

Society Meeting
January 3rd, 1935.

Dr. Oscar Flener, Presiding

The Athenaeum met at 6:30 p. m. with a dinner attendance of twenty-three members, which number remains the total attendance for the evening.

Mr. Thomas L. Smith, who was elected to membership in November and prevented by sickness from attending the December meeting, was present, and given welcome, both officially and individually.

The minutes for both the November and December meetings were read and approved. But the approval was only temporary, as objections were later raised to certain words and phrases in the third and fourth paragraphs of the minutes for November, and some discussion issued. The matter was settled by the adoption of a motion, proposed by Ira D. Smith, which provided in the first part that the secretary use more suitable words in the third paragraph with reference to the benefit of the clergy (who benefitted by having two dinners served them the same evening, but unhappily suffered Miss Nora's menu to go untouched.)

In the second part the said motion directed that the names of the persons responsible for the postponement of the November meeting be written into Mr. White's motion of censure in paragraph four.

The members who claimed this responsibility in the November meeting, and in January jealously reasserted their claims to this honor, are, Flener, Meacham, and Gaither.

The secretary has made the required changes, which attest the blamelessness of the clergy in the Society's records; and the minutes for November have been rewritten, and a special fee of one dollar paid the stenographer for the extra work.

An excuse was accepted for J. A. McKenzie, who on account of sickness could not appear on the evening's program. Excuses were also accepted for the following;- Ira D. Smith for December; David M. Walker for September and October; J. W. Weldon for November; W.B. Holmes, Jr. for October, November and December.

The Secretary reported one vacancy on the roster.

An invitation to the open meeting of the Princeton Forum for the evening of Feb. 11 th. was held over to our meeting of Feb. 7th for official consideration.

A paper by Ira L. Smith, entitled, " The Ethics of Great Foundations of Wealth, Established and Expended in Mass Philanthropy for the Good of Humanity." constituted the program.

Soyars, Saunders, White and Petrie featured in the discussion, which lasted two hours. Others who had something to say were, Ira D. Smith, Fink, Koffman, David Walker, Linton, Southall, Weldon, Trimble, Ezell, Holmes, Thomas Smith, Downer, Handerson,

Rives, and Henry, Meacham ,alone, observed brevity.

B. W. Gaither

Secretary

February Meeting ,1935

The Athenaeum met at the Hotel Latham, at 6;30 p. m. Thursday Feb. 7th, 1935. The Attendance for the evening was twenty-six members, with twenty-five at dinner.

The treasurer collected thirty-eight collars in dues.

Excuses for the following members were accepted, viz;

For absences from the February meeting; Clark, McKenzie, Soyars and White.

For absences from the January meeting; Eckles, Chappell, Rogers and P. C. Walker.

For absence from the December meeting; Rogers/

For absences from the October and November meetings; P.C.Walker

The invitation to the open meeting of the Princeton Forum, Feb. 11 th. was again read. On the motion of Ira D. Smith the Society voted to accept the invitation; and a special roll call was made to ascertain the number of members who would attend. There were fifteen possibilities.

On the program F. W. Fink read a paper captioned; "Life is Earnest."

Charles m. Meacham followed him with the subject, "The Consolidation of Kentucky Counties."

The members who thereupon took up the debate and carried it on until a late hour were, Trimble, Southall, Saunders, Ira L. Smith, Holmes, Koffman, Downer, Rives, Henderson, Clark, Thomas L. Smith, Petrie, Weldon, Ira D. Smith, Rogers, and the two Walkers.

Footnote; The members who attended the Forum meeting at Princeton Ky., Monday, Feb. 11th, were, Eckles, Chappell, Weldon, Henry, Ira L. Smith, Ira, D. Smith, and Rives.

B. W. Gaither

Secretary

Athenaeum Meeting

Hotel Latham March 7th, 1935

Dr. Oscar Flener, Presiding.

Dinner attendance was twenty-five members and one guest.

The treasurer collected in dues \$26.00 .

After dinner J. W. Downer in an appropriate speech introduced his guest, Mr. William H. Harrison, a visitor to Hopkinsville, as the first president of the Athenaeum Society. Mr. Harrison responded with a courtly bow. He took the leading part in the discussion of the program and contributed greatly to our enjoyment of the evening.

