

Jan. 1, 1931.

The Athenaeum started the new year with one of the very best meetings held in a long time. After the usual excellent dinner at Hotel Latham, the business session was held, President W.H. Southall, presiding.

One of the two vacancies in the membership of thirty was filled by the election of Dr. Oscar Flener.

There were two papers not unlike in character, but both essayists explained that no efforts had been made to make them companion pieces. F.W. Fink wrote on the "Brotherhood of Man", deploring the present contempt men in many parts of the world are showing for the lives and property of their fellowmen.

Ira L. Smith followed with a paper on "Peace", discussing the ideal of universal peace between men and nations and the tendency in that direction. Both papers provoked much discussion. Those taking part were Messrs. Holmes, Meacham, Clark, Henry, Rives, Wright, White, Linton, Soyars, Powell, Street, Gaither, Kingsbury, Fink and Smith. The meeting adjourned at 10:30.

Those present were: President, W.H. Southall, Rev. W.B. Holmes, A.H. Ekles, Col. Jouett Henry, J.W. Downer, Rev. B.W. Gaither, S. F. White, Judge Frank Rives, W. O. Soyars, Ira L. Smith, H.W. Linton, Rev. Paul S. Powell, Prof. Arkley Wright, Dr. W.E. Gary, Phil E. Chappell, John L. Street, Dr. Horacé Kingsbury, Judge A.H. Clark, F.W. Fink, and Charles M. Meacham.

Collection for the evening was \$26.00,

The meeting adjourned to meet Feb. 5th, 1931. On the program H.W. Linton and W.B. Holmes.

Chas. M. Meacham
Secretary.

Feb. 5, 1931.

The Athenaeum met at Hotel Latham at 6:30 with 25 of the 29 members present. W.H. Southall, the president, occupied the chair.

Following the dinner, the business session and the program of the evening were taken up.

Dr. Oscar Flenor was welcomed as a new member and the only existing vacancy in the membership (limited to 30) was filled by the election of Douglas Graham, president of the Bank of Pembroke.

The literary program was exceptionally fine. H.W. Linton presented a paper on "The Constitution of Kentucky, and the Necessity for a New One". It was an illuminating paper on all of the past constitutions, the present one made in 1891, and called attention to the proposed vote for a new one this fall.

Rev. W.B. Holmes wrote on "See America First", his papers being a vivid description of Yellowstone Park and its wonders and beauties. He visited the park last summer and his article was one of the best the society has listened to for many meetings. Both papers were discussed in a round of oratory, wisdom and humor that lasted for two hours.

Those present were: W.H. Southall, Chas. M. Meacham, Paul Shell Powell, Jouett Henry, F.W. Fink, Arkley Wright, H.W. Linton, F.M. Brown, S. Pettus White, Frank Rives, A.H. Eckles, A.H. Clark, Horace Kingsbury, Ira D. Smith, J.W. Downer, Phil E. Chappell, Denny P. Smith, W.D. Soyars, Oscar Flenor, W.E. Gary, P. C. Walker, B.W. Gaither, and W. B. Holmes, and guest C. L. Albritton.

On the program on March 5th will be P.C. Walker and Ed L. Weathers

The Collections for the evening were \$30.00.

The meeting adjourned at 11 P. M.

Chas. M. Meacham.
Secy.

March 6, 1931.

The March meeting of the Athenaeum was held at Hotel Latham from 6:30 to 10:30 Thursday evening.

The usual dinner in the club room was attended by 17 members and four others detained by other engagements, arrived in time for the program.

In the absence of President, W.H. Southall, Rev. Paul Shell Powell was chosen to preside. Two resignations were read by the secretary. That of the Rev. Horace Kingsbury, who is leaving the city, was accepted with regret. That of Jas. A. McKenzie, was on motion tabled with a view of having it withdrawn, and was later withdrawn. The vacancy created by the Rev. Mr. Kingsbury's resignation was immediately filled by the re-election of S.Y. Trimble, who resigned some months ago.

