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IS THE OVERTHROW OF EXISTING FORMS OF SOCIETY BY SOCIALISM PROBABLE?

To the careful student, the condition of present society presents an alarming aspect. It reminds one of a leaning tower, struggling seemingly to get out of the perpendicular. Society is a mighty tower, and the great workman, Competition, is building at the top, while numerous evils are eating away the foundation. Under the factory system, which is rapidly covering the globe, we find a vast organization of social operation. Great syndicates are being formed, small capital is being crushed out, and the working people are being drilled into practical slavery. They are absolutely in the power and at the mercy of the favored few holding the capital. Only the casual glance reveals the fact that in present society there is a great evil which already bad, is rapidly growing worse—the accumu-
lation of wealth. The premise of Karl Marx that the rich are becoming richer, and the poor poorer and more numerous, is true. All around us men are daily driven to despair, as grim starvation stares them in the face, and as they listen to the cries for bread, coming from the hungry mouths of hungry children. All around us, parents themselves ignorant, on account of poverty, are forced to bring up their children in ignorance, and within the boundaries of our poverty-stricken neighborhoods crime and sin and despair are increasing so rapidly that already the smell of society's corruption and the darkness of its despair are causing the thoughtful to tremble, and firing the philanthropical and wise with desires for its purification. All over our land, houses of prostitution are being filled with sisters and daughters, driven there from necessity, an outgrowth of present inequality in society.

Pick up the newspapers and you will find, with flaming headlines, notices of Pittsburg glass-blowers on a strike; Cleveland rolling-mill workers on a strike; great strike of Woonsocket Rubber Company's hands; great strike in Chicago, and numberless other notices of the same kind. Here a man is shot dead because of taking a position vacated by a striker, and in another place, Chinamen are ruthlessly butchered because of the grave offence of taking the positions of strikers.

In the face of all these facts, can we say that capital and labor are allies, or that there is no social question? There is a social question which is agitating society and perplexing our most learned scholars. The historical assertion that the exclusion of producing classes from the possession of land and capital, and the establishment of the subjection of workers, who have nothing to depend on but wage labor, has been the course of social evolution for centuries, is the foundation of socialism, the theme of this article.

Socialists contend that the present system of society, which encourages the restriction of land and capital to individuals, struggling constantly for an increase of wealth, produces an increase of vice and idleness in
wealthy circles; leads to the degradation of the working-
man; increases adulteration in all its forms; and is gradually 
separating the people into two great classes—the wealthy and 
poor. And these are only a few of the prevailing evils in 
society. Overtopping all other dangers, a mountain by the 
grain of sand, as to all other evils, dark, threatening, devouring, 
is the great curse—accumulated wealth.

Here is a human being, beautiful with the stamp of perfect 
health. Just as the stopping of the circulation of the blood in 
his body will take the roses from his cheeks, the brilliancy 
from his eye, and ruin and blemish his physical beauty; just 
so will the accumulation of wealth, the hoarding of the life 
blood of our industry (money), in syndicates, monopolies, etc., 
overthrow the body of our government and blemish its beauty.

And why should there be so great inequality among people 
anywhere? It has been estimated that eleven million dollars 
are added each day to the wealth of America and Europe. 
The excess of births over deaths each day is 11,000, so that 
$1,000 is added to the wealth of Europe and America to prepare 
for each birth. And yet, thousands upon thousands of human 
beings eke out miserable existences in darkest poverty, on the 
verge of starvation. Is that system of society the best that 
will plunge an honest, deserving man into poverty, and allow 
the scheming, crafty man to live in luxury? You will readily 
answer no, but you say, “Where is the remedy?” “What is 
the remedy?” Socialism proposes to remedy the multitude of 
evils that now exist in society, by abolishing entirely the com-
petitive system, now in operation, and substituting a co-opera-
tive one. Socialists maintain that society should be contributed 
to by every one, and everybody should share in the fruits of co- 
operative labor. It is in this essential sense of co-operation 
and common sharing that Albert Schäffle, one of the first 
authorities on economics and sociology has, after studying the 
subject for a number of years, announced his belief that the 
future belongs to purified socialism.

In the year 1817, when Owen submitted his scheme for a 
socialistic community to the House of Commons, and in the
year that the speculations of Saint Simon began to savor of socialistic principles, socialism began. There are many different kinds of socialism; the word socialism is used in many different ways, and it is not our intention to define each kind and discuss the merits of each; but we aim to prove that there is sufficient merit, and that the general movement is of sufficient importance, to justify the assertion that the overthrow of existing forms of society by socialism is probable.

Let us glance at a few facts in regard to socialism. There is a growing tendency towards State control of industry and a growing sense of society's responsibility for all its members, that is easily observable in German politics and under the democratic conditions of England and France. This spirit is one of the vital spirits of socialism, and a fact that we would have you notice, it is a growing spirit. That men have been led to a broader and more sympathetic view of humanity, as a whole, by the assertions of socialism cannot be doubted. Socialism has discovered numerous evils occasioned by the modern development of industry, and has forcibly called public attention to them, at the same time suggesting a remedy. It has suggested the inadequacy of the present competitive system, and proposes to substitute for this a system which seeks the greatest common and the highest individual good. This movement has increased in a remarkable manner since 1817.

