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THE CORPORATION AND THE PRESIDENCY.

Another special meeting of the Corporation has been held, apparently for the sole purpose of talking over again the Presidency and the candidates therefor. According to appearances and reports, this is the last special meeting before the usual meeting in May. It is understood that the meetings thus far have been purely in the way of discussion. People are looking for the beginning of action in the matter at the next regular meeting, but we have no certain information about it, and since even the beginning of balloting may not necessarily mean much in the way of concluding the matter, it is hard to see anything very definite in the situation.

Many alumni, especially those who are working for the building up of the Bi-centennial Fund, have expressed the hope that the Corporation will surely elect someone at their first regular meeting. These people say that the disposition will be to accept delay as an evidence of weakness, and that, to put the thing on a practical ground, anything like an interregnum will seriously handicap all financial work in preparation for the Bi-centennial. Many men, so these reports say, who intend to contribute, are waiting before measuring the sacrifice they are willing to make for Yale to see what Yale is going to do; for when the Corporation elects a President it will sketch, as by a bold stroke, the outline of the Yale of years to come.

Considerable correspondence in regard to this subject having come into the office of the WEEKLY, and the alumni, as we know, having been anxious in the matter, we have referred to it only to say that to our best knowledge and belief no body of Yale men more keenly appreciate the necessity of action at as early a date as possible than do the Corporation members. We say this with much confidence, and add with the same confidence, that the members are working with the utmost industry to prepare themselves for the act of election. It might properly be added, unless it is assumed, that nothing under heaven will move these men to act until they are sure they are right.

So much having been said, and entirely without consultation, but on the strength of personal observation, it may

be as well to take up one more point. Now and then one hears that, back of the apparent uncertainty over well known candidates, something is held in reserve; that a "dark horse" is being carefully groomed by somebody for some reason or other; that, in fulness of time, he will be produced and by some magic made to win, in and with the twinkling of an eye.

We are inclined to say, with due respect to people holding such an opinion, that if they find some intellectual or other satisfaction in said opinion, their enjoyment should not be disturbed. For ourselves we can't quite work it out. We have failed yet to hear of any one who has in mind a possible President of Yale who is not willing to talk about him freely with all in interest. We have also failed altogether to read human character, if it is true that there is any magic that will win the votes of such men as make up the Corporation of Yale, except the magic of a combination of brains and character that fits and fills this large and high position.

UNIVERSITY OF UPSALA.

A Yale Representative Writes of its Origin and Customs.

Below is printed a letter from Gustav Andreen, Yale '94, who has been studying at Upsala the past year:

University of Upsala, Sweden.

March 30, 1899.

One of the northernmost universities of the world lies in Upsala, situated as it is about 60 degrees north of the equator, or about 1,300 miles farther north than New Haven. Yet owing to the Gulf Stream this part of Europe is not only inhabitable, but of temperate climate, and according to all reports we have had less snow here this Winter than New England.

The University of Upsala claims the seniority among the universities of the Scandinavian countries, being founded in 1477, fifteen years before the discovery of America! The others were founded as follows: the University of Copenhagen in 1479, of Abo in Finland, 1640 (removed to Helsingfors in 1827), of Lund 1668, and of Christiania 1811.

In ancient times Upsala was the capital of Sweden, and it still contains monuments of great age, especially the old castle and the grand cathedral. Next to these the University buildings, about a score in number, none of them dormitories, occupy the most picture-carefully groomed by somebody for facing the main street sits the library building, which contains some 300,000 volumes and 15,000 manuscripts. The most famous of these manuscripts is the so-called "silver codex," consisting of a part of the Gothic bible translated by Bishop Wulfilas in the fourth century, by many hundred years the earliest monument of any Germanic tongue. The vestibule and *aula* (assembly hall) of the new University building with their statuary and architectural beauty are among the most perfect of their kind.

The city, containing about 23,000 inhabitants, has wholly the character of a university town. The fifteen hundred students, all wearing white velvet caps, form the very center of attraction and interest. Every spot, too, seems linked with the name of some former student who has become famous. The botanical garden here reminds one of its founder, the son of Upsala, who is best known in America, the "flower-king" Linné, whose statue also graces the flower gardens of Lincoln Park, Chicago. A direct successor of Linné, occupying the same chair of botany, is now at the head of the University. But the students of Upsala like those of Yale mourn the coming retirement of their excellent president; "rector magnificus" Fries has decided to withdraw from active work in the University with the end of this term.

The absence of an undergraduate

body, with its exuberance of life and diversity of interests, affects every detail of the University work. There are no student publications, no games, no class-spirit; the individual student has his eye so fixed on taking his degree that all else is unnoticed.

The class-spirit, however, finds a substitute in what I may call the "sectional" spirit. Every student on entering the University is required to join one of the dozen *nations* at the University, a nation being a union of students from the same province or section of the country. Each nation has its own home or club house, called "nation house," to which the members always have access, and which constitutes a center for the social side of student life. Here they can lounge, smoke, play chess or backgammon, read newspapers or books in the library, converse, and become acquainted with each other. Here, too, occasional smokers and dinners are given, also private theatricals, small dances, and other social functions.

