

History of Class of '99.



To write the history of a graduating class is indeed a most serious matter, and no one can possibly undertake a task of this kind without fully comprehending the weight and importance attached thereto.

The day of graduation is one of the saddest incidents in a boy's life. After four long years of pleasure and enjoyment, the time now arrives for him to leave behind the good old institution which he has learned to love so dearly, and the friends many of whom perhaps he will never see again. Oh, it is a most heart-rending scene to observe the boys as they for the last time grasp each other's hand, and with tears in their eyes bid one another farewell. It is as if you tear a suckling babe from its mother's breast. Anyone who has experienced the pain that is felt upon leaving home for the first time will have a fair idea of how a boy feels on this occasion.

Hitherto he has had no care. Everything has been provided for him, and all that was necessary was for him to do his duty at his studies. But what a change has now come! He must now go out into the wide world and battle his own way. He must see that he makes for himself a livelihood and must also try to rise in whatever profession he undertakes. Indeed, he will have to contend with many adverse circumstances, and will often be disheartened and discouraged. Then will he wish that the good old time once spent at college could again come back. But alas, 'tis gone, never to return again! Of one thing I am proud, and that is that I can say with confidence that the Class of '99 is composed of men who will not be discouraged by a little ill luck, but will hold on and advance in life in spite of all adversities.

Never have I entered upon a duty with so much pleasure and zeal as I have the writing of this history. And why? What has caused me thus to feel? It is the love that I possess for my Class, and which no one can help possessing who claims to be a true member. Nothing would please me more than to hear in after years of the complete success and prosperity of every man in '99, and as I said above, I am fully confident that our men are such as will prosper in whatever they undertake.

Four years ago we entered the University, Freshmen, to be sure, but yet possessing those nobler traits of character which are compelled to make themselves manifest sooner or later.

And this manifestation was not long in being disclosed. I know of no Class that has ever been more influential in shaping the affairs of an institution than '99 has been. No matter what has occurred in the past four years, we have always played a prominent part therein. On occasions calling for display of oratorical powers, '99 has always had her representatives, and has often carried off the palm of victory. When important questions have been discussed pertaining to the welfare of the College as a whole, '99 has always lent her aid in deciding for the best. When men were called for on the different teams, it was '99 who always furnished the best representatives. In short, whatever has taken place, '99 was always in for her share.

We have had a most prosperous career, and each of us should feel justly proud of it. We have furnished men who have taken as high a stand as any that have ever entered the University. Our connections with the Faculty have been most friendly, and as a class, we have given them as little trouble as could be possibly expected. We have not a feeling of malice against any member of this body, and we leave now assured that in each professor we have gained a good and staunch friend, who will ever be anxious and watchful about our welfare, and to whom we can at any time turn for words of counsel and advice.

We have not only tried to be just to others, but have also endeavored to be just and true to ourselves; and in whatever we have undertaken, we have not been split into different sections, but have always worked together as a whole, and have endeavored to make for ourselves a reputation which shall last as long as the University stands.

And now, in taking our leave, we bid farewell to our friends, whom we hope will prosper in all their undertakings; to the professors who, during our stay of four years here, have endeavored to teach us the right and true way of life, and have tried to prepare us to meet the future struggles and battles of life with a strong heart and mind, and to this grand old institution, our Alma Mater, for which we shall always cherish the fondest feelings and affections, and to which we shall always point as the spot where we spent the happiest period of our lives.

HISTORIAN.

