

THE BATTALION

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College Station, Tex., Feb. 24, 1915.

AT THE SOUNDING OF THE LAST "RETREAT."

The sounding of the last "retreat"! What will it mean to you? To you, the Freshman, it will mean the closing of your "fish" days; to you, the Sophomore, it will mean that you have advanced another year; to you, the Junior, it will mean that the honors and responsibilities of the student body have fallen upon your shoulders; but to you, the Senior—ah, it will mean far more than any of this to you!

When the battalions are drawn up in formal array on that quiet afternoon which is to close your college career, when the corps sways backward a step in unison at the command, "Parade rest," and the bugle corps to your right sounds "To the colors," there will come to you the thought that this brief rest is symbolical of the one which separates the labors of your college life from the more strenuous and serious labors of the life which you are about to enter.

When the battalions are called to attention and the melodious notes of the "Star-Spangled Banner" rise from the silver throats of a score of instruments and reverberate among the walls of the college buildings and echo back again, when the folds of "Old Glory" flutter in the breeze and the flag begins its slow and stately descent from its dizzy station, there will come to you the same patriotic thrill which you felt as a Freshman so long ago when you first heard the "Star-Spangled Banner" played at "retreat." But on this occasion this thrill will be mixed with a kind of sadness such as you have seldom felt before.

While the flag sinks lower, and ever lower, down its great white staff, there will race thru your mind the experiences of the past four years. You will

recall the day when, as a timid Freshman, you first came up the long driveway before you, you will remember the many kinds of strange experiences that first year, you will live over again the troublous times of your second year, and you will call to mind your ambitious strivings of the third and the honors, responsibilities and daily grind of the fourth.

The massive gray buildings around you will lose their uninviting aspect, and you will come to regard them with a trace of affection and regret that the day has come when you must leave them and the friends of your college days. Far in front of you to the west the sun, a great red orb of fire, will be slowly setting amid all the rose-tinted glories of a summer sunset. The end of your college days will have come. Then, when the first corner of the descending flag touches the ground and the last silvery note of the music lingerly dies away in the distance, you will know that real life has begun.

The visitors to the Convention were repeatedly heard to express surprise at the number and magnificence of the college buildings and the completeness of the equipment. But the things which pleased the men of A. and M. more than this were the frequent expressions of pleasure at the cordiality and hospitality of the people of the college. Students from the State University were the ones who most frequently made comments of this nature.

In justice to Dr. Fountain, we feel it our duty to state that the article in last week's issue, giving the history of the Y. M. C. A. building, and in which several complimentary things were said about Dr. Fountain, was not written by him, as stated—in fact, he never saw the article until it appeared in print—but that it was written by Ike Ashburn. His name was put at the close thru a mistake of the printer.

Again we remind our readers that the columns of the Battalion are open to the expression of their opinions on matters of local interest. Articles of from 100 to 500 words will be welcomed.

The Y. M. C. A. edition of the Battalion last week provoked much favorable comment. To G. C. Moffett is due the credit of getting it out.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS.

A Resolution of Thanks to the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas:

Be it resolved by the delegation of students from the Rice Institute, that we extend to the several members and organizations of the Agricultural and Mechanical College our sincere thanks and appreciation for the courteous, friendly and hospitable reception which we have received from you; and

Be it further resolved that, if at any time a student or students of the A. and M. College be visiting in Houston, we shall consider ourselves slighted if you do not make the Rice Institute your headquarters, or at least pay us a visit while there; and

Be it further resolved that, again we thank your splendid organizations, your splendid student body, your splendid faculty and your more than splendid president, Dr. Bizzell, for the kind treatment we have received during our stay as your guests. Signed:

THE RICE INSTITUTE Y. M. C. A. DELEGATION.

February 21, 1915.

College Station, Tex., Feb. 21, 1915.

We, the delegates from the Young Men's Christian Association of Baylor University, wish to express our most sincere appreciation for the genuine hospitality extended to us by our hosts of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. We feel greatly indebted to them for the friendly reception we have received, and we wish to state that the "latch-string" to the door of Baylor hangs on the outside to any A. and M. man.

BAYLOR DELEGATES.

A CORRECTION.

In last week's issue of the Battalion there appeared an article headed "History of Our Y. M. C. A. Building." The article was signed "Dr. Fountain." But the article in question was not written by Dr. Fountain, but by our college publicity agent, and the former had nothing to do with it. In justice to him we make this correction.

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