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MESSENGER

PROOF SHEET

Vol. 2 No. 6 December 14, 1923

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SAINT STEPHEN'S COLLEGE THE MESSENGER PROOF SHEET

Vol. 2

ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, N. Y. DECEMBER, 14, 1923

No. 6

EASTERN EUROPE RECOVERING

EXPERT SEES POLAND FREED FROM FRENCH YOKE

On the evening of December 6 the college was favored by a brief visit from Mr. William J. Rose, late head of the student relief work in Poland. He found time to lecture for over an hour to the faculty and a number of the students here, and opened to them many interesting avenues of thought. Mr. Rose was interned in Poland throughout the war, and has now returned to the States for his first visit since 1913. An abstract of his talk follows.

The reactionary policies of France and Italy occupy all the scare-heads to-day, but we must remember that much of those policies partakes of a propaganda nature. While the Latins are stressing the Menace of the Rhine, few are considering the real menace, which is Soviet Russia. By this is not meant the menace of spreading Bolshevism, but the peril of Russia's nationalistic ambitions. She has seen great slices of her empire cut away to make the new states of eastern Europe, and now she casts a greedy eye upon them. Her army numbers 800,000 men, German trained; her economic life is recovering, due to the influx of German goods and experts whose activities on other markets France, England, and the U. S. have checked by embargoes. This is the source of the fear and the military aspirations of the new states, whose borders are weak, since they have been marked out not with an eye to defence but to lingual allegiance. It is often said that Poland is only a war-baby of France, now impatient for the day when it will be able to march beside papa to further conquests. But last year, when prompted by the old rounder on the Seine to expand her boundaries in a manner forbidden by the Treaty, Poland refused, and put the proposition before the World Court. The boundaries rested, and France's influence in eastern Europe was ended.

The new states are doing foolish things, and waving their little flags, and putting their awkward feet on the good furniture. But we must remember that they are new to the good things of democracy. One hundred and fifty million voices are now making themselves heard in government where formerly there were only three,—the Hohenzollern, Romanof, and Hapsburg. It is true that the new legislators are better fitted as gardeners and carpenters than as statesmen, but the Palace of State is now theirs, and naturally they will first inspect the premises and enjoy the views from the windows.

(Continued on page 2)

In Deserto.

It is under lonely stars:

In nocte nitente.

Watchers of the grumbling herds
Hear the ancient prophet's words—

*Cantant chorus angelorum,
"Via Dei paretur."*

Shepherds follow; Heaven leads

In nocte nitente.

Shines above a new-born light;
Rustling wings fill all the night.

*Cantant chorus angelorum,
"Via Dei paretur."*

Shepherds follow, shown the path,

In nocte nitente.

Shepherds once, and now the sheep.
All along the heavens' sweep

*Cantant chorus angelorum,
"Via Dei paretur."*

No more in the desert dark,

In nocte nitente.

Now no more against the stone
Falls the traveller, lost—alone.

*Cantant chorus angelorum,
"Via Dei paretur."*

In the haven, Bethlehem,

In nocte nitente.

Low above the sacred bed
In the light, from Heaven shed,

*Cantant chorus angelorum,
"Via Dei paretur."*

Kneeling by the Mother's side,

In nocte nitente.

Shepherds hear the holy throng
Singing now the ternal song!

*Cantant chorus angelorum,
"Via Dei paretur."*

DR. FOSTER FOR BOAR'S HEAD

COLLEGE TO EAT DINNER IN FULL ACADEMICS

Which is as much as to say that the annual Boar's Head Dinner will be held in Commons on the evening of Thursday, December 20. It has been customary for the affair to take place the night before the Christmas recess, but since that night falls on Friday this year, it has been considered advisable to move the dinner forward one day,—to carry in a large fish-head would be a violation of all sound tradition.

The usual Carol Service, with special music and decorations, will be held in the chapel at five-thirty. From there the residents of the campus will proceed to Preston Hall, led by Mr. Kroll, the fully armed Marshal of the College. When all have been seated in due order, ranging from President Bell at the head down through the varied degrees to the Youngest Freshman at the heel, the Marshall will bring in the Boar's Head procession. Urquhart and Llwyd will shed light upon the path of Dr. Foster who, as junior member of the faculty, will bear in the Head "dum redens laudes domino." Then will follow a serious interlude; but when none can eat another bite, lighter matters will be discussed. All scruples will be swallowed and the Wassail drunk; Mr. Craig, that well-known Jester, will spare nobody; the Merrie Singers, led by Mr. Crunden, will provide jolly tunes; and Fr. Christmas Prowse, handsome and dignified behind his beard, will extend his good wishes to all.

