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## Kenyon Collegian - December 26, 1892

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## ALUMNI SUPPLEMENT

# Kenyon Collegian.

CLEVELAND, OHIO, DECEMBER 26, 1892.

### THE CLEVELAND DINNER.

**Old Kenyon Honored by Many Eminent and Worthy Sons—An Ovation to Venerable Professor Benson.**

On the evening of December 26, the Stillman, of Cleveland, was the scene of a most enjoyable and enthusiastic meeting of Kenyon men. As early as seven o'clock quite a number were present, and so many had arrived by 7:40 that the Kenyon Alumni Association of Northern Ohio was formally called to order in a parlor of the hotel, by its venerable chairman, Ex-President Rutherford B. Hayes, of the class of 1842. In the absence of Secretary Frank H. Ginn, Esq., '90, who was too ill to attend, L. M. Snyder, Esq., '85, was elected Secretary *pro tem*.

The minutes were then read and approved, and a committee on nomination of officers to serve for the coming year, was appointed, consisting of Mr. G. F. Klock, '78; James H. Dempsey, Esq., '82, and Rev. John D. Skilton, '88.

An amendment, by which members of the Board of Trustees, the Faculty, and undergraduates were made eligible to membership in the Association, was then passed by a unanimous vote. This was followed by a resolution to admit ladies to the annual dinners of the Association. An overwhelming sentiment being against the measure, it was lost by an almost unanimous vote. Upon the report of the

Committee on Nominations, the following officers were elected for 1893: President, Gen. Rutherford B. