

History of Law Class.

IT is not an easy task to write the history of a nation in its infancy. Still the forces which brought about its organization, the principles of government which influenced its founders, are, even at this early stage, subjects of most interesting study to the philosopher and statesman. There is in any case something to write about. And despite all the labor of investigation it might appear at first blush far easier to write an infant nation's history, on this ground if no other, than the history of a college class.

The skeptic might ask what real history can a class have. This question, at first, may seem unanswerable; but the writer will venture to assert that no body of men with common pursuits and with like aims can be long associated together without becoming as much an organism as a nation—and with no less distinguishing characteristics. Thus at first in its college history a class may have been a mere assemblage of young men, coming from widely separated communities, with nothing in common, probably, save the common cause which brought them together. But by reason of constant association with one another in the same pursuits, in the course of time, through the influence of environment, this assemblage eventually becomes a distinct body, with its common joys, its common sorrows, and its common traits—in fact, a distinct entity.

It is not then so unreasonable to speak of the traits or characteristics of a college class. But by no means is it easy in a few short months for one to form a comprehensive estimate of a class character. Yet it is this only, if anything, that the writer can record; the continuous routine of lecture and recitation is not interesting or worthy of mention, and the Law Class of '99 is important by reason of what it is, and not by reason of what it has done, the first of April incident to the contrary notwithstanding.

The thirty-eight members of the Law Class who have held out faithfully to this present moment are almost in every instance college-bred young men. Almost half of the Class are college graduates, several of the more prominent Southern colleges being represented. It is then naturally an intelligent Class.

In addition they are almost unanimously young men from the South, and although like most young Americans of the present, by no means narrow or sectional in their views, still they display a deep love for the old South, a reverence for her traditions, and indorsement of

her position upon constitutional questions. It could not hardly have been otherwise when they have been associated with so noble a specimen of the Southern cavalier of the old school in the person of one of their professors.

The Class, as a whole, has displayed unusual dignity, earnestness, reverence for authority, and hopefulness. In its seriousness, earnestness and capacity for work, it gives promise of a successful future—as the great white world of opportunity opens up before them.

But they certainly delight in argument! During the existence of the Law Class Debating Society it was a most rare occurrence for one of those present to fail to debate as his opportunity to do so arrived, and so long, if not lengthy, did some of the speeches become that time limits had to be devised and enforced in order to give each member an opportunity to talk. It is believed that they will undoubtedly delight in litigation, and the more so if an opportunity for argument exists.

One feature is worthy of mention: few classes ever go through college with a higher sense of honor or more self-respect. It is indeed a reasonable prophecy to say that the Class of '99 will achieve a well-deserved and honorable success in the life that awaits them. Its history has but begun.

HISTORIAN.