On motion it was decided to hold the usual open session in May with a banquet at Hotel Latham, May 7. The president was authorized to appoint committees to arrange for same, one on Arrangements, and one to prepare the program. On Arrangements he later named Phil E. Chappell, H.A. Long and Jouett Henry, and on Program H.W. Linton, Chas. M. Meacham and Ira D. Smith. The literary program was then called.

Prof. Arkley Wright discussed in a comprehensive paper, the "Negro of Today", dealing with the bringing of slaves into the colonies, the part the Negro paid in developing America, his emancipation, enfranchisement and present status.

John Stites wrote entertainingly on "The History of Marriage". He discussed the marriage relation from all angles; its earliest origin, its practice by nations all over the world, and the diversified laws that govern it in the American states. It was a most interesting and carefully compiled record. Both papers were discussed by various members, under the new rule that limited discussion to one hour.

Those present were Paul S. Powell, Chas. M. Meacham, Douglas Graham, Jouett Henry, P.C. Walker, Arkley Wright, John Stites, Pettus White, Oscar Flenor, H.W. Linton, Phil E. Chappell, Dr. W.E. Gary, Dr. F.M. Brown, Ira L. Smith, Ira D. Smith, A.H. Clark, Frank Rives, J.W. Downer, B.W. Gaither, S.Y. Trimble, and A.H. Eckles.

On the program for April, Paul Shell Powell, and P.C. Walker.

The meeting adjourned at 11 P. M.

Chas. M. Meacham, Sec

April 2, 1931.

The Athenaeum met at 6:30 P.M. at Hotel Latham with 23 members present. Dr. Oscar Flener arrived later in the evening.

After the usual dinner hour the business meeting followed. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, and \$32 in dues ~~was~~ collected. The roll was called and several absentees excused.

The annual election of officers resulted in the unanimous election of Rev. Paul Shell Powell, as President, Rev. W.B. Holmes as Vice President, and Chas. M. Meacham as Secretary-Treasurer.

The committess for the banquet May 7, reported. Chairman ^A Phil Chappell, announced that plans had been made for each of the 30 members to have from 2 to 4 seats, the usual plan being for each member to be accompanied by a lady with the privilege of inviting two guests.

Chairman, H.W. Linton, of the Program Committee, reported as speakers for the open session, H.A. Long, Frank Rives, Rev. W.B. Gaither and Arkley Wright. The program to consist of brief after-dinner speeches. Both Committees will continue until the open session.

Then came the evening's program. Dr. P.C. Walker's subject was "Life" and Dr. P.S. Powell's "The Literature of the Bible". These members are among the Athenaeum's leading intellectual lights and both acquitted themselves in fine style, with carefully prepared papers, of superior diction, deep thought and literary excellence. When the discussion of their papers began it became evident that they were in for a "hazing", led by the lawyers of their own churches. The discussion was engaged in by Pettus White, Frank Rives, Alvan H. Clark, Denny P. Smith, W. O. Soyars, W.B. Holmes, H.W. Linton, J.W. Downer, and Chas.M. Meacham.

As the attacks upon the papers became vigorous some members came to the rescue of the writers, and the merits and demerits of the papers were discussed for an hour before the writers got the floor to close the discussion. They proved game fighters and made the fur fly, and went after their critics until the room roared with laughter. They even took shots at each other and for once there was a scarcity of dignity in evidence.

Those present were: President, W.H. Southall, Dr. F.M. Brown, Phil E. Chappell, Alvan H. Clark, J.W. Downer, A.H. Eckles, F.W. Fink, Oscar Flener, Douglas Graham, Jouett Henry, W.B. Holmes, H.W. Linton, H.A. Long, J.A. McKenzie, C. M. Meacham, Paul S. Powell, Frank Rives, D. P. Smith, Ira L. Smith, J.S. Street, W. O. Soyars, P.C. Walker, S. P. White.

Chas. M. Meacham, Sec

30TH SESSION OF ATHENAEUM HELD

Dinner, Program Given
At Latham: Mr. Powell,
President, Presided

The thirtieth annual open session of the Athenaeum was in many respects one of the most brilliant and successful of the long series of banquets that have been given every year since 1901 (excepting 1918).