In 1878 special and stringent legislation was occasioned in Germany by the spread of socialistic opinions. In 1881 the socialist vote was 311,961; in 1884 it was 550,000, and the socialist deputies in the Reichstag increased from 13 to 24; in 1887 the vote was 774,000, and in the election of 1890, in the city of Berlin alone, the socialists polled 125,000 out of 230,000 votes. These figures show how marvellously this movement has increased and what mighty proportions it is rapidly assuming. Numerous papers, enthusiastic meetings, and the formation and existence of numerous clubs, represent this movement in England and America. Edward Bellamy's "Looking Backward," in expressing many socialistic theories, has occasioned
the organization of many Nationalist clubs in both the East and the West, and socialistic ideas are being scattered everywhere through newspapers and by the publication of the works of Stuart, Mill, Carlyle, and other noted writers who favor socialism.

In an imperial message to the Reichstag, in November, 1881, many measures were proposed which savor of socialism, the most prominent of which was "for organizing the life of the people in the form of co-operative associations under the protection and furtherance of the State."

We will be compelled to acknowledge that socialism is a great and growing movement. In the main idea of co-operation as opposed to competition, all socialists agree, but they differ as to the manner in which the new society is to be organized and how the common property should be distributed. The school of Saint Simon advocated a social system in which every man should be rewarded according to his works and placed according to his ability. In the communities of Fourrier every one was to be guaranteed subsistence out of the common gain, and the surplus was to be divided between labor, capital, and talent; the first receiving five-twelfths, the second four-twelfths, and the third three-twelfths. The social Democrats of Germany drew up a programme in which it was provided that every one should enjoy the fruits of the common labor according to their reasonable wants, and everybody should be bound to work. Of all the forms of socialism perhaps the most threatening to present forms of society are the "Scientific and Revolutionary," and the "Christian Socialism." The Christian socialist movement began in England (1848) under the leadership of such men as Maurice, Kingsley, and Ludlow, who received much inspiration from the revelations regarding "London Labor" and "London Poor," published in the Morning Chronicle. The prime aim of Christian socialism, like the majority of socialistic movements, is to condemn the principle of competition, now the law of industry, and favor productive associations, with an equitable system of distribution and a common capital.
It is easy to see that all the socialistic movements are for the betterment of society. Each clear definition of the great aim of socialism is a logical argument within itself. The majority of people will readily acknowledge that it is a splendid system, but they say it is impracticable. They object that it is more of an Utopian than a practical scheme. These objections practically amount to nothing in the question at issue. These same people, living before the French Revolution, would have affirmed that stupendous event impracticable. These same people, living before the war of Independence, estimating the weakness of the colonies as against the strength of England, would have predicted the final victory of the colonies impracticable. These same people, in realizing the power of Rome, would have affirmed the Protestant Reformation improbable and impracticable, and though for more than a century and a half it was the occasion of international bloodshed, yet it was finally established. These same people, living before our late war, would have affirmed the suppression of American slavery impracticable. When we remember that all great movements involving revolution or anything kindred have always seemed impracticable, and when we reflect upon the fact that representative government was once a revolutionary innovation, and when we reflect upon the great and rapidly growing strength of socialism, fired and encouraged by the manifold and growing evils of present society, we are influenced in favor of the conclusion that the overthrow of our very imperfect system of society by the system proposed by socialism is very probable.

There is a tendency shown to identify socialism with Russian nihilism and French anarchism, which is unjust, as socialism is radically different from these movements. Another objection to socialism is that it kills ambition. This is another unjust criticism. The highest ambition that can move man is the ambition for personal power and efficiency for the betterment of mankind, and this ambition the system proposed by socialism would increase and encourage. Another objection is that "socialism unphilosophically ignores an individualism
and inequality, to which nature herself has given her inviolable sanction." Socialism ignores neither individualism nor inequality, for under the socialist system alone can the individual have hope of a full realization of himself. Refer to the system advocated by the school of Saint Simon, and see if it ignores inequality or individuality. The vital idea of socialism is the transformation of private into collective capital.

Surely under the system that allows man to work for self and at the same time for all his fellow-beings, the highest individual excellence will be obtained. Under the present system of society, competition is slowly and surely doing away with excellence and beauty in industry. It is acknowledged that cheapness is a necessity of competition, and excellence is fast giving away to cheapness; but under socialism, which is essentially opposed to competition, the highest beauty and the highest excellence can be obtained in every line of industry. Under the present system the finest education, the best comfort, the most harmonious development of individual capacity is limited to a few, but socialism will give all an equal chance—an opportunity will be extended to all for the highest development.

From Christianity socialism has grown, and Christianity and socialism are essentially connected. The ethics of Christianity are identical with the ethics of socialism, and in the words of another, "socialism is the economic complement of democracy."

Perhaps the greatest force that renders plausible the overthrow of present forms of society by socialism, is the modern democracy. The people that compose this democracy are most directly interested in the colossal movement—socialism. This democracy is being trained, educated, enlightened, by the cheap press, by the public-school, by mammoth public demonstration, by the gigantic electoral struggles of our time, and is becoming conscious of its mighty power; and when it is educated sufficiently to seize the truths of socialism, as concerning the common weal, like a mighty avalanche it will sweep present
forms of society from existence. When a mutual desire for the other's welfare is recognized by human beings, they immediately become interested in each other. In this lies the secret of the orator's success. This is the principle upon which that orator of orators, William Jennings Bryan, is rapidly paving his way to the White House; the principle upon which John W. Daniel stands, a living evidence that true oratory is still among us; the principle upon which the power of Sam Jones rests, which has moved a continent; the principle upon which that flower of Southern beauty in oratorical realms, Henry W. Grady, stood to draw his golden cord of patriotism through the North and South, and this principle which is the radical light of socialism, when its golden beams reach the common heart, they will prepare the same for the gigantic struggle which is surely destined to overthrow existing forms of society.

