

∴ The ∴
Weekly Almanian

A student Publication

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STAFF GETS A CHRISTMAS
PRESENT—THANK YOU

Please find enclosed a check for \$1.25 for my subscription to the Almanian, 1915-1916. I know that as payment was made before January 1st, one plunk is all I owe but I am enclosing the extra quarter for the staff for this is the first year I have ever received every copy of the valued paper up to Christmas time. May the good work continue!

Sincerely,
THEODORE NELSON, '09.
5925 W. Ohio St. Chicago, Ill.

A WORD TO THE WISE (?)

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 1 Cor. 13:11.

No this is not a sermon nor even a dignified lecture on the propriety of certain college customs. But rather let it serve as a timely warning, or perhaps better admonition, to our youthful aspirants, the ever present and loquacious Freshmen. Now that we understand in which direction the "Wind" is going to blow let's proceed to our main point.

Members of the Freshmen class, when you were children, real children, not the kind that used to strut about our streets with a little green cap covering a shock of hair like a canvass tarpaulin hiding a straw stack, no not that variety, but real children, in the grades for example, you recognized no law, observed no proprieties, were but small jumbles of human energy running wild.

But the picture is not all black for although you spoke as a child, thought as a child, understood as a child, yet when you became men you put away childish things. As stated above when you were of the grammar school age you recognized no rule but the rule of law. Now that you have come to college you are thrown largely on your own responsibilities are no longer bound as before with stipulated bonds of law but are to be guided by your own sense of propriety, fair play, and honor. When you entered Alma College you submitted yourself to the customs and traditions of the school and if you are worth your salt pledged yourself to uphold its honor.

Alma College has a chapel service, ordinarily, on five mornings of the week. She has instituted no law but there is a custom in the school that unless physically unable you attend that service regularly. During the past weeks there have been days when there were no more than five Freshmen in chapel. This must be changed. If we are to have a chapel service let's make it a real service and not just a gathering.

As we mentioned above it is a custom that Freshmen as well as others attend chapel. We believe you are above the administration of law. We believe you can be trusted to recognize the propriety of things. But Freshmen, need we inform you that if it proves necessary, if you are not yet beyond the rule of force that there is an organization in the school especially designed for such stiff necked specimens of autocracy. Let this be enough! Let a word to the wise be sufficient!

In conclusion, "He that being often reproved, hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." Prov. 29:1.

SHORT STORY CONTEST.

In this issue we are announcing a short story contest subject to the conditions stated in another column. For a long time we have felt that the paper lacked something of the literary element. However this rather

SHORT STORY CONTEST.

In this issue the staff in cooperation with President Crooks and Miss Waite are inaugurating a short story contest subject to the following conditions:

1. The sum of \$10 for first and \$5 for second prize will be given by President Crooks for the stories receiving the best grade; such stories will be published in the Almanian with the name of the author. Other stories beside the prize winners may be published according to the discretion of the editors.
2. Story to contain not less than 2000 words.
3. Papers must be submitted to the judges not later than April 5.
4. Contest to be open to all college and kindergarten students, who have payed or agreed to pay their subscriptions.
5. There must be at least 6 contestants.
6. Stories to be judged by Dr. Ewing, Miss Olive Smith of Alma High School and Rev. Jackson.

vague belief came to no definite conception until it was "resurrected" by President Crooks. Wishing to stimulate literary activity in the college and to increase the value of the college paper he has offered to give cash prizes for the two best short stories written by students. Although as we stated the paper lacked in the strictly literary element, yet we do not agree with some of the criticism, that we have received, to the effect that we were emphasizing the athletic and social element to a greater degree than was advisable. But whether this is a just criticism or not, we believe that any successful attempt to increase the literary element in the paper is highly worth while. It is rightly considered by some that a college paper should be a channel of expression of student work. A number of weeks ago one of the Michigan college papers urged editorially that the student press of the state lay more emphasis on literary work as it, primarily, was the expression of that for which the college stands. The launching of this contest is merely a response to this evident demand and if successfully carried out will give the paper a higher standing than it heretofore had.