To begin on, the weather was ideal in every respect. The attendance was the largest for several years. The menu was all that could have been desired. The tables were arranged in a hollow square on four sides of the big dining room of the Latham Hotel, and when half a dozen unexpected guests appeared, an additional table was brought in and placed in the center of the room with no loss of time. All of the tables had been beautifully decorated with vases of tulips and other beautiful flowers and the guests entered a darkened room lighted only

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by long rows of candles on every table. The tables were so arranged that a speaker was seated at each table. The guests assembled in the parlors shortly after 7 o'clock, and the "grand march" to the dining room at 7:45, followed a brief reception, the receiving line being headed by President and Mrs. Paul Shell Powell and after a social half hour the call to dinner was made.

Entering the dining room and taking places at the tables the electric lights were flashed upon the scene of enchantment.

President Powell was at the table on the south side of the dining room, and called upon Dr. P. C. Walker who returned thanks.

Menu

Grapefruit Cocktail
Broiled Spring Chicken on Toast
New Potatoes Peas
Finger Rolls
Tomato Aspic on Lettuce
Wafers
Strawberries Ice Cream.
White Cakes
Coffee
Mints

At 9 o'clock the tables were cleared and the following literary program lasted until 10:30 o'clock:

President Powell, who presided with ease and grace, welcomed the guests in a few well chosen words and called upon Mr. Chas. M. Meacham, who sat near him and was one of the organizers of the society in 1899, to also extend a few words of welcome, who briefly responded and referred to the fact that all of the beautiful ladies present had been born since the society was organized and said the membership, limited to thirty, was now full and the members also were full, following the bountiful dinner in Hotel Latham's best style. The speaking program that followed is here given:

Feast of Reason

Toastmaster — President Paul Shell Powell.

"Our Inheritance Tax" — Mr. Herschel A. Long.

"A Hater of Shams"—Rev. B. W. Gaither.

"Strangers Yet"—Prof. Arkley Wright.

"Terminal Facilities" — Judge Frank Rives.

In introducing the speakers the President proved to be a most capable toastmaster, graceful, polished, witty, and appropriate in his presentations.

Mr. H. A. Long, the first speaker, sprang a complete surprise on his delightful hearers, using his subject as a recital of some of the hobbies, fancies and fashions we have inherited as a "tax" from our ancestors, ranging all the way from rings on our fingers to useless tails on our shirts. He put everybody in a good humor to enjoy the other food things that followed for an hour.

Rev. B. Wood Gaither's address was a literary treat, showing deep thought, careful preparation and lighted by flashes of humor. Dr. Gaither, always an easy and accomplished speaker, was at his best.

Prof. Wright, taking the poem, "Strangers Yet," as his subject, embellished it with fifteen minutes of entertaining humor, philosophy, and eloquence. As a companion piece to the other addresses on the

well-balanced program it was very appropriate and excellently presented.

In closing the program with "Terminal Facilities," Judge Rives entered the field heretofore occupied by Alvan Clark, A. H. Eckles, and Ira L. Smith, and delivered a humorous address from start to finish, his terminal facilities being all that could have been desired, except that the stop at the end of twenty minutes was all too soon. The Judge is liable to be in demand hereafter as an after-dinner speaker.

Members present and ladies were: Dr. and Mrs. F. M. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Phil E. Chappell, Mr. and Mrs. Alvan H. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Downer, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Eckles, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Fink, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Flener, Rev. B. Wood Gaither, Dr. and Mrs. W. E. Gary, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Graham, Col. Jouett Henry and sister, Mrs. Green H. Russell; Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Linton, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Long, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. A. McKenzie, Mr. Charles M. Meacham, Dr. and Mrs. Paul Shell Powell, Mr. and Mrs. Denny P. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Ira L. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Southall, Mr. and Mrs. John Stites, Mr. and Mrs. John S. Street, Mr. S. Y. Trimble and daughter, Dr. and Mrs. P. C. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Ed L. Weathers, Mr. and Mrs. S. Pettus White, Mr. and Mrs. Arkley Wright, Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Soyars, Judge and Mrs. Ira D. Smith, Judge and Mrs. Frank Rives.

