

The Mercer Cluster

Published weekly by the students of the fourteen schools and colleges in the Mercer University System.

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NINETY YEARS OF GLORY

Ninety years have passed. Ninety years of glory and gradual triumph have elapsed since the beginning of Mercer University at Penfield, Georgia. Years that have been filled with trials and disappointments. Years that have also viewed the turning wheels of progress toward the great institution that now stands as a monument reaching gloriously toward the sky, in commemoration of the dark days of yesterday.

Billington M. Sanders, Mercer University's first president, said as he retired from office: "This institution has been established upon the faith of that divine principle of truth, that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." All who know the past activities of Mercer believe that she has lived up to a principle of truth, and with a co-operative, earnest and generous spirit of support from the Baptists of the State and South the institution has steadily gone forward.

The next ten years will mark the close of the first century of Mercer University's existence. These will be the ten years of Mercer's career that will witness the institution's most rapid growth. Growth in financial standing and growth in the size of the student body. Millions of dollars will be expended for new equipment and buildings. It is for individual lovers of Mercer to help carry on the work that previous generations have begun, and raise the institution's scope of usefulness to still greater heights.

THE DIFFERENCE?

If you were told by someone that a horrible crime had occurred and that the criminal had escaped, you would at once become indignant and even help in the search for the miscreant. If you were to witness a murder where one man shoots down another in cold blood, you would no doubt become horrified at the barbarity and boldness of the act. It is against the law to commit murder.

If you chance to see a man so full of some fiery drink that he knows no direction and staggers about the streets among sober-minded and harmless people, a curse to the world and a disgrace to a civilized country; often this lawbreaker passes the height of your criticising powers with a probable "Aft let him go; he's just taking a little Christmas." The very looseness of your criticism makes of you also a bad citizen.

The man who drinks his whiskey is a criminal same as the man who murders one of his fellows. The laws of our land have decreed against both these acts and one is to be abided by as closely as another. Why obey one law and break another? Why have a law and not abide by it? Why send back to office a gang of legislators who make laws and fail to keep them themselves? "We must have prohibition," they say, but who knows but what some of these law-makers were drunk when they voted on the Volstead act? Let these men start to obey their own decrees, then it will be easier to control a liquor-saturated populace.

Public opinion, after all, is to be the salvation of the world from the death-dealing effects of whiskey. Public opinion will never progress against whiskey until law-makers, newspapers, and every power that is in the limelight, offer their services to the cause.

MORGAN BLAKE'S TRIBUTE

In speaking before the large number of people in attendance at the banquet held in celebration of the ninth anniversary of the founding of Mercer University, Morgan Blake, sporting editor of the Atlanta Journal, paid a high tribute to the great basketball team that represents Mercer and to the fine caliber of athletes that represent Mercer in all her athletics.

"Men like Bob Gamble, Carl Lancaster, "Red" aBrron, and Oscar Davis are the type of athletes that will elevate college athletics in the eyes of the public," declared Mr. Blake.

Blake's tribute came at a fitting place and time. All the lovers of Mercer were proud to hear, on the ninetieth anniversary of their college, such a sincere tribute to the manhood and sportsmanship of the men composing her athletic teams.

It will take athletes like Blake described to keep forever on high the standards, that real college athletics should measure up to. It will take the praise of fair-minded, Christian men like Morgan Blake to keep these men encouraged to always play the game fair and square.

WELCOME ADDRESS

By Miss Eloise Hammock,
of Bessie Tift.

Mercer and Bessie Tift Student Body, Faculty and Others Visitors: We have come together to-day for the purpose of celebrating Founders' Day and for the purpose of intensifying the co-operative and friendly spirit existing between the two colleges. I like to believe, however, that a higher motive prompted this joint celebration: that the ties of a common aim and of an inseparable destiny are drawing our two colleges together. If cordial friendship, if warm affection can ever exist between two institutions, it should exist between Mercer and Sessie Tift. Both are under the same head, moved by the same purpose. Both are alike in the circumstances of their origin; both were founded by men eager to lift the torch of education and let its beam penetrate the obscurest corners of Georgia and other States.

A backward glimpse at the histories of the two colleges will prove both interesting and instructive. In 1833 Mercer was founded. This marked the beginning of higher education in Georgia under the guidance of the Baptist denomination. There is probably no more important date in the history of Southern education.

In 1843 there was graduated from Mercer a most remarkable educator, named W. C. Wilkes. It was this most extraordinary character who later became president of Monroe College and laid the foundation for the present institution which now welcomes you into its halls. He was succeeded by Dr. S. G. Hillyer, a Mercer professor some years before he came to Forsyth.

In 1898 the Georgia Baptist Convention assumed the control of Bessie Tift, and in 1909 Dr. C. H. S. Jackson, another Mercer graduate, became president and remained in office until 1914.

Our own present beloved leader, Dr. Aquila Chamlee, claims Mercer as his old alma mater.

In addition to these, many other Mercer graduates have served as professors on the Bessie Tift faculty.

Thus we see that Mercer has played no small part in the development of Bessie Tift.

Despite the fact that Mercer has never sought a Bessie Tift graduate for its faculty, it has sometimes gone further and done worse.

If there be one single lesson we have learned from this wonderful and varied history, it is that Mercer and Bessie Tift are and should be indispensable to each other.

A new era stretches out before us. The dawn of a greater Bessie Tift-Mercer spirit is now at hand. So not only on account of what Mercer has already done for Bessie Tift, but also because of what it will continue to do for Bessie Tift, I now wish to extend a most cordial welcome to Mercer student body, faculty and other visitors.

Support those who advertise in our college publication.

APPRECIATION

FROM EDITOR

Mr. George M. Sparks,
Mercer University,
Macon, Georgia.

My dear George: I want to congratulate you and your associates in the fine work that you are doing with the Mercer Cluster. I have greatly enjoyed this week's issue, which I regard as one of the best I have ever seen. Keep this good work up, for you are greatly serving the college.

Cordially,

Louie Newton,
Editor Christian Index.
January 15th, 1923.

MERCER MAN DIES

Statesboro, aG.—J. A. Brannen, who died here Saturday, was a Mercer man of the class of 1878. He was probably the biggest man in this section. He was first mayor of Statesboro, senator from this district, legislator, and the oldest lawyer in the county, member of State Democratic executive committee.

Brannen was also the man that they had some six or seven hundred ballots on as to who was to be Congressman from the First district in 1908. Brannen and Cheppard, judge of the Atlantic circuit, tied up in county unit votes with Brannen having the majority in popular votes. In addition to this he was one of the most charitable in the county.

KAPPA DELTA DEBATE

The Kappa Delta Society held its regular Saturday night meeting in Bessie Tift chapel January 13.

Mary Harrison, dressed in the fashion of fifty years ago with the old-fashioned curl over her shoulder, represented the old-fashioned girl, and gave a reading, "The Old-Fashioned Girl." Louise Wells, dressed in modern fashion, read "The Girl of '23."

A debate followed, "Resolved, That the girl of fifty years ago is superior to the girl of today." The affirmative was sponsored by Charlye Watson and Bettie Gunn, and the negative by Lucy Rushin and Ellen Ballard. The decision of the judges resulted in favor of the affirmative.

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