But as is true with everything of this kind, the measure of our success in this undertaking will be in proportion to the amount that the student body cooperate with the staff. On our part we offer this contest in response to a demand, thinking that it will make the paper more interesting, will create interest in literary work and incidentally, will give someone a chance to earn a bit of money. The student body on the other hand may do their part by encouraging it, by supporting it with their interest and if possible by entering the contest. We hope to make this an annual affair which, by the interest it arouses, will demand a place in college life. Whether or not we are successful in thus stimulating literary enthusiasm in the school depends largely on the individual student. For our own sake and for the sake of the school let's boost this contest.

FORESTRY SERVICE.

Thursday morning in chapel, Mr. Robert Craig of the Forestry Department of the United States government, gave a very interesting talk on the Forestry Service.

In speaking of the relation of Forestry to the training which a student receives in college Mr. Craig said that Forestry differed from the majority of professions inasmuch that the forester in the field of practice is thrown into an entirely different environment to that in which he studied in college. The doctor in actual practice meets his cases in very much the same attitude and environment that he studied in college. Such is not the case of the forester, he must be ready to adapt himself to the hard life of the woodsman. He must carry on his work under the most adverse conditions.

The most important work of the forestry is to keep a continuous supply of timber. Fire is one of the greatest enemies of our natural resources of timber therefore a highly developed protective system has been

established. A road system of telephones and signals is in use thruout the forests of the United States. The telephones used are the common iron phones such as are distributed thruout the forests and are accessible to rangers and lookout stations. This extensive system of alarms has been a great aid in reducing the number of forest fires, for if the rangers can get to a fire three or four hours after it has started it is an easy matter to control it.

The system of establishing lookout stations on the top of snow-peaked mountains is a comparatively new one but is proving very satisfactory. The lookout is high above the smoke and fog, and thus can see fires from a great distance.

Reforestation is one of the most interesting phases of the work. For many years an attempt was made to produce trees by planting seed, this did not prove satisfactory. At the present time trees are used, trees five years old are planted about one thousand to an acre, some times there is a growth of eighty per cent., but a fifty per cent. growth is very satisfactory.

The department renders a great service thru its Advisory Board, the advise of this department is given free of charge. The woodsman knows woods and can give valuable advise to architect, engineer and gardner alike. For some trees have excellent adaptation to commercial use, others are merely for protective service, but the proper adaptation of trees is an important phase from a financial stand point.

(In a latter issue of the Almanian there will appear a further article on Craig's work in the Forestry Service.)

PRAYER MEETING.

Edith Layer was the leader of the first prayer meeting in the year. The topic was "Consecration" and the scripture reading taken from the twelfth chapter of Romans. Miss Layer said that one of the principle perils of consecration is that we do not make a practical thing of it. Too often we think of it as an act performed some time in the past or we vaguely think of a day in the future when we shall perform this great act, when we leave college, perchance or when we get to China or India—then we shall hand ourselves over to Christ. It was made very plain that the time for consecration is now, and that it is an act that should be repeated often.

Christ should dominate us in all things. He is either Lord of all or not Lord at all. We can not say "Lord be master of my money but let me settle the question of my life work." Christ wants the entire personality in all its relationships thru all time. He wants us not only for all time but at all times. God does not set a limit to His love—Is it fair to Him to limit our consecration? The happiness of a consecrated life, and the necessity of bible study and prayer to growth and development in the same was brought out by others. Altogether it was a profitable and interesting meeting, full of suggestions for better Christian living in the year that is just beginning.

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BATHS

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Alumni Round Table

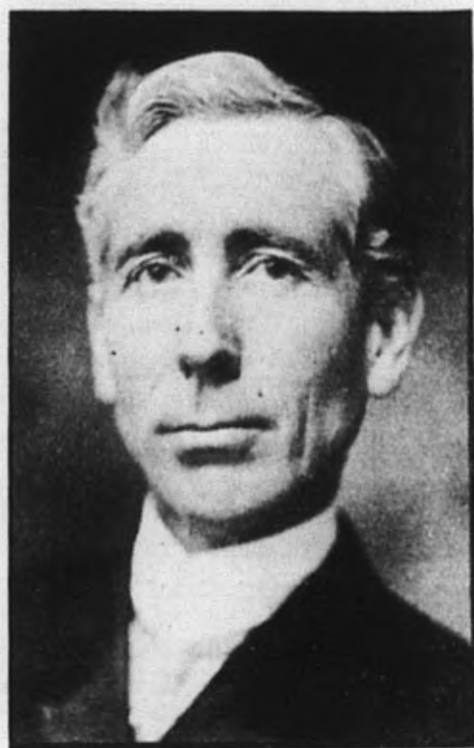
Where we are and what we are doing

HENRY E. PORTER.