Guests present included: Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Dudley H. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hammond, Mrs. Miles Abell and Miss Elizabeth Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Woodruff, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Albritton, Dr. and Mrs. M. A. Gilmore, Dr. and Mrs. Gant Gaither, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Van Cleve, Lieut. John Dabney and Miss Nancy Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. Norwood Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Overshiner, Jr., Misses Sara McKenzie, Sara White and Julia Arnold, Dr. F. P. Thomas and daughter, Mrs. Cyrus Radford; James A. McKenzie, Jr., and Miss Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Mason, Mr. E. W. Borst and Miss Elizabeth Burney, Mrs. W. A. Long, Miss Clara Means, Mrs. W. M. Hancock, and Dr. and Mrs. Ausitn Bell.

Chas. M. Meacham, Sec

June 5, 1931.

The June meeting of the Athenaeum, postponed one day, was held Friday evening, June 5th. The change had been made by the Secretary on account of a conflict with a meeting of public interest in the city on the 4th.

A motion was made and carried that the dates of future meetings not be changed for any cause.

Minutes of April meeting read and approved. Minutes of May meeting, the open Session, were approved without reading.

A motion was made and passed renewing instructions to the Secretary to note the presentation of papers without comments or compliments.

Roll call disclosed 23 members present. Collections for the May meeting and the present meeting amounted to \$52.50.

The following papers were then presented:

"The Modern Plutarch" by B.W. Gaither. "Fundamental Bases of Civilization", W. Oglesby Soyars.

The papers were discussed by the members present, one hour being given to the discussion by the President, Paul Shell Powell.

A Program Committee consisting of the officers was directed to prepare the annual program and distribute same. No change to be made in the nature of the program as heretofore, the May meeting being reserved for an open session.

Membership Committee named by President: J.W. Downer, P.E. Chappell, H.W. Hinton.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 o'clock to meet again on Sept. 3, 1931.

Chas. W. Meacham Secy.

Hopkinsville, Ky.

Sept. 3, 1931.

The Athenaeum resumed its monthly meetings Thursday evening with twenty members in attendance and Vice-President, W.B. Holmes, Jr. in the chair. President Paul Shell Powell was kept away by the revival in progress in the Methodist church, of which he is pastor.

After dinner in the Club room of Hotel Latham, the literary program consisted of papers by two members.

S. Pettus White wrote on "How Firm a Foundation", dealing with the foes of civilization in America.

Chas. M. Meacham wrote on "The Exodus of 1838", a paper supplementary of the historical paper he wrote some years ago dealing with the local aspects of the migration of the Cherokee Indians through Hopkinsville.

The discussion following the papers were quite animated and was participated in by F.W. Fink, Alvan H. Clark, Arkley Wright, Jouett Henry, W.O. Soyars, H.W. Linton, B.W. Gaither and Frank Rives.

The meeting adjourned shortly after 10 o'clock. Those present were:

W.B. Holmes, J., Chas. M. Meacham, Frank Rives, Jouett Henry, Arkley Wright, Ira L. Smith, H. W. Linton, F.W. Fink, Jas. A. McKenzie, S.Y. Trimble, O. Flenor, B.W. Gaither, A.H. Eckles, Phil E. Chappell, W. O. Soyars, Denny P. Smith, S. Pettus White, Jno. L. Street, and W.H. Southall, J.W. Dowher, and A.H. Clark, who came in after the dinner and took part in the literary program.

Chas. M. Meacham

Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

October 1, 1931.

With only six of the 30 members absent, the Athenaeum held its October meeting on Oct. 1st at Hotel Latham.

In the absence of President Paul Shell Powell, who was attending the Methodist Conference, Vice-President W.B. Holmes, presided.

The literary program was a paper by Judge Ira D. Smith on Sargent S. Prentiss, the famous Southern orator. Judge Smith's historical paper brought out a general discussion, participated in by more than half of the members present.