At a dinner given by the "West-gothic" nation the Yale representative was one of the invited guests. After the speeches when I had responded to a toast in honor of America and Yale, there was a demand to hear the Yale cry. I took a dozen lusty-lunged fellows into a sideroom and practised the "long yell" with them awhile. When we on our return almost raised the roof of the quaint old nation house, the enthusiasm knew no bounds. It did my heart good to hear the familiar cry and to see its effect, perhaps farther north than it ever before had resounded! At the word of the toastmaster the whole company rose and responded to "Long live Yale!" with the regular cry here, a fourfold *rah, rah, rah, rah!*

An American cannot help missing the element of sport so characteristic of our universities. This lack depends partly on a national trait, partly on climatic conditions. How could our ordinary inter-collegiate games thrive in a climate where the snow usually lasts from the end of October till April? One favorite sport here is running on "snow-shoes" (*skidor*, narrow strips of wood six to nine feet long, curved up in front); each year contests take place partly in long distance running, partly down steep hills where a long leap is one of the main features of the contest. A well patronized riding-academy is also under the control of students.

The various seminaries and literary clubs here combine science and "Gemüthlichkeit" in an indissoluble manner. After the literary part of the meeting (usually six to eight o'clock in the evening) a short recess is taken for the supé, and then all again assemble at what is facetiously called the "post-seminarium," at which coffee is served with cigars and "punsch," or vichy for the teetotaler. Here professors and students meet as comrades; profound scientific discussion and light humor join hands. About eleven o'clock the smoker is ended and the club usually accompanies the chief professor to his gate as a mark of respectful attention.

The prevalence of this "feasting" in connection with literary work so characteristic of the North, is in a measure explained by the fact that a very good dinner (with game if you please) is served for less than 30 cents, and the subsequent "post-seminarium," including coffee, cigars, "punsch" and vichy costs about 20 cents. On account of the cold climate beer is never the social beverage, this position being rather monopolized by "punsch," which on account of its strength is sipped in only very small quantities. Its strength is concealed by its sweetness, as some German students, who lately visited Upsala, found to their grief. They mistook "punsch" for Swedish beer; the following morning their swelled heads proclaimed their mistake.

Not a few foreign students are found in Upsala, some coming even from America. The American colony here this year numbers five members, including graduates of Harvard, Yale, and two Western colleges. During the Winter Mr. Mott, a graduate of Cornell, who has often appeared at Dwight Hall, visited the Y. M. C. A. of Upsala, and delivered a series of stirring addresses to large student audiences.

Every second or third year a Latin play is rendered by students of the Classical Department. This year they played to a crowded house some scenes from Plautus's *Pseudoloss* in Latin and all of *Mostellaria* in the vernacular. It was exceedingly interesting to notice and feel how the venerable Graeco-

Roman plot and jests fairly warmed this northern audience into enthusiasm.

Is there no one thing in which the students of Upsala excel? At one of the Paris expositions they won the world's prize for their singing, and on this one object they still concentrate all their affection and their energies. Every student who can sing at all joins the common choir. Wednesday evenings after practice this large chorus marches from Assembly Hall to Market Square, all the way singing some cheery student song. Here they gather round the candelabra and sing some patriotic songs before dispersing. At these occasions all Upsala is on its feet, the streets and Market Square are crowded with people, who listen in silence to the unique performance. The song of the students also graces all festivities connected with the university or patriotic celebrations.

One of the highest honors a student can obtain is to be selected member of O. D. (the initials signifying *the lads of Orpheus*), the glee-club *par excellence*. At times this glee-club tours not only this kingdom, but also neighboring countries; last Summer they were fêted all through Germany, the emperor bestowing the order of the Red Eagle on their leader, the composer Heldenblad. They have often thought of extending their tour to the United States, where their countrywoman, Jenny Lind, scored such great triumphs; no doubt Yale, too, would give them a hearty welcome.

The greatest festival of the year is the May concert. Then students stand in line all night to buy tickets, visitors flock from all over the country, especially from Stockholm, sisters and sweethearts in their most attractive toilets make the gray old university town look gay and cheerful, teas and germans are arranged—all remaining one vividly of the season of the promenade concert at New Haven.

GUSTAV ANDREEN, '94.

Kite Flying for Seniors.

Some sadness has pervaded Berkeley Oval in these latter days on account of an edict from the throne forbidding the passing of ball, even of a tennis ball, not only within certain hours, but within all hours. There is still some passing of ball, for it takes quite a time for such a new and unusual statute to become graven on the general mind.

Berkeley Oval has still been fairly active the last week. A Senioric sport quite new, or at least not common in recent years, has been enjoyed at most all hours of the day. This is kite-flying. The sport, as an Academic pastime, is in its infancy, and has not developed yet beyond simple, bought kites. Neither have any laws been evolved for the practice, as to the proper procedure in criss-cross or broken strings. Members of the legal department of the University, however, have been found making their own laws and have secured a good deal of Academic twine by right of appropriation.

The use of bought kites prevents a means of enjoying the sport which undoubtedly will be secured later when the true old colonial diamond or house-kite shall be framed, with a ten or twenty-foot tail. Those bought kites don't have any tails, except by way of correction when they don't fly just right. Two or three handkerchiefs are sometimes used, but that gives a poverty-stricken look.

The kites have begun to be used as motive power on the little push-carts of the college trousers-pressing concerns, which move very satisfactorily on the concrete of the Oval.

Yale Law School.

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