truer or more fitting representative of the aggressive and progressive Outside can be found than Judge Taft, who would, if elected, be able to render all the service that the University and the Outside ought reasonably to expect or require of him. Accordingly, the suggestion of the nomination and election of Judge Taft is hereby seconded, with the closing suggestion, that, if "Alumnus" correctly reflects the sentiment of the Inside as to the non-desirability of a Western member in the Corporation, it would better be certainly known now than later.

AN OUTSIDER.

March 25, 1899.

Southern California Meeting.

The second annual meeting of the Yale Alumni Association of Southern California was held at the California Club at Los Angeles Tuesday evening, March 21, 1899. The following Yale men were present: Rev. Charles W. Camp, '44; Rev. Charles B. Sumner, '62; John B. Wood, '65; Dr. H. M. Bishop, '65 M.; Edward S. Thacher, '72; George C. Power, '74 S.; J. S. Torrance, '75 S.; E. V. Baker, '77; A. W. Armstrong, '82 S.; Rev. A. D. Bissell, '82 D.; N. W. Bell, '83; Dr. F. B. Kellogg, '83; I. B. Newton, '83; Albert P. Campbell, '84 S.; Clinton J. Curtis, 'ex-'84; George H. Bixby, '86; Rev. Franklin L. Ferguson, '88 T.S.; David Lyman, '89 S.; Harry L. Bixby, '93; George S. Sumner, '93; Howard J. Fish, '93 S.; Max H. Kershaw, '95; Edward P. Newton, '97, and W. W. Andrews, '98.

These officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, E. V. Baker, '77; Vice-President, A. W. Armstrong, '82; Secretary, N. W. Bell, '83. Dr. Francis B. Kellogg, '83, was

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toastmaster and Edward S. Thacher, '72, J. S. Torrance, '75 S., Rev. Charles B. Sumner, '63, and David Lyman, '89 S. responded to toasts. The toast "Yale and the War," which was to have been answered by J. S. Cravens, '93, was omitted on account of the unavoidable absence of Mr. Cravens.

Death of Dean Murray.

Dr. James Ormsbee Murray, Dean of Princeton University, died at his home in Princeton, N. J., Monday, March 27, aged 72 years. He was born at Camden, South Carolina, and graduated from Brown University in 1850, and the Andover Theological Seminary in 1854. Up to 1874 he held several pastorates in Massachusetts and New York and in December of that year accepted the chair of English at Princeton. He was elected Dean of the University in 1883, holding that position at the time of his death. He is survived by a wife, one daughter and four sons.

Dibblee Will Coach.

Benjamin H. Dibblee has been appointed head coach of the Harvard football eleven for next year. He will be assisted by W. H. Lewis, '95 L.S., and B. G. Waters, '94. Cameron Forbes will not be able to take an active part in the development of Harvard's Ninety-Nine team on account of his business affairs.

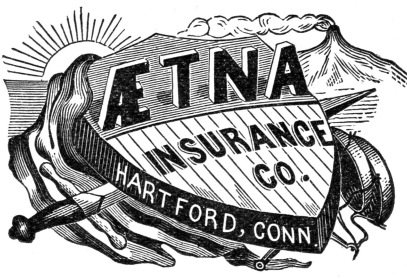
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