The institution of the Boar's Head Dinner, now a thriving youngster of five, is always one of the happiest functions of the college year. Then anything 'goes,' while none has as yet gone; then Dr. Upton tells his annual joke, while the Freshmen hide their faces; then all with one accord congratulate the Management upon the excellence of the cuisine; the only unpleasant feature of the occasion is that the hall is not large, and it is impossible to ask any guests from off campus. But in the near future there will have to be new dining commons, which will strike a balance between our present building and that enjoyed by our friends at Princeton, who dine *en famille* in the nave of a cathedral.

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ALUMNUS IGNOTUS

Every so often, from the ranks of our alumni, the black sheep lifts his plaintive voice. This sorry animal is liked by no one but himself, and we here express the distaste which is felt for him by all true St. Stephen's men, past or present.

Three weeks ago Coach Murry sent letters to all former students, to tell in brief of the record recently set by the football team. These letters were well written, contained no exaggerations, and asked for contributions to insure the future athletic success of the college. The general response was more liberal than the Coach had expected, and clearly showed the admiration felt by intelligent graduates for him, and for his teams. But one copy of the letter fell into the hands of Blacksheep, '00. After having crossed out what he considered three superfluous words, he sent the epistle back—unsigned—with this marginal comment as his contribution to the morale of the Athletic Association: "St. Stephen's College, for 60 odd years distinguished for its production of writers of good, grammatical English. Thank the sentiment for Latin in the Curriculum, compulsory." (The italic is ours.)

Need more be said? At whatever

time the Small Unknown learned to torture the English language into sentence-forms as perverted as his own sense of usefulness, he might at least have learned how to spell!

SWALLOW-TAIL

That is a queer-looking word, and we put it there in the hope that you would be led into reading this under a misapprehension. It is another name for the vicious circle, and is intended to remind us of the snake who sought the higher unity by swallowing his own extremity. Of course you will say, "that was the end of him." So it was, for he hampered his own freedom of movement until his traction was impaired. The discussion of what is wrong with the higher education in America is fast coming to that impasse. In the Times for December 9 there were three articles by noted educators, all of whom concluded that American colleges are hopeless because they are administered by short-sighted business men for the purpose of teaching uninquisitive youths and maidens things which will make them placid rather than on the qui vive. "You cannot have good colleges until you have intelligent alumni, and you cannot have intelligent alumni until you have good colleges." If that be true, then in the name of good business sense let us close up shop.

The trouble really lies in the fact that the captains of industry who run the majority of our great B. A. factories have left their business sense out of college administration. They put trained specialists in charge of departments, and then interfere in the work of those experts. In a commercial corporation such procedure would be vetoed at once; no mining engineer would ever be hired on the assumption that he was to use only certain parts of his technical knowledge in his work. Until the principle of departmental non-interference is established in all our colleges, as it now is in two or three, there will appear no way out of the present cultural dilemma. Now, as always, the unfettered use by inspiring teachers of all their innate power is the only key to intellectual progress. If there is one thing youth despises above all else, it is temporization. Interest dies and attention wanders from the presentation of half-truths,—or half-lies.

EASTERN EUROPE RECOVERING

(Continued from page 1)

The way out is through general education, which has until now been unknown. Lithuania, Poland, and the rest of the new states have realized this, and organized their systems. Three years ago the situation seemed hopeless: now the plans have gone so far that in twenty years the schools in Poland will be at least as adequate to the national need as are our own to our needs. Three years ago college students of Poland were dependent upon foreigners for support. But for the year beginning next January, the relief budget will require only \$5,000, to cover a few special cases.

Varsity Wins Practice Game

RHINEBECK BADLY BEATEN

In a practice game played in the Memorial Gymnasium on the evening of Dec. 5th, the Varsity Five easily romped away from the Rhinebeck Independents, piling up an even hundred points against seven for its opponents. Although the visitors offered little defensive opposition, their passing work was very good. The fact that Rhinebeck, with their excellent passing, scored but three goals from the floor shows how reliable is the Varsity's five-man defense system. The results of the game lead us to believe that a fast, heady and accurate shooting quintet, a team that will work together well, is being developed by Coach Murry.