The secretary read a letter of resignation from J. A. McKenzie. The Society adopted the motion of Franklin Rives that the President appoint a committee to ask Mr. McKenzie to reconsider this action. Rives and Ira D. Smith were appointed.

A brief and interesting account of the Forum open meeting in Princeton was given by Ira D. Smith.

On the program Chas. J. Petrie appeared first with a paper on "Robert Morris of Revolutionary Fame."

A short story by H. W. Linton , read by the author, completed the program.

Those joining the discussion were;

Meacham, White, David Walker, Wm. H Harrison (Guest), Clark, Saunders, Koffman, Ira L. Smith, Downer, Rogers, Rives, Henderson,

The President announced that he would appoint the committee on the program later.

B. W. Laitner

Secretary.

The open meeting of the Athenaeum, at the Hotel Latham, May 3rd, with Charles J. Petrie, our newly-elected president, chically fulfilling the office of toastmaster, and Mrs. Petrie gracing the place of honor, was lightened by orchestral rendition of appropriate music under the direction of Captain Lebkeucher, darkened by static interference with the lighting system, flavored with the quintessence of cuisine excellence, entertained by a cross section of the Society's talent, and sent home to bed with a final blessing by Alvan H. Clark. The meeting adjourned at ten.

Since the printed program and the newspaper account are both appended the secretary does not feel obligated to do more than supplement these records.

The Toastmaster, according to the best class-room traditions, enjoining Frances Fairleigh and Oglesby Soyars to open their programs at page 2, pointed out that the unique spelling of "Souffle" was a trick of the linotypist and not an innovation of his own. Why he said so is a matter of conjecture, but our guess is that he was attempting to forestall an impromptu editorial in the Society Column of the New Era under the special heading of "False Spelling — A Pedagog Caught in the Very Act;" and from another quarter to prevent the bitter invective of that brilliant exponent of the Bench from flaying alive on the first Thursday evening in June a teacher, who under the regime of the N. R. A., sought to emulate the spelling system of Teddy Roosevelt— not because T. R. was a radical, but for the reason that he was not a democrat.

The Secretary of the Society, as the first number on the program, read his short, short story entitled, "Hope Deferred". It was short, all right.

Ira D. Smith in his fine and entertaining speech indicated the diversion of the communistic element in the world from the established culture and religion of society. Communism under the symbol of the onion deflating, devaluing, defeating, destroying everything except that of practical utilitarian value. Society under the symbol of the orchid stands in peril of destruction unless more of the utilitarian values taught by the social-minded prophets become incorporated in the fragrant and graceful orchid. And that meat and bread and raiment for men be not all in the sum and substance of their existence, the orchid must impart to the lowly Bermudian some of its ideals of refinement, culture and religion.

Never was a grander subject, we venture to say, offered by an abler orator to a dinner party under more difficult and trying conditions. If the fury of materialistic communism or the wrath of selfish society had sought a more dramatic symbol of the ultimate fate of mankind than the speaker's floral and vegetable figures, surely it came in the unleashing of nature's elemental forces and extinguishing of the lights. Did Nature prophesy another dark age if the orchid lends not some beauty to the ugly onion; and the onion partake not of the orchid's

fragrance ?

The last speaker appealed to the far corners of the spacious dining room as those who were seated out yonder between the stanpipe and Billy-goat Hill — a Mark Antonian appeal for the laon of their ears.

This prince of after dinner speakers eloquently plead for some Burbank to graft the orchid on the Polecat's tail, but maintained, that at least his nostrails preferred the orchid without any stultifying onion odors.

He gave his version of a short, short, short story, allegedly read by the secretary at a previous meeting of the society. The climax brought the hero and heroine into the bonds of matrimony, and they had quintuplets the next day. And out of their necessity of money-making to pay the milk bills, they forsook their old ways of love making, and remained daffy forever after.

The speaker's closing words glowed with affection and goodwill as he expressed his best wishes for all the Society members and the guests.

Dues collected for the Open Meeting -----\$ 27.82

Amount paid New Era \$4.12

Amount paid Hotel \$20.00

Credit on Mr.

Henderson's bill- .87.

Total \$24.99 \$ 24.99

A Bal. \$ 2.83

Paid Penelope Gaither two months
work and envelopes and stamps-----\$ 2.84

Bal. in bank -----\$0000 one cent

By check to Hotel \$7.57

Leaving balance
due Hotel Latham --- \$87.00

B. W. Gaither
Sec.