In Paris, flames burst forth, and those who applied the fire, cried: "Down with the monuments which remind us of inequality." Sparks from that fire have blown over the world; have found a lodging-place in a multitude of minds and hearts, and are quietly burning there until the time of the mighty conflagration, which will consume the imperfections of modern society.

Yes, socialism is the greatest movement, next to Christianity, of all history. It contains principles which, in a more or less degree, are entertained by the great majority of people, many of whom are yet ignorant of the fact that socialism contains just their ideas of what society ought to be. When the beauty of this movement becomes known to every mind, when its excellence bursts upon every understanding, which will be brought about by the education of the people in the principles of socialism, then will there be a meeting of streams of thought, desire, and action from every country, from every clime, and these will constitute the mighty river which will sweep present forms of society from existence.

If the impeachment of socialism against society is just,
and socialism will provide a better system, does it not necessarily follow that the people will become enlightened and seize this method for the common deliverance from final ruin? You visit a mountainous country, and in regions of perennial frost you view the mighty glacier, under the influence of the sun, which causes its bosom to scintillate and sparkle as if it were a great bed of jewels, slowly moving downward over slopes and through valleys on its way to the sea. The glacier is seemingly immovable, but small streams, started by warm rays of sunshine, conspire beneath its bulk to sever it from the mountain, and thus it slowly moves downward. Just so the streams of socialistic thought started by the warm rays of truth are conspiring beneath the immense bulk of present society to sever it from its foundation, and the time is surely coming when existing forms of society will be consigned to the lowest depths of the sea of oblivion and popular rejection.

And the tree of socialistic principles, living in Christian soil, will grow in abundance luscious fruit for common enjoyment and nutrition. May that tree in its beauty, when it is firmly planted in the soil of Christianized society, grow on and on, a glorious index to common happiness until the end of time.

K. W. CAWTHON.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT.

In the Balkan Peninsula the tide of fortune had turned. The Grecian States, with the exception of the Peloponnesus, had lost their independence, and were subject to Philip of Macedon. Philip had caused their downfall rather by artful diplomacy and intrigue than by open force. In the use of these weapons, we are told he might have been the teacher of the Athenian Themistocles.

While the Greek States were divided among themselves, they were united in an undying hatred of the Persians. They were at the time of their overthrow meditating an enterprise fraught with the greatest importance to the history of the world. In
consequence a great council of the Grecian cities was held at Corinth, and Philip was chosen leader of the expedition. Now all Greece was astir with preparation; every man, woman, and child lending a helping hand. But in the midst of all, Philip was assassinated, and his son, the subject of our sketch, succeeded to his throne.

Twenty years before this (355 B.C.) while Philip was battling for supremacy, Alexander was born. Just after Philip had taken Potidæa, he received three messages—viz., that Parmenio had overthrown the Illyrians in a great battle, that his race-horse had won the course at the Olympic games, and that his wife had given birth to a son. He was delighted, and as an addition to his satisfaction, he was assured by the augurs that a son, whose birth was accompanied with such successes, could not fail of being invincible.

Philip recognized early in Alexander's life that he had no common character, that he was sensible beyond his years, that he had an indomitable will, an untiring energy, and that it would be an honor to leave such a kingdom as the Macedonian to him. Perceiving this, he set about with ceaseless activity to procure instructors suitable for his son. He secured Leondas and Lysimachus; and afterwards Aristotle, the most learned, cultured, and celebrated philosopher of his time. Aristotle did a great deal towards moulding Alexander's character, and making him what he afterwards was. We are told that in Alexander's boyhood when he would hear of some town his father had taken, or some great victory achieved, that instead of rejoicing at it altogether, he would tell his companions that his father would anticipate everything, and leave him and them no opportunities of performing great and illustrious actions. Once after performing some daring exploit, his father said to him: "Son, go look for some other kingdom, Macedonia is too small for you."

At the age of twenty Alexander came to his father's throne. For two years he was busy suppressing revolts in the different cities of Hellas, and chastising hostile tribes on the northern
ALEXANDER THE GREAT.

frontier of Macedonia. By this time he and all Greece were ready to enter upon the Asiatic expedition. In the spring of 334 B.C., at the head of an army numbering 35,000 men, he set out for the conquest of the Persian empire. And now commenced one of the most remarkable and swiftly-executed campaigns recorded in history.

Crossing the Hellespont, Alexander won battle after battle until he was master of Pœnicia, Egypt, the larger part of India, and Persia. The way in which he conducted his expedition shows that he was a great military genius. He never entered into anything in a half-handed way, nor was there anything too difficult for him to overcome. Alexander is reckoned among the greatest commanders the world ever produced. His name has become immortal, being used by nearly every nation and in nearly every clime as a word synonymous of victory.

During his campaigns, in order that he might make the countries he conquered more stable, and in order that he might thoroughly Hellenize them, he founded cities, some of which became, and still are, centres of much commercial distinction, liberal art, and great literary activity. It was Alexander’s desire to conquer the world; he wanted to be ruler of the whole universe, and wished to be recognized as such by all. As “there cannot be two suns in the heavens,” so he believed there could not be two rulers on the earth.

Alexander, after he had become master of Egypt and the greater part of Asia, was not content to peaceably govern his own subjects. He, like Achilles, could not endure repose,

—“But sad, and languished for,
Desiring battle and the shout of war,”

And gratified his inclination by planning in his mind an expedition to the West. In the midst of his vast projects he was seized by a fever, and died in Babylon, his capital, in the thirty-second (32d) year of his age. And so the hero of over a hundred battlefields was no more. He passed away in the flower
of life. Yes, before the bud had become a full-grown flower it was cut down. But it was saved to the world until it had shed more fragrance in the air than any that had preceded it.

