

JOHN MILLEDGE. HOWELL COBB. DR. JAMES WHITEHEAD.



EVERY one is familiar with the prominent part the University of Georgia has played in the history of the State. But of equal value in historic interest have always been the two literary societies of the University. The history of the University in the past is closely linked to their history, and neither a Freshman's conception nor a Senior's memory of the old University would be complete with them absent. A glance backward, however brief, over the history of one of these institutions, would be of value and interest to anyone.

The record of the life of Phi Kappa begins in 1820, when four members of the Demosthenian Society, which had been established since 1801—Wm. Crabbe, J. H. Lumpkin, E. Mason and Henry Mason—resolved to secede from it and form a new society. Joined by several other friends they met and and founded the Phi Kappa Literary and Debating Society. In some respects it resembled a modern fraternity, as it has some secrets known only to its members, and for the first period after its foundation absolute secrecy was maintained in regard to all its proceed-

"That being already a Demosthenian he could not accept the place, but as a candid man he must confess that the Phi Kappa was much superior to the Demosthenian as a training school for oratory."

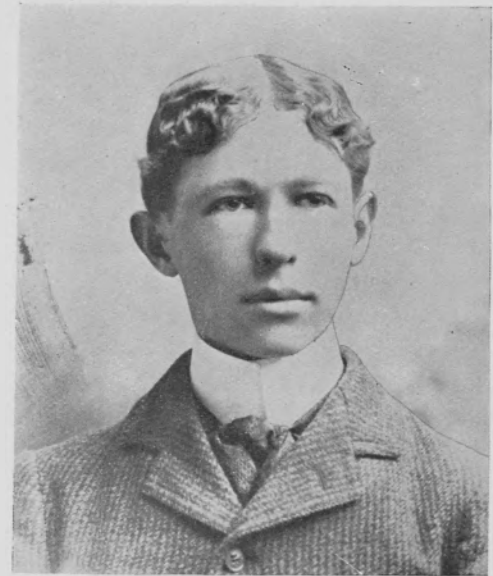
The Civil War put an end to this golden age of literary societies. For the first few months of the struggle, the college went on as before. The South did not need all of her men then. But April 25, 1861, the entire Junior Class left college for the front, and of this number thirteen were members of Phi Kappa. The exodus of students thus begun continued, until in 1863 there were only five men on Phi Kappa's roll. Then the meetings were discontinued, and for the first time in its history the doors of Phi Kappa were closed.

They remained closed for three years. In 1866 the meetings were resumed, and for the first decade following the history of Phi Kappa was much the same as it had ever been. A new generation came to college with new ideas. The college broadened into a University. A military department was attached and the student had now a choice of five courses. The result of all this was to open new fields to energy and talent. Correspondingly, the attention of many students was drawn away from the literary societies. The attendance dwindled.

Still the shadow of Phi Kappa with that of its partner continued to grow less until the trustees appeared on the scene and by a series of measures, such as making it compulsory to join the societies, and only allowing those to try for Sophomore and Junior places who are in good standing in the societies, contrived to bring them once more before the notice of the students. Already this act has proved of much good to both, and this year has witnessed a great revival of interest and zeal among the members of Phi Kappa.

Phi Kappa has changed much since the halcyon days before the war, yet to-day the society fills just as large a sphere of usefulness. Though changed conditions have made it so that only a part of the students now give it that attention which it deserves, yet those who do attend its meetings derive just as much benefit from them as ever did its members in the days of old. There are always those who have tastes that only this training can gratify; there are always those who covet the honors it is in the power of the society to bestow. It is whether the number of these shall lessen or increase that shall determine the stand Phi Kappa will take in the future. The day of its glory is past, yet it can return. The day of its adversity is almost past--will it return? That such will not be the case, but that with the growth of the University will Phi Kappa increase should be the prayer of every one who loves the good, respects the noble, and venerates a glorious past.

GARRARD GLENN.

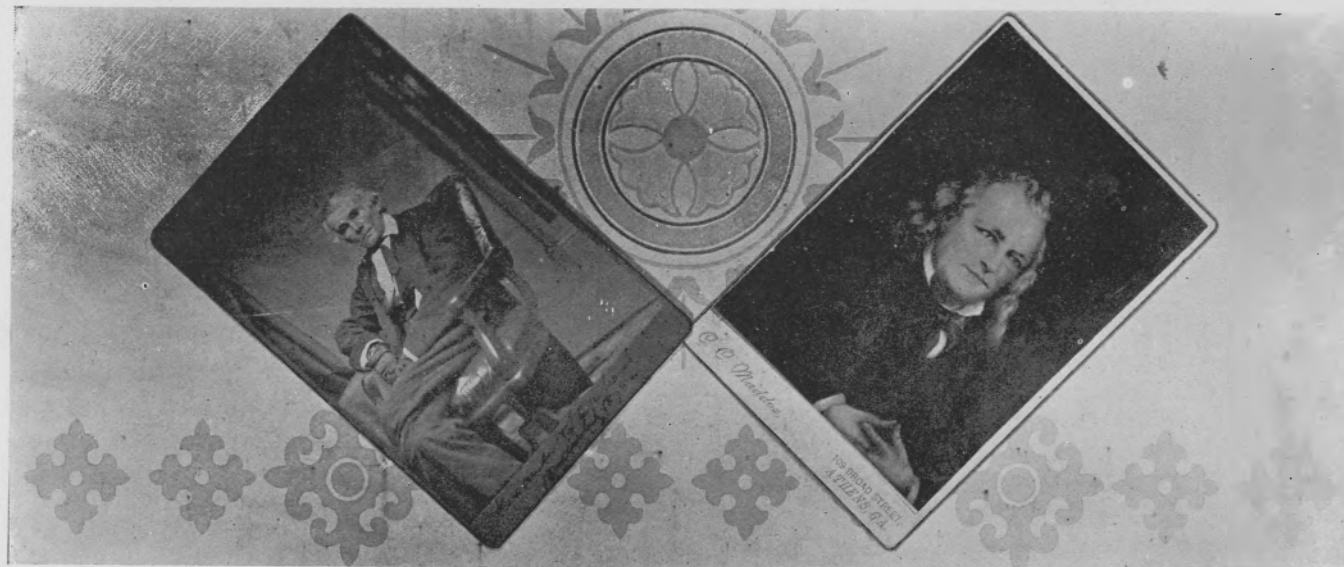


Φ K ANNIVERSARIAN.

ings. Its object was the mental and moral elevation of its members, and this was to be secured by social contact and competitive exercises in oratory.

From the day of its origin the course of Phi Kappa was smooth and its record one of advancement. Although at first looked upon with disfavor by its older rival it steadily grew in strength and popularity, gathered recruits year by year, and soon changed the popular conception of it as a mere student clique into a realization of its merits as a permanent organization, founded upon a solid basis and viewed with favor by both faculty and students. In a few years it was enabled to erect a wooden building for its accommodation. Not long afterwards, in 1832, through the efforts of one of Phi Kappa's greatest alumni, Alex. H. Stephens, the brick hall which the society still occupies was built. This event marks the achievement of the highest point in the growth of the society. From that time on to the outbreak of the Civil War its life was but one pleasant, unbroken record of usefulness.

It was the custom then in both of the societies to elect as honorary members various prominent men. The great nullifier, Jno. C. Calhoun, was an honorary member of Phi Kappa, and it is said he once presided over one of its meetings. It was two honorary members of Phi Kappa, Jno. Milledge and W. C. P. Whitehead, who joined Howell Cobb in 1838 in paying a debt the society incurred in building its brick hall. A reply from one gentleman who was elected an honorary member is recorded, and we can imagine the applause that followed when the secretary read to the society the words of the gentleman:



ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS.

JOSEPH HENRY LUMPKIN.



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