The team that started the game, consisting of Bittner and Richey, forwards; Coffin, center; Vandeventer and Kilby, guards; rolled up thirty-nine points to Rhinebeck's two during the first half. Millington, Powers, Myers, Bouton and Milton, substituting off and on during the second half, seemed to increase the team's scoring power. There was great excitement when, with but a minute to play, the score stood ninety-four to seven. The gallery shouted madly for one hundred points. Two goals from the floor followed in quick succession. Then, just before the final whistle, Millington scored the last two points from under the basket.

The Varsity opens its regular schedule next Friday, when Eastman College of Poughkeepsie comes up. We look for a victory. We are sorry to say that Joe Wilson, speedy end on the football Varsity, has been forced to retire from the basketball squad because of water on the knee.

Dragon Club Entertains One of Its Founders

FR. SHERWOOD IS GUEST AT MEETING

At its third regular meeting of the term, held on Monday evening, December 10th, the Dragon Club had as their guest and speaker of the evening, the Reverend Wm. T. Sherwood of the class of 1912, who has the honor of being one of the founders of the organization.

The meeting was held in the President's Room, Ludlow. After the business of the evening had been transacted, addresses were made by the President of the Club, Mr. Tongue, and by Fr. Sherwood. Following this, the meeting was adjourned to the Eulexian Bungalow, and there continued in a more social manner. Refreshments were served by Roy Webber and Gilbert Smith, the Club's younger "Dragons."

Fancy: What's the name of your prize Irish bull?

Fancier: George Bernard Shaw.

Xmas Cheer

Our alert Exchange Editor, now at rest after his labors on the gridiron, submits the following, and commends its spirit. He found it in the "Sporting News" of a western college publication.

"With the advent of the Thanksgiving holidays we expect to see the indoor sports revived. Checkers was the favorite last year, and we urge the Knights of the Squared Table to get into training for the annual tourney!"

Hold 'em, boys; they have some good men.

Speaking of passive exercise, have you ever tried our favorite? Take any daily paper, and in it study what our Transatlantic cousins would call the sapient fractures made by that king of unintentional humorists, the headline-writer. Such pearls as these have recently been cast before us,—

Moses Favors Further Stipulations
—weren't the Ten Commandments enough?

Finds Bones of Glass Boy

—frail youth!

Twelve Policemen Switched

—fiction, stranger than truth.

Bill to Aid Germany

—Bryan again?

Discovers Skull of Man 200,000 Years Old

—Back to Methuselah.

Finds Many Fossils in South Dakota

—Coolidge is said to have a majority in that state.

Insurance Men See Bright Future

—Keep the home fires burning.

If you find anything to match the above, or if you are acquainted with Mr. Giblets the Brooklyn butcher, or join us in having as fellow-townsmen a Mr. Skinner who deals in furs, drop us a line. We need filler.

OWED TO LYDIE

—Donec gratus eram tibi—

Horace III, IX.

He:

When we both was kids in school,
And I had my first long pants,
Why then you was not so crool,
And nobody else had a chance—

She:

Say, how 'bout that jane from Thrace
You met on your trip Up-state?
You say she hits some pace,—
Why she's stiff as a rusty gate!

He:

Well, how 'bout this Greek guy Cal,
That takes tips at Ornyte's place?
He says you're his promist gal,—
I'll knock in his sneakin' face!

She:

Aw cut it, and let's make up.

He:

(As if she ain't, already!)

Both:

Tho you're mean as a yellow pup,
I'll take you back for my steady.

Happy: How would you like to go with me to see Oedipus Rex?

Daze: Oh I just adore those pictures of storms at sea!

C. C. N. Y. (Christian) Mercury.

A Merrie Xmas, kind Gentles, and prithee remember the Editor.

Chapel Notes

**President Bell Opens Advent Season
With Sermon—Dr. Pomeroy of
General Seminary Preaches.**

Preaching in his characteristically direct and vigorous style, President Bell opened the season of Advent here by a sermon directed against the modern ideals of flabby living and flabby thinking. The judgment of God, he said, for which Holy Church bids us prepare ourselves during the Advent season, is not a dramatic catastrophe which is to come upon the world at some definite time, as the Early Church made the mistake of supposing, but it is a thing outside of time, a judgment that is constantly upon us. For this reason we should be ready at any time to face God and give an account of ourselves. To be thus ready we should examine our lives to see if we are conforming them to God's purpose for us, and in doing this we must not make the mistake of judging ourselves by the standards of those around us.

