

THE BATTALION

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STANDING OUT AGAINST THE MOB.

Dr. Knickerbocker, of the First
Methodist Church of Austin, certainly
struck a most appropriate theme in
his eloquent and forceful sermon in
Chapel Sunday, when he urged upon
the cadets the necessity of doing in-
dependent thinking and of standing
out from the crowd. If there is any
one thing we students need to get
away from at this college it is mob
rule. The tendency toward acting as
a mass seems to have always been
characteristic of this institution. The
military system, aided by our dormi-
tory life, seems to give us a unity of
action which is as easily turned in
the wrong direction as in the proper
one.

This same mob rule is to blame for
the indifferent success of our honor
system. At some time in the past,
possibly when the honor system was

adopted, the lawless element in the
student body was sufficiently strong
to create a sentiment against report-
ing for any breach of honor. It was
the same spirit which partners in
crime have and which prevents them
from "peaching" on one another. But
now the sentiment against reporting
for breach of honor has become so
fixt that even those who do not profit
by cheating and who sincerely wish
to see such practices abolished will
not voluntarily turn in reports for
fear of the inevitable consequence.
The result is that a student rarely,
if ever, turns in another for a breach
of honor.

There are many cadets who would
stand out against the crowd when
their consciences tell them that the
crowd is in the wrong but for the fact
that they fear that they will thereby
lose a portion of their popularity and
injure their chances for subsequent
military ranks. But this is shallow
philosophy. It is the moral man who
leads. If any reader does not believe
this let him call to mind the twenty
leading cadets in the college now and
observe how greatly in the majority
the moral men are.

The really strong man does not
need a crowd behind him to thrust
him forward, for he is able to take
the crowd with him. Crowds accept
their opinions ready-made from their
leaders. It takes manhood to run
counter to the opinions of the popu-
lace, but there are men here who
have sufficient backbone to do it. A
striking example of this occurred at
one of the football rallies this ses-
sion. One of the speakers, in re-
ferring to a rival institution, grew
heated in his remarks, lost control
of himself, and applied some rather
strong language to those of the other
camp. The applause was hearty, for
he had voiced a popular sentiment.
A second speaker arose with the re-
mark that he was exceedingly sorry
to hear such statements made, be-
cause they were unfounded, and that
he felt sure that the first speaker did
not really mean what he had said, but
that he had merely let his temper
get the better of him for the moment.
He continued in a similar vein. When
he closed he was also applauded, not
nearly so vigorously, but he had
shown himself a leader. His victory
came when the first speaker arose
and did the manly thing of retracting
his hasty words with apologies.

Our president is another striking
example of the success of the man
who is not afraid to run counter to
the will of the crowd. Soon after he
arrived a considerable portion of the
corps lined up against him because

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of what they considered his radical
stand. But he has made good. At
the last corps meeting we saw the
strange spectacle of the cadet who
has been considered the antagonist
of everything Prexy stands for plead-
ing with the corps to observe his
wishes and remarking that at last we
have a president.

Because a thing has always existed
does not make it right. Even if a
leader to head a movement for reform
does not appear, the men in the ranks
will ultimately withdraw their sup-
port from unjust customs. Four years
ago public opinion, a thing more to
be dreaded than physical force, de-
manded that every cadet contribute
a stated amount to the two formal
dances, regardless of his inclination,
financial ability, or conscientious
scruples, and the cadet who did not
dig down in his jeans and produce the
full amount which the officers of his
company said he should pay for the
captain's watch stood not a ghost of
a show for a rank the following year.
But now this state of affairs is great-
ly changed and little compulsion re-
mains in either case. No leader has
ever lifted his voice against either
one being considered compulsory, but
the gradual trend of public opinion
has made them largely optional.

Results in elections this year also
show a growing tendency on the part
of the students to vote for men ac-
cording to their qualifications and not
according to the faction to which they
belong, and as long as men can be
found who think more of the good of
their class and their college than
that of their faction this tendency
will continue.

For the benefit of those who have
college ambitions, we want to drive
home the fact that if they would be
leaders they must have convictions
and stay by them. The leaders of
the future in this college, as has al-
ways been the case in outside life,
must be independent thinkers. By
the very nature of things, college men
must be the leaders of the State and
Nation, and if any of us would rise
above the general average of the col-
lege man in life it behooves us to be-
gin cultivating the qualities of true
leadership while in college.

The next issue of The Battalion will
be the Freshman class edition. It is
customary for the "Fish Bat" to ap-
pear before the hike, but in this case

the Sophomore editor agreed to let
the Freshman editor have a week
more time on condition that he would
pass up the hike.

FARMERS DEFEAT DEAF MUTES EASILY

A. and M. Wins First Game of Baseball
of Season by a Score of 16-3.

In a slow and one-sided game Tues-
day afternoon the home team easily
defeated the Deaf Mutes from Austin
by the score of 16-3. The weather was
crisp and bracing and the crowd was
probably the largest at any opening
baseball game for several years.
Cherry starred for the farmers and
Furth dis the best playing for the vis-
itors, especially in the field.

A. and M.	AB	R	H
Hooker, lf	1	0	1
Garrity, m	5	1	2
Coleman, c	2	0	0
Powers, r	4	3	0
Cherry 1	5	3	3
Berringer, 2	3	2	1
Billups, s	1	1	0
Minier, 3	3	2	1
Olson, p	1	1	1
Thodburg, lf	1	1	1
Skeeler, W. J., p	2	1	0
Russell, c	2	1	0
Skeeler, L. J., p	1	0	0
Duncan, c	1	0	0
Kendrick, lf	1	1	1
Davis, m	1	0	0

Totals	34	16	11	
Visitors		AB	R	H
Lambkin, m	4	0	0	
Seale, c	4	0	0	
Jennings, s	5	2	0	
Fruth, 3	4	0	0	
Couch, lf	3	0	1	
Moore, r	3	0	0	
Jones, p	2	1	1	
Gray, 2	3	0	0	
Hill, 1	1	0	1	
Totals	30	3	3	

The election of officers of the Y. M.
C. A. for the session 1915-1916 will be
held next Sunday night after the as-
sociation meeting. Every one who
has paid his dues and holds a card
marked "active membership" is enti-
tled to vote. Come out and exercise
your privilege. Nominations should
be address to the Senior members of
the Y. M. C. A. Cabinet and handed
to Mr. Steger before Sunday noon.

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