Perhaps the thing most easily remembered about Harry E. Porter, '99, in the old days was a lank, seedy fellow, well toward six feet tall, with clothes and shoes bearing the marks of many mendings, winding his way with bicycle and laundry basket about the avenues of Alma near the college. But not many knew the reasons for this seediness, nor of some other things which an inside view might have revealed. Not many students enter upon an eight year's course in college and university with the magnificent sum of \$31 with which to pay his expenses besides supporting a wife and baby, for Porter was a married man before entering college. Those were

conditions better, and with the help of a couple of good preaching points, he was enabled to cut down his college debts to \$300. A few years later he paid everything off to the last dollar.

Because it was the motto of his class Porter first took a small mission work; this was at Parkersburg, W. Va., where he remained until 1906. Then he was called to Beverly, Ohio, where a former Cumberland Presbyterian and a Presbyterian church desired to unite, and needed a man to guide them between the rocks to a full civil and ecclesiastical union. Here he remained until 1910 completing this work and fully reorganizing the church, besides serving as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery most of this



HARRY E. PORTER.

not the days of scholarships, so he paid his tuition in full; not all of it just then, but every penny of it has long since been paid, and some of it with interest at six per cent. Besides that the Board of Education was not supposed to give married students the friendly boost of a hundred or more dollars a year in those days.

After graduating at Alma the big city of Cincinnati gave this raw country boy some much needed training as to the ways of the world while taking his course at Lane Theological Seminary. Finances went some better there, though once at least he compared accounts with a fellow student when they found they owned a cent apiece. That night a strange envelope brought a five dollar bill; but he does not know to this day where it came from. Here however he found

time. In 1910 Mr. Porter was called to Brighton Presbyterian church, Zanesville, Ohio, which had then a membership of 148 and a Sunday school of about 65. Zanesville is an old town and is generally considered a hard city to work in, but by constant effort, with the help of Mrs. Porter who attended college during most of the time they lived at Alma, Brighton church has become one of the best organized churches in their section of the state. It now has a membership of nearly three hundred, and a Sabbath School of 400. Mr. Porter is at present chairman of the Freedmen's Committee for the synod of Ohio, and when a Commissioner at the Rochester General Assembly last May was chosen as one of the Assembly preachers and assigned to one of the fine churches of the city.

We are in receipt of a letter from Mrs. Florence Hood Von Thurn, '11, sending us excerpts from a letter that William Sutherland, a former student of the college sent them from China.

Sutherland, better known as "Bill" came to Alma in '06 and left in '08. From Alma he went to Oberlin where he graduated in 1911. That fall he went to Japan to teach English in one of the government schools. He remained there two years and then started to tour the continent. When the war broke out he was in inland China, so secured a position under Vice President General Li as teacher of fifty boys of the upper class, many of them aspirants for the presidency. The letter which we have just received thru Mrs. Von Thurn is from the same place and the following is an extract from the letter.

"Wuchang, Hupeh, China.
Nov. 1, 1915.

Dear Old Friends:—
You have every reason to think that I have forgotten you but I have not and do not intend to all the years that are to come. I enjoyed most thankfully your good letter written so many months ago, and fully intended to write promptly, but a week after it arrived I was in a terrible Chinese mob and got bruised up considerably and for two or three months was so shattered in nerves that I could write to no one. Then I went away for three months up in the mountains where the nearest postoffice is about twenty miles away, however, now I have returned to this horrible city again, just to show these people that I am not so frightened that I have to go home whenever they think that is

the best thing to do. Nothing in the world is worse than a mob of ignorant Chinks when they simply let loose and are out for blood.