Constructing a vivid metaphor from the meaning of the Greek word for sin, "missing the mark," he declared that there are but five targets at which men shoot the arrows of their lives,—wealth, pleasure, power, knowledge, and comradeship with God.

The first four of these are good in their place, but when taken as ends in themselves, fail to satisfy, and unfit us to meet the judgment of God.

A pantheistic note was struck in the sermon in referring to the fifth target,—comradeship with the Eternal. By the Eternal, he said, we do not mean something abstract and speculative, but energy,—selfless, creative energy—the kind that the physicist and biologist tells us about, and which was fully manifested in the Person of Jesus Christ.

An Advent sermon of a different type was preached on Sunday, Nov. 9th, by the Reverend Ralph Pomeroy, Professor of Missions at the General Theological Seminary. Taking as the background of his sermon the story of the demoniac boy whom the disciples were unable to heal, and of whom Our Lord said, "This kind cometh not forth but by prayer and fasting," he stressed the value of self abnegation and of self consecration in living a Christian life. The disciples failed to heal the boy, he said, because these principles were lacking in them.

All our problems, he declared, should be approached in the spirit of those who have fasted. Self must be pulled aside to let the power of God enter. Then must come the positive element,—prayer,—a putting of oneself into contact and into harmony with God.

ALUMNI NOTE.

Anton F. Blaum, '09, who was in the midst of the great Tokio-Yokohama disaster, has written to say that he is safe, and that his present address is 86 Yamamoto-dori-ni-chome, Kobe, Japan.

A Communication

We are possessed of an honor system that is functioning very well as a mechanism for eliminating cribbing in examinations. Like all reforms, it is based on a sound "economic" basis: it shifts the tiresome burden of proctorage to the individual student. But when any college considers the adoption of an honor system, the argument stressed is not that it will relieve the faculty of an onerous task but that it will implant a love of honor in the undergraduate bosom.

Honor of a "nice, comfortable" technical kind we have, but many of us lack an honor that is actuated by the spirit as well as by the letter of the System. The value of a law is determined by the respect paid to the minutiae it implies, and this respect we have not. "Did he call the roll today?" "No." "Then I'm all right." This is heard too frequently. Whispered aids to translation are not unknown in our classes and it is considered far from immoral to glance at notes while reciting. Some of the lending library books contain timely penciled glosses and annotations, but it is not known whether these are the work of ante—or post-System students.

In another matter the honor system is incomplete. Just as murder is a virtue in time of war and a sin in peace, so an undergrad's word carries weight in certain subjects but not in others. One student under oath may bear witness that condemns another to expulsion for cheating in an examination, but let that same student swear by his God or gods that he was in chapel when the marker's pencil says not, and he will find the value of his word has changed. Let him affirm that although he had no fever he was not well enough to go to classes, his word in this and in too many other matters is taken, if at all at a heavy discount.

A passage in the Bible says, in effect, that they who are not trustworthy in small matters cannot be trusted in great ones. If this is so, the highest kind of honor does not characterize St. Stephen's.

"Quid vanae proficiunt leges sine moribus?"

—(Signed) J. Harold Bessom.

Fraternity Notes

PACKARD '26 IS "KAPPED."

On Friday evening, December 7th, Alpheus A. Packard was made a member of Kappa Gamma Chi Fraternity, and his initiation was made the occasion of much good cheer at the K. G. X. House. A light but delicious supper was served, which, by all appearances, "more than satisfied," and this was followed by the customary speeches, which were unexpectedly but delightfully brief, and interspersed with singing of a cheerful character. In addition to the Active Chapter and pledges, there were present Past Member Kirtley Lewis, and Dr. Wilson, the faculty guest of the evening.



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The President's Activities

The week-end of December 9, President Bell preached the annual patronal festival sermon at St. Mary's Church, New York City, together with sermons at St. Mark's Church, Orange, and in the Columbia University Chapel. Sunday, the sixteenth, he will be the College Preacher at Hobart.

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Wag: He did so well that now he has no more business.

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