

The Battalion

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FORESIGHT.

At a time like this there comes to the hearts and minds of all of us the question as to whether or not our football team will have a successful and winning season or not. The only answer that can be seen, in spite of the outcome of this last Saturday's game, is in the positive.

Of course it is not easy to support a losing team, but our team is not losing; far from it. The Tulane game has no effect whatsoever on our conference standing, and this game, being our first real competition, only served to show the coaches what material we have and the ability of the individual players to make a football team.

Also at a time like this numerous persons on the campus, cadets not excepted, are prone to criticize the coaches and the players for their actions in the game without stopping to consider even a moment that under stresses and crucial periods it is difficult for one to act from the force of habit and even more difficult to think.

We must consider the fact that we have as yet a comparatively green team with new coaches, and also that perfection and machine-like precision do not come on the moment, but only through grueling practice and diligent application.

AN OBSERVATION

Once a great man said that there is no such thing as an education unless culture was one of the constituents. Now culture is defined as the training of the mental and moral powers; the result of such training being shown in intellectual development and aesthetic refinement.

There are some things here on the campus which, though thoughtlessly committed, show utter disregard for public property and the well-being of others. To be candid about the matter, the things referred to are the striking of matches on the walls of the main and other buildings and the expectorating of tobacco juice in the assembly hall and at Yell Practice.

It seems as if some students take great delight in seeing how unsightly and unrepresentable they can make our campus, without considering the fact that the appearance of our school reflects just about as much on our discipline and home training as does our personal appearance and conduct.

AMERICAN YOUTH.

There they go! A pair of youngsters. A slim, clear-eyed, merry girl and a flippant, a bit arrogant boy, full of secret, earnest plans for success. They enjoy their own company. They go to shows, they dance, and they quarrel together. Her eyes shine when she speaks of him, and he has thoughts of being her protector. Some of these days they'll be grown up. Those fearless youngsters will be man and wife.

You are interested in youth. Old folks may forget, at times, that they were once young, but they all wish they could be so again. The young folks are in the midst of the most talked-of age of history, and they know it.

The greatest indoor sport of today is the criticism of our boys and girls. Their clothes, their actions, their very desires are written and

talked about on every side. The critics are not narrow, and they are not purposely mean. They just don't know the facts.

Morality, right-thinking, and decent living are not things of the past. Ideals have not been thrown to the winds by the youth of our country. There is a certain small percentage of the boys and girls, the type described as "sheiks" and "flappers," who are following a decidedly downward path; but such conduct is not confined to the youngsters. Far from it. The owner of a large cafe in San Antonio gave a statement to the Associated Press to the effect that, from experience, he has found there are more middle-aged offenders of the dry law than are young people.

Both in and out of our American colleges one will find a predominance of happy, joyous boys and girls who still exist on decency. The majority of the youth of today are clear-headed, think for themselves, and have high ideals. But it is not this type who get the publicity. It is the necking, cigarette-smoking, hooch-drinking crowd that make the most sensational newspaper stories and the most spicy conversation. Naturally, public attention is drawn to this latter type, and the former are considered extinct.

The sins of a few are getting all the publicity while the majority of our boys and girls are being unfairly criticized. Don't consider them guilty when the chances are they are innocent. Look at it the other way and give our youth the benefit of the doubt. The boys and girls are all right. The trouble is that sin is just getting more publicity.

A DUTY, YET A PRIVILEGE.

We speak of traditions and customs as elements which retard civilization in its progressive course—this we do when the history of China flashes through our minds—but we fail to expand on the important and valuable effects which these two phases of human behavior have had on our present day society.

Going back to the time of barbaric tribes we find that the only means by which they could exist was by having a code of customs to regulate their actions. For a time it continued in such a state. Increase in population and greater necessities made it vital that these customs be made laws. The final result was the compilation of a code of laws and statutes. While heretofore it had been merely a custom that a man should not kill his friend in cold blood, now murder was made an offense punishable by law.

This drifting of thought brings us back to our own institution. Traditions have been accumulating here for fifty-three years, all of them having a considerable influence on the students attending A. and M. Some are worthy of our respect and obedience and others may be doubted because their purpose is not clearly defined. Many of these customs have to do with the life of the freshmen while they are such, and up to this year have been adhered to in spite of outside influences.

One of the principal customs to be observed by freshmen is the one that has to do with their introducing themselves to upperclassmen. This question has been given the proper discussion and has been found to be the easier method by which better understanding and development of friendship can be obtained.

This year there seems to be a disregard for this important phase of freshman activities, a tendency that will lead to a disruption of the friendly spirit that has characterized the cadet corps in the past.

Freshmen, we are asking you to meet all persons with whom you come in contact. No one will harm you for doing so and you will certainly feel more at home in a crowd when you know its members.

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