Those who attended were Ira L. Smith, J.W. Downer, Jouett Henry, Frank Rives, A.H. Eckles, H.W. Linton, Jas. S. McKenzie, Ira D. Smith, S. Pettus White, Alvan H. Clark, Ed L. Weathers, W.H. Southall, S.Y. Trimble, Phil E. Chappell, H.A. Long, W.B. Holmes, Dr. F.M. Brown, Arkley Wright, Dr. W.E. Gary, Denny P. Smith, F.W. Fink, B.W. Gaither, Dr. Oscar Flener, and Chas. M. Meacham.

The absentees were Paul S. Powell, P.C. Walker, John Stites, W.O. Soyars, Douglas Graham, and John L. Street.

Excuses were presented for Paul Shell Powell, Douglas Graham, and John L. Street, and they were excused.

The meeting adjourned at ten o'clock to meet the first Thursday in November.

Chas. M. Meacham
Secretary.

Hopkinsville, Ky. Nov. 5, 1931.

The Athenaeum met at Hotel Latham at 6:30 P. M. and dinner was served in the Club Room.

President, Paul Shell Powell, presided and after meal a short business session was held.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

A roll call disclosed the presence of 24 members and three visitors. President, Powell appointed a Committee on Membership composed of J.W. Dowher, H.W. Linton and ~~W.H. Southall~~ *P.E. Chappell (See June)*

The resignation of Douglas Graham, of Pembroke, was received and accepted with regret. Mr. Graham stated that he found that conflicting engagements made it impossible to attend the meetings regularly.

Mr. John Stites having been absent for more than three consecutive meetings without being excused, the Secretary on motion of Ira D. Smith, was directed to see Mr. Stites and ascertain his wishes and intentions in the matter of retaining his membership and report at the next meeting.

The Literary program consisted of two papers. W.H. Southall wrote on the subject of "Gold", discussing the metal historically, commercially and as a monetary standard.

Ed L. Weathers, substituting for John L. Street, who is just recovering from a serious illness, took as his subject the late "Thomas A. Edison", whom he characterized as the greatest man America has ever produced, when judged by his achievements.

The papers were discussed by the following members and visitors:

B.W. Gaither, F.M. Brown, Oscar Flener, John L. Street, Ira L. Smith, Hon. W.V. Gregory, A.H. Clark, Dr. J. J. Exell, Dr. D; M. Walker and P.C. Walker .

Collection \$26.00.

Adjourned at 10 P . M.

Approved

Chas. M. Meacham
Secretary.

Hopkinsville, Ky. Dec. 3, 1931.

The Athenaeum met in monthly session in the Club Room at Hotel Latham at 6:30 P.M. and after dinner was served the Society was called to order with 21 members present, President Paul Shell Powell presiding.

The roll call disclosed the absence of eight members, there being one vacancy. A little later J.W. Downer and A.H. Clark came in.

The collection of dues, resulted in the payment of \$30, including \$2 sent in by mail.

The Committee on membership recommended Dr. David M. Walker for membership, and he was elected to the only vacancy existing. He was notified and arrived soon afterwards and took part in the meeting.

Two papers constituted the literary program.

Dr. Oscar Flener wrote on the "Origin of Man in America", a scientific and historical paper dealing with the mound-builders and other prehistoric races.

Then came an address by J.W. Downer, on "The Tale of Troy", descriptive of the siege and fall of Troy 1184 B.C. , as told in classic literature.

Both papers were discussed at length by various members.

Those present were: Ira L. Smith, John Stites, J.W. Downer, Jouett Henry, A.H. Eckles, H.W. Linton, James A. McKenzie, Ira D. Smith, S. Pettus White, Alvan H. Clark, Ed L. Weathers, and guests, Dr. L.A. Tate and Dr. J.J. Ezell; W. O. Soyars, S.Y. Trimble, P.E. Chappell, P.C. Walker, Arkley Wright, Denny P. Smith, Paul S. Powell, F.W. Fink, B.W. Gaither, John L. Street, Dr. Oscar Flener and Dr. D.M. Walker.

Those on the January program are John L. Street and Dr. F.M. Brown.

Approved.

Chas M. Meacham.
Secretary.