It seems that a man as great as Alexander ought to have had a character that was spotless, unblemished, and pure as the morning dew. Yet such was not the case. Time and time again he cast a blot upon it. He was very passionate, and frequently could not control his anger. To some he was heartless and cruel, while to others he was kindness itself. We admire him for his noble treatment of the family of Darius, because it shows to us a nobility of character that but few great men have attained. His character is not untarnished, but we believe that its blackness is more than counterbalanced by its greatness.

He had a kind and generous nature; he avenged the murder of his enemy, Darius, and he repented in bitter tears over the body of his faithful and beloved Clitus. He exposed himself like the commonest soldier, sharing with his men the hardships of the march and the dangers of the battlefield. But, on the other hand, he was self-seeking, foolishly vain, and madly ambitious of military glory. He plunged into shameful excesses, and gave way to bursts of passion that transformed a usually mild and generous disposition into the fury of a madman. The contradictions of his life cannot, perhaps, be better expressed than in the words once applied to the gifted Themistocles: "He was greater in genius than in character." He who conquers and rules himself does well.

Alexander acted in such a way as to make the barbarians with whom he came in contact think that he was a god. Once he desired to be declared of celestial descent. The priests gave out that the oracle pronounced him to be the son of Zeus Ammon, and the destined ruler of the world. But he himself did not believe that he was a god, because on one occasion, being wounded with an arrow, and feeling much pain, he turned to those about him and said: "This, my friends, is real, flowing blood, not Ichor, such as immortal gods are wont to shed."
The remarkable conquests of Alexander had far-reaching consequences. They ended the long struggle between Persia and Greece, and spread Hellenic civilization over Egypt and the greater part of Asia. The distinction between Greek and barbarian was obliterated, and the sympathies of men hitherto so narrow and local, were widened. And thus an important and necessary preparation was made for the reception of the cosmopolitan creed of Christianity. The world was also given a universal language of culture—the Greek—which was a further preparation for the spread of Christian teachings.

There were also some evil effects attending his conquests. The sudden acquisition of the Greeks of the enormous riches of the Persian empire, and contact with the vices and effeminate luxury of the Oriental nations, had a most demoralizing effect upon all Hellenic life. Greece became corrupt, and she in turn corrupted Rome.

We should pay reverence to a man who was so generous; we should admire a man who did so much for literature and art; we should prostrate ourselves before a man whose example has been ennobling and inspiring through so many ages and centuries—a man who wept because he could find no more worlds to conquer.

BAN DIGHT.
List of New Books.

Of the books which have appeared during the past month, the following are of especial interest to students:


*Songs of the South*, selected by Jennie Thornley Clarke, with introduction by Joel Chandler Harris. J. B. Lippincott Company. $1.50.


*Chemistry in Daily Life*: Popular lectures by Dr. Lassor Cohn; trans. by M. M. Pattison Muid, M. A. Illus. 12 mo., pp. 324. J. B. Lippincott Company. $1.75.


The Proper Function of the College Messenger.

We have long felt that the Messenger of Richmond College has not had its proper place in the work of the literary societies, and has not been supported by the student body as it should be. There are some students here who are profoundly interested in the magazine, and are putting forth strenuous efforts for its success; but the majority of the students are interested only when the time comes for the Messenger to be distributed. But we are glad to say that some of the professors also have manifested a marked interest in the success of the Messenger, as is shown by the following from the pen of Professor Carroll. It is in substance a talk which he made at the reunion of the Mu Sigma Rho Society. We endorse it heartily, and commend it to every one of our readers; and we trust that its suggestions will be received and officially acted upon by the literary societies:

I conceive that the College Messenger, in its relation to the students and to the College, has a three-fold function.

1. *It is the organ of the literary societies.* The object of these societies is to cultivate the student's powers of expression, both in spoken and written language. As the constitution of the Philologian Society puts it: "Therefore have we banded ourselves together with a view to assist and encourage each other in the cultivation of our powers of tongue and pen, so that each of us, upheld by the kind approval of partial friendship, and by the warm sympathies of a common brotherhood, may struggle with success to attain the goal suggested in the motto of our association: "**Rostra et Penna.**" The tongue and the pen the societies strive to cultivate. To attain this end, debates and orations and essays should be on really literary...
themes, and should be so carefully prepared that the best of them would deserve publication. They should find a place in the College Messenger.

The relation between the societies and their organ is so close that if a discreditable number of the Messenger appears every Mu Sig. and Philologian should feel a share of the disgrace. A high standard of excellence in its articles should be demanded, and the members of the two societies ought to have it in their power to censure, and even to remove, the board of editors if they neglect their duty. If our students were fully awake to the close relation between society and Messenger, would not each of these exert on the other a quickening influence that would be productive of great benefit to both?

2. It is the ally of the schools of language and literature.

Says John Stuart Mill, “Scientific education teaches us to think, and literary education to express our thoughts.” “The leading aim in the teaching of English,” says Hiram Corson, “is, 1 to enlarge the student’s vocabulary, and 2 to cultivate a nice sense of the force of words; * * * and, 3, the sole end of 1 and 2, to speak and write good live English of the best verbal material and texture, and closely fitting the thought which it clothes.” Greek and Latin render invaluable aid to English in giving an increased mastery over the resources of the mother-tongue. And the modern languages, rich in idiom and in human interest, widen the literary horizon of the student, and offer him living models of what he may attain by the use of his pen. Thus these four schools are preparing the student to become a regular contributor to his college paper. Further, in all these departments themes have to be studied and papers have to be written on them—themes of literary import—and the papers may have a literary quality such as would justify their survival in print. Now the presence in the College of a periodical, strictly under student control, through which the public can become acquainted with the students’ genuinely literary work, is sure to stimulate them in their preparation of papers for the class-room. And the
visions of society honors, given for excellence in writing and in speaking, will add a further stimulus to the proper performance of their daily tasks.