I like old China in many ways and do not think of living at home again, but suppose next summer I will see me homeward bound, however I do want to come back. There is something about the Chinese that one must like in spite of their filth, their laziness and indifference to all progress. This is a most interesting time in the great and for each day we expect to hear that Yuan-Shi-Kai has made himself Emperor and just the minute that happens, trouble is to commence. We have been warned to be ready to leave our places within an hour's notice if trouble comes, and some of my enemies in this old mob will delight in seeing my head roll on the street. But we are fairly well guarded, two soldiers go with us every time we go out of our houses and they always have fixed bayonets. However just now there is a growing hatred for the foreigner and this feeling may develop Yuan is a fool and nothing else, for the country was just beginning to be put on its feet, but all old things are coming back. Opium is sold in public and smoked everywhere once more, queues are almost as common as cut hair, kowtowing is again popular and many other such things. But a new revolution will perhaps wake up the people.

This is to tell you that on Christmas day I shall think of you often and to wish you a great big Merry Christmas and a bright new year.

Ever,
BILL."

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PROFESSOR WEST WRITES.

Prof. F. E. West, head of the Chemistry department at Alma and now on a year's leave of absence writes to the Almanian.

"Berkeley is a little city of about 45,000 population, located across the bay from San Francisco and almost directly opposite the Golden Gate. The campus of the University of California lies at the base of the mountains and fronts toward the bay of San Francisco. It is on a rise of ground near the mountains that they have the rather well known Greek Theatre. The buildings of the university are of various forms of architecture and constructed of granite, wood, or brick. Most of the older buildings are covered with Boston ivy and in many places the campus is also covered for rods. The campus is laid out with many beautiful walks and these are shaded by palms, coffee, eucalyptus, acacia, and other trees. There are many hedges of roses and geraniums.

The enrollment of the university is about 7,500 or about 1,200 more than that of the University of Michigan. This number includes the College of Agriculture, however, which in Michigan is a separate institution.

The tennis courts are numerous and made of cement and the lines of white placed in the cement so that it is not necessary to re-mark them after a rain. I am not sure but that in the long run this is the cheapest way to construct them.

They have two large grand stands, one for baseball and another for football. At present, California is at the outs with Stanford because Stanford insists on playing freshmen and California does not approve of it. The latest from Polo Alto states that Stanford will concede the point and that they will have games again in the spring.

About a mile up the side of the mountain, California has constructed a very large (C) that can be seen several miles and which is quite similar to the (U) that the University of Utah has upon the mountain side in bed we conclude that health is not of Salt Lake City One of the stunts on the part of the Stanford students when they come up here to play football is to paint this large (C) of California red so that it becomes necessary for California students to keep it carefully guarded during the time the Stanford students are in the city. It looks a little odd to one from Michigan to see the plumbing of many buildings on the outside of the building. Several of the buildings are neither lathed nor plastered and the inside looks much like the inside of a barn.

Although this is supposed to be the rainy season there has been very little rain and the days are about as warm as our May days in Michigan but the nights are cooler so that it is necessary to have fire in the grate. Berkeley, California, Dec 27, 1915

OPENING ADDRESS GIVEN.

(Continued from Page One.)
bed we conclude that health is not of prime importance in the growth of personality.

When we consider mental ability we are forced to admit that to a degree this power is essential. From the lives of "the departed great" we conclude that memory and alertness are especially important.

After further analysis we decide that personality is the sum total of all man's qualities that indeed it is the "toot'en scramble" of man's abilities, especially spiritual.

If this be true can we improve our personality? Without question we can. In the realm of mentality we can improve.

Although mentality is important yet we must admit that the spiritual life is of the utmost importance. It is "Spirit that rules the world." Therefore we must learn to cultivate, to train, our spiritual life. Patience, "the finest quality of culture," may be developed. Self-control, "the essence of manhood," must be maintained by one who would create a supreme personality. Courage, optimism and particularly will power are qualities that are highly developed in the man with a personality. But above all in importance stands that love and sympathy with our fellow men that leads to a life of unselfish devotion to Christ. That love coupled with a high ambition and highly developed qualities will produce a supreme personality, fit to leave its impress on the world's history.

Finally, "think great thoughts. Associate with great men thru their books. Have great ambitions. Be

strong in some thing. Personality is the sum of all man's qualities. Superiority in one single line or quality makes for it. Superiority in many qualities adds more."

"You can have a real personality, a personality radiant, compelling achieving. Are you willing to study, to fight the battle of self-control? Possess your soul in patience; cultivate a strong, compelling will; save your fellowmen."

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE OF COLLEGE LIBRARIANS

Alma College was well represented by Miss Helen B. Cook at the mid-winter conference of college librarians held in the Hotel LaSalle, Chicago, December 31, 1915.