3. *It is a proper repository for College history.* Richmond College has celebrated its semi-centennial. It has among its alumni men who now hold positions as college presidents and professors, judges, editors, lawyers, doctors, teachers, and preachers, and scores who follow other honorable callings. Yet its history has not been written. The warp of Richmond College is so closely woven into the woof of the history of Southern Baptists that it would be impossible to disentwine it. Yet the story of its devoted trustees and professors and alumni, their trials and their triumphs, has not been put in readable shape. Would it not be a practical step for the societies to elect some alumnus who is in close touch with the College, Alumni editor of the MESSENGER?—whose task it shall be to get from prominent alumni of the various periods in the history of the College, communications relating interesting facts about Richmond College as they knew it. Such a movement would supply the MESSENGER with a series of articles that would attract the notice of every old student, and would make the MESSENGER the repository for the material that will be the main source for the history of Richmond College, whenever that shall be written.

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**A PECULIAR ADVANTAGE TO COLLEGE-MEN.**

It is not the purpose of this editorial to mention what many would term peculiar advantages that college-men receive. The *blessing* referred to does not come from contact with learned professors, nor does it come from classical training in the lecture-room. Indeed, its influence is almost directly opposed to this. Some do not need the treatment, but others who do need it sometimes escape, and the result is that they are maimed for life. They become specimens of sophomoric presumptuousness.
When they return to their communities after a year or two at College their swelled heads become so heavy that they topple backwards, and neighbors think there is serious danger of lunacy. In the great length of time they have been from home they have forgotten many of their acquaintances and friends. Indeed, the neighborhood has grown so small that it can hardly contain them. Evidently it would have been a good thing for such young men to have received a system of training that would have corrected the sort of conception they have of what it is to be educated.

The peculiar advantage we have reference to is the result of just such a system. We do not, by any means, advocate a rigorous and barbarous treatment of men in College who appear ostentatious, nor do we mean to endorse "hazing." We believe both are carried to excess in many of our institutions, and often breed contention and strife. But there is generally among a class of students those who are ready to show their disapproval of boastfulness and vanity; and if this manifestation of disapproval is tempered with kindness and considerateness we hold that it is a lasting benefit to the vain fellow who chances to be the victim, even though it causes for a time painful humiliation. Humility is a virtue. But shrinking subservience is not humility.

A man may be humble, and not bashful; he may be wise, and not conceited; he may be bold, and not headstrong. And so if students show scorn and contempt for conceit and vanity, and thus crush it out of the lives of each other, they will accomplish a great end. And if there ever was a place in which the conceit and vanity is taken out of a man it is in a large institution of learning. The process is a peculiar one, and so we term the result a peculiar advantage to college-men.

This issue of the Messenger is the last one with the present staff of Associate Editors. We feel that a word of thanks is due them for their hearty support. The gratuitous use of time
and talent deserves praise. We trust that whatever profitable experiences they may have had will be eminently useful to them in after-life.

Upon the new staff of Associate Editors rests now a responsible duty.

Every generation should advance the civilization of a nation; just so should every new staff of Editors advance the literary standard of a College magazine. Improvements to human achievement can always be made, and profiting by our own and others experiences is the best way to success.

We hope that with a feeling of deep responsibility the new staff of Associate Editors will cheerfully and enthusiastically enter upon their duties, and make the MESSENGER of Richmond College the best in the land.

As an evidence of the growth of the American nation, is the fact that it is now trying to solve one of the great problems that has long been awaiting the executive judgment of a wiser generation. The nation now recognizes in her statesmanship the ability to meet an emergency that has long marked her history. The money question is no novelty. It seems to be a novelty only because it has not been heretofore so prominently thrust forward in the drama of politics. Heretofore, political campaigns have been marked largely by political issues. The political campaign of the present day is marked not by a political issue, but more—by a fundamental principle of government.

This principle must, of necessity, embody itself in the structure of our national life. Indeed, it is the very central principle around which must gather all other principles and forces of the future state. The money which a nation uses does not simply affect its internal interests and relations, but its external interests and relations.

Really the monetary system of a nation is its only expansive force. Political pessimists, of course, are ready to say that a dis-
turbance of a question like this will bring revolution and disorder. Perhaps so, but revolution and disorder are sometimes necessary.

Whatever may be the opinion of the critic or of the pessimist, the disturbance of the money question will set to work other forces potent in our national life. The nation now has minds able and ready to meet the emergencies of the greatest government. These minds are going to open the twentieth century with a newer and better condition of things. What can be more significant of the nation's growth?
Prof. of Eng.: What is rhetoric?
Rat W.: A deviation from the regular mode of speaking to make it more effective.

Mr. B-ch-l-d-r: Decline the first personal pronoun in the plural.
Mr. B.: Nom. we; Poss. ours; Dat. mine; Obj. our.

Give some examples of the plural formed by adding en.
Rat H-rr-s-n: Ox, oxen; broke, broken.

Mr. Sp-nc-r, on hearing a scissors-grinder pass the College, wanted to know if that horn was for dinner.

Prof.: Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?
Rat W-l-s-n: Madison.

Prof. C. (discussing ancient customs): Queen Elizabeth never slept on a pillow.
Rat: Well, my room-mate doesn’t either.

We would like to know if the Editors of the Chisel met with any serious difficulty this summer in raising tulips on the thorny walk that leads to their paternal domicile.

The Independent Order of Midnight Toe-Pullers, notwithstanding the fact that their old leader did not return, began work on time, and are now in first-class condition. They are doing some good work both in the College building and in the Cottage, and one can hear almost any night about 1 o’clock cries of “Murder!” “Help!” “Wait!” “Fire!” “I’m fainting!” and many other such demonstrations of surprise and
love for that most important part of the human body—the toe. Occasionally a subject gets unruly, and they have to resort to main force, but as a rule the movements are as follows: Gain admission to the room (by an art known only to the order); distinguish, by means of the light from the hall or by a match, which of two bed-fellows shall be operated upon; raise the cover very gently; view the position of his feet; slip the rope on and give the signal just as the victim wakes. My vocabulary is inadequate to express the thoughts that passed through my mind upon the night of my initiation into the order, as I awoke and found myself leaving my bed, drawn by a power beyond all government. I felt as I imagine one would feel placed upon a pirate ship and forced to see native land and familiar scenes pass out of sight, while he, altogether in the power of others, is going out into regions unknown.

Mr. H—g, a very distinguished rat from Powhatan, entered the Thomas' Hall upon the night of Dr. Jones' address, and seeing the candle-shaped gas jets, expressed it as his opinion that they would very likely burn out before the lecture was over.

"Good evening, Miss B." No response.
"Good evening, Miss B." No response.

The Literary Societies held their annual reunions, and have begun regular work. This is always a pleasant feature of the opening of the College, and this year was not unlike the preceding ones in that respect. A number of the new boys have joined each society, and among them is some very good material. We hope that there are a number of others who intend joining one or the other of the societies, as this is one of the most important features of college life. As usual, the societies elected officers for the ensuing term at their second meeting. For the respective societies they are as follows:
Mu Sigma Rho.—President, Oscar L. Owens; Vice-President, Benj. H. West; Censor, B. M. Hartman; Critic, J. R. L. Johnson; Corresponding Secretary, W. B. Daughtry; Treasurer, W. A. Mobley; Recording Secretary, W. L. Stone; Sergeant-at-Arms, J. E. Hicks; Chaplain, F. W. Moore.

Philologian.—President, R. E. Loving; Vice-President, J. A. Sullivan; Censor, J. D. Frazer; Critic, ——; Corresponding Secretary, W. H. Davis; Treasurer, W. T. Wingfield; Recording Secretary, ——; Sergeant-at-Arms, Sands Gayle; Historian, K. W. Cawthon; Chaplain, S. P. DeVault.

What's the matter with Polk Miller? He's all right!
How about Dr. Nelson? He's all right, all right!

Professor Carroll has formed a class to meet at six o'clock on Monday afternoons for the study of the Book of Acts in Greek, treating it as a work of history and as a literary product. Linguistic peculiarities and text criticism receive attention, but chief stress is laid upon a systematic study of the events recorded, in their historical relations, with a view to tracing the critical steps in the progress of the early church from the ascension of Christ to the arrival of Paul in Rome. The course this year is a proper basis for a systematic study of the language and contents of the Epistles of Paul, which the students will have opportunity to pursue another session.

GRAND ORDER OF INDEPENDENT TOE-PULLERS.

I. Assembly of Grand Order.
II. Grand march from "La Cottage" to College.
III. A tragedy in two acts: Act 1st, Murder of Sleep—Spencer. Act 2d, Hanged By the Leg—Deane.
IV. "La Retreat" to cottage.
V. "That Funny Feeling," as if approaching a window—Chelf.
VI. A comedy in three acts—Williams: Act 1st, Consultation; application of rope. Act 2d, Retreat of assassins through the window, who would have been trapped had not Williams met with obstacles. Act 3d, Sympathy.

VII. Closing solo (Beethoven)—Bailey.

Mr. M-e (in Senior English): "I thought petroleum was a recent invention."

Prof. of English: "What language is now in use?"
Mr. P-m: "Satire."

Prof. of Physic: "What force do we use besides our muscular force?"
Mr. N-l: "Negroes."

Prof. of Physics (discussing equilibrium): "What sort of equilibrium is this?"
Mr. "A²." Y.: "Instable."

THE GREEK CLUB OF RICHMOND COLLEGE.

Professor Carroll has recently organized a Greek Club among members of his senior class and resident graduates of the School of Greek. The club is established, as its constitution states, for "the investigation of such phases of Greek literature and life as cannot be treated in the class-room, the acquirement of information regarding what is going on in the Greek world, and the stimulation of interest in Greek studies generally."

During the first half-session Greek lyric poetry will be the centre of study, and papers on "Lyric Poetry," Solon, Sappho, Pindar, and other Greek lyrists will be read. The club meets once a month at the home of Professor Carroll, and the meetings are not to exceed an hour and a quarter in duration. After the reading of papers, some moments will be devoted to
the discussion of the theme of the evening, and to the inter-
change of information about recent discoveries in Greece and
other topics of general interest to the Greek student.

The object of the organization is to foster in its members the
literary spirit, to awaken an appreciation of Hellenism as an
essential element in the highest culture, and to inspire them
with an ever-growing love for Greek letters, which is one of
the best means possible to stimulate an interest in English
letters.

At the first meeting of the club, on October 10th, the fol-
lowing officers were elected: President, Professor Carroll;
Vice-President, John E. Johnston, the Greek medalist of last
session; Corresponding Secretary, Robert E. Loving; Record-
ing Secretary, John J. Hurt.

A constitution, which had been prepared, was read and
adopted, and a programme arranged for next meeting.

After the club adjourned, the members were conducted into
the parlor of Professor Carroll to receive a social treat. There
were several young ladies from the campus present.

Mrs. Carroll, Professor, and Mrs. Gaines were also present,
and added much to the pleasure of the evening.

Prof. Gaines delighted us by giving an account of some of
the most interesting features of his trip to Europe. He as-
serted us that it was a far more pleasant trip than his former
one. The students highly appreciated his conversational
exposition of the important events connected with the voyage,
and learned many of the striking peculiarities in the customs
of our forefathers.

These meetings of the Greek Club will be very advantageous
to the students, and will be anticipated with a great deal of
pleasure.
A few days before College opened the President of our Association and some of the Reception Committee put in their appearance, and began to prepare for the work of the coming session. The Reception Committee did a great deal of good work, it being their part to meet new students and to aid them in becoming acquainted with the President of the College, professors, and students, and making them feel at home here among us, and helping them to so form the foundation of their College lives, by throwing good influences around them, that they may cast their lot with those who are striving by precept and example to win Richmond College for Christ. I am sure that the work of this committee will follow some men all through their College course.

On Thursday night, the very first day College opened, a reception was tendered the new students by the Association. From 8 to 9.30 P. M. services were held in the chapel. Here we had addresses by our honored President and ex-President of the Association, the ex-President giving a full outline of the work of the Association. Afterwards some of the pastors and laymen of the city churches made remarks, inviting the new students to attend their churches, and welcoming them to their worship. We next repaired to the dining hall, where refreshments were served. The presence of several young ladies added a great deal to the occasion. It was a success, and enjoyed by all present.

On Sunday morning our consecration service was held. It was well attended by both old and new students. Our President, Mr. H. M. Fugate, led the meeting, making a few remarks concerning the importance of doing religious work while at College. The meeting was then given over to the new
men. A goodly number of them expressed themselves as wanting to live godly lives while here, and aid in every way the cause of Christ.

I believe our Thursday-night prayer-meetings and morning services and, in fact, all of the meetings, have been better attended thus far than ever before. I am sorry to say a few of our fellow-students do not attend, but we hope soon to have them join with us.

The Bible classes have not met as yet. We find that they will be well attended this year. The young men seem to be aware of the fact that the only way to render effective service to Christ is to become well acquainted with "the sword of the spirit," and this can be done only by studying the Word. We will have five classes; each class will elect its leader and study such parts of the Bible as they think best. We hope each student may see the importance of this work and endeavor to do his part of the work.

The mission work began with the opening of the session, and our faithful committees have gone to work in dead earnest. A number of new students are engaged in this work, and are trying to aid in the work. This is a great work, and we feel that much good has been accomplished in the past. We hope each one will do everything in his power to advance this work, and try to live such lives that we may be respected, and that all may see by our Christian walks that we have been with Jesus and learned of him. Let us remember that our Master has said "his word shall not return unto him void." With this promise from our Master let us go forth in his name with a determination to do everything in our power for the upbuilding of his kingdom.

We can congratulate ourselves upon being favored with the presence of that thoroughly consecrated man of God, Rev. S. M. Sayford, who tried to point out to us the straight and narrow road that leads to the eternal city. I believe the work of this brother will long linger among those of us who had a chance to hear him. Deep impressions were made upon those
of us who have fallen short of our duties to Him who doeth all things well. May God bless the work of our brother is our prayer.

The Mission Band will reorganize in a few days. The work of this band last year, under the leadership of our honored and loved brother, W. Ernest Gibson, proved very profitable to all who were thus engaged.

They studied several of the foreign fields with care, and much was learned of the customs, habits, and religions of their respective inhabitants. We commend this work to those who are going to give their lives to the spread of the gospel. We have in College now five volunteers. A noble little band they are, who have said by God’s help they will carry his gospel to those who are in darkness. Yea, will give their whole lives to bringing the world to Christ, and laying the benighted land as a trophy at his feet. Let more men join this band, for “the fields are white unto harvest, and the laborers are few.”

And now, fellow-students, let us not be satisfied with having twenty-three new men join with us, but let us try to prevail upon each student to join the Association, and engage in its work. As we enter upon this new-year’s work, let us start with a renewed determination to let no duty go undone, and to live nearer to our Lord each day, walking in the footsteps of him who loved us and gave himself for us. We have a great work to do, and in his name let us go forth feeling assured that God will give us the victory over sin through Jesus Christ.
The first regular meeting of the session was held Tuesday afternoon, October 12th. The officers for the ensuing year were elected. President, Professor S. C. Mitchell; Vice-President, R. E. Loving; Secretary, R. S. Garnett; Treasurer, T. B. McAdams. President Mitchell is Professor of History and also head of the Chair of Latin in the College. He is an enthusiast in historic research, and competent to lead the members in bringing to light historic facts in and around Richmond. "Richmond," said Professor Mitchell before the Society, "is second only to Boston for work of this kind. A great work can be done by the people of Richmond, and ought to be done by Richmond College."


On Thursday evening, October 15th, Dr. J. William Jones, of Crozet, Va., delivered a very interesting and entertaining address in the Thomas Memorial Hall under the auspices of the Society. His subject was, "Virginia's Contribution to American History."

Dr. Jones said that if on the announcement of his theme, some of his old friends, knowing his proclivities, were disposed to smile and say, "Now we shall have a dish of Virginia brag served hot," then he was disposed to retort that we had a perfect right to indulge in "old Virginia brag," that there was
something in the hallowed traditions, glorious history, noble women and chivalric men of the old State of which any people could well boast.

He contended that so far from being accustomed to unduly boasting on her achievements, Virginia has been for nearly three centuries making history and leaving others to record it, and has been so careless about what history is taught in her schools that there has grown up a class of men among us who sneer at any attempt to put our people right on the record, and denounce as "one-sided" and "partisan" any writer who dares to tell nothing but the truth concerning our grand history.

He entered his burning indignation against men who are willing to sacrifice principle for pelf in order to "catch the peels" and the shekels of Northern audiences, and who are willing to eat dirt in order to sell their dirt.

He pictured Virginia's Colonial history in beautiful terms, beginning with the settlement at Jamestown in 1607, and continuing down to the Revolution.

Next Dr. Jones showed that Virginia furnished "the tongue, the pen, and the sword of the Revolution," in Henry, Jefferson, and Washington; that she not only took care of her own vast territory, driving out her malignant Governor Dunmore and protecting her Western frontier from the Indians, but that she freely shed her blood on every battlefield from Quebec, Boston, and Saratoga, to Savannah, Charleston, and Cowpens. Then the speaker briefly sketched the conquest of the Northwestern territory by George Rogers Clark and his heroic Virginians, thus establishing the British line on the great lakes instead of the Ohio river.

Dr. Jones concluded by exhorting the members of the Society to study the history of the old Commonwealth, and to prove themselves so worthy of the noble heritage into which they have come as to show to the world, despite the sneer of degenerate sons of noble sires, that Virginia still has men "above" as well as "beneath the ground."
Athletics

Editor, Oscar L. Owens.

The Athletic Association has held two meetings at which important business was transacted. The membership this year promises to be unusually large, and we notice with pleasure that many of the new members come from institutions where they have done considerable work in athletics.

The Association has an excellent corps of officers, and a constitution and by-laws with the most recent improvements.

A provision is made for honorary members. Why should not all the members of the Faculty seek admission into the organization, and help its interests in our College?

FOOT-BALL.

The foot-ball department suffered a heavy loss in the failure of both manager and captain to return to College this year. On this account, but more especially because the Association is limited in funds, no foot-ball team has been organized.

On account of these obstacles, it is the general opinion that it will be best to exert all our influence towards placing a first-class base-ball team in the field early next season.

BASE-BALL.

At a recent meeting of the Association, Mr. W. S. McNeill, the "Irish Ideal," was elected manager of the base-ball department for the coming season. Mr. McNeill is an enthusiast in the work, and, although he is a specialist in the base-ball art, yet he is interested and an ardent supporter of athletics in all of its departments.

He is now ready to receive applications for the base-ball team of '96-'97.
The formal opening of the Gymnasium took place on the evening of October 6th, in the College chapel. Hon. J. Alston Cabell presided, and made an opening address.

Among the speakers of the evening were Dr. Wm. P. Matthews, Rev. R. H. Pitt, Profs. Mitchell, Carroll, and Boatwright.

The exercises were varied by occasional drills given by a select class from the Gymnasium members of session '95-'96.

The Gymnasium classes are large—too large to be taught with satisfaction in the present room and with the available apparatus. Why do not the members of the Alumni show their loyalty to their Alma Mater by equipping a gymnasium that would do credit to any institution? We are losing students, and are hampered in many ways, by not being able to offer advantages equal to those offered by other institutions of learning.

TENNIS.

Great interest has been manifested in tennis, all the courts (of which there are more than a dozen) are full. Steps will be taken to place a crack tennis team in the field early next spring.
Clippings.

Can Freedom breathe if ignorance reign?  
Shall Commerce thrive where anarchists rule?  
Will Faith her half-fledged brood retain  
If darkening counsels cloud the school?

Let in the light! from every age  
Some gleams of garnered wisdom pour,  
And, fixed on thought's electric page,  
Wait all their radiance to restore.

Let in the light! in diamond mines  
Their gems invite the hand that delves;  
So learning's treasured jewels shine  
Ranged on the alcove's ordered shelves.

From history's scroll the splendor streams,  
From science leaps the living ray;  
Flashed from the poet's glowing dreams  
The opal fires of fancy play.

Let in the light! these windowed walls  
Shall brook no shadowing colonnades,  
But day shall flood the silent halls  
'Till o'er yon hills the sunset fades.

* * * * *

These chosen precincts, set apart  
For learned toil and holy shrines,  
Yield willing homes to every art  
That trains, or strengthens, or refines.

Here shall the sceptred mistress reign  
Who heeds her meanest subject's call,  
Sovereign of all their vast domain,  
The queen, the handmaid of them all!

—O. W. Holmes.
"There is no frigate like a book
To take us lands away;
Nor any courser like a page
Of prancing poetry.
This traverse may the poorest take
Without oppress of toll;
How frugal is the chariot
That bears the human soul!"
—Emily Dickinson.

Reading a book—a good book—is a discipline such as no reading of even good newspapers can ever give.—Letters of Matthew Arnold.

A student who lives near a public library possesses the library, or at least so much of it as he can use and understand. And the longer I live, the more profoundly am I convinced that this kind of ownership is the truest and most satisfying kind of ownership; nay, even that it is the only ownership, which, being infinite in its nature, is adequate to our infinite needs.—Philip Gilbert Hamerton.

"There isn't much sense in reading bad books, and praying God to make you pure-minded."

Pliny advised one of his friends "to seek in literature deliverance from mortality."

"Some there are,
By their good works exalted, lofty minds
And meditative, authors of delight
And happiness, which to the end of time
Will live, and spread, and kindle.
—Wordsworth."