Miss Cook spoke to the theme, "The best thing in my library." Among the topics of interest discussed were the following: "How to encourage students to own books." "Work of the librarian and his opportunity for study." "New requirements in reference work." "Introducing the public to the library." "The best thing in my library."

WRIGHT HALL NEWS.

What's the Jubilee!

Miss Alice Kennedy, '14 who is teaching in Roscommon visited Wilhelmine Ritter, Thursday on her way back to her school duties.

Miss Eva Ackley of Howell has not yet returned from her vacation.

Have you heard about the Jubilee?

Miss Robinson received an announcement of the marriage of Ruth Browning of Iron Mountain to Mr. Claud Parmelee of that city on the twenty-first of December. The young couple are to live in Iron Mountain and the bride's many young friends here wish her much joy in her new home.

When's the Jubilee?

Miss Marion Parsons was detained at home a day longer than the rest of the girls on account of illness.

There's a good time coming at the Jubilee.

LOCALS.

Semi-annual meeting of the board of trustees of Alma College will be on Jan. 18, 1916.

Miss Mary Louise Allen of New York City, editor of the Association Monthly, the official organ of the Y. W. C. A. of the United States, will be in Alma, March 2 and 3, 1916.

Miss Allen was Dean of Women at Alma College for five years; and is coming to Alma in the interest of the National Jubilee.

During the holiday week President Crooks brought Mrs. Crooks and his four boys to Alma. A day latter Rev. J. C. Elliott and Mrs. Elliott arrived.

Last week in Washington, D. C., Rev. Elliot preached a sermon on the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination in the Presbyterian Ministry.

During the week of February, 20-27, Rev. Paul R. Hickok of Washington, D. C. will hold special services at Alma College. The week will be observed as Vocational Week.

William A. Pearl of the U. M. was elected to the Rhode's Scholarship, Sidney P. Cook, '15 as alternate. The Committee of Selection consists of President Hutchins of U. M.; Dean Effenger of U. M.; Chief Justice Brooks of Michigan Supreme Court; President Crooks of Alma College and President Vennema of Hope College.

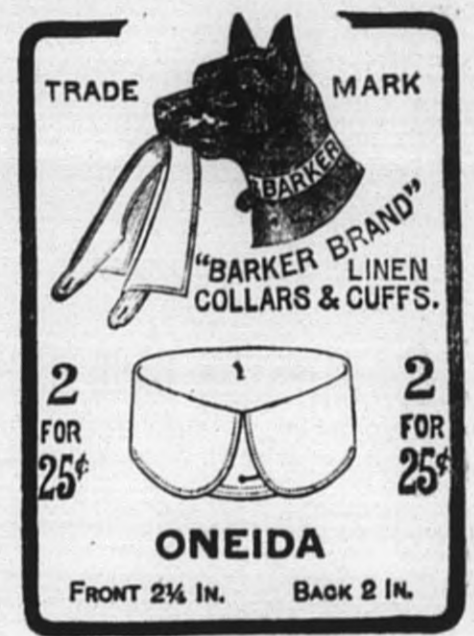
Rev. Hickok will be sent by the Board of Education of the Presbyterian Church of America. Rev. Hickok is a young man who has been in close touch with college affairs, and his work has been peculiarly helpful among young people. At the present time Rev. Hickok is Chaplain of the Southern Veterans, and also holds leading offices in his national fraternity.

DISASTROUS BASKETBALL TRIP.

(Continued from Page One.)
left Alma, the Monday following Christmas. With this amount of steady playing the Almites will have secured much more practice than have the other schools which were idle, with the exception of Kalamazoo college, which also knows the value of the Christmas vacation trips for opening the eyes of the team to the possibilities of the great winter sport. That the trip proved beneficial to the team, even in spite of the sickness was shown in the way Alma's green lunch jumped on the veterans of Adrian last Thursday night.

H. DUNHAM,

In order to secure a copy of the "Maroon and Cream" for \$1.00—It is necessary that you pay that \$1.00 on or before the 15th of this month. After that date the price will be \$1.50. Better see the Business Managers right away.



With splayed blades of special treated Synthloy steel, hardened and tempered, specially polished, nickel-plated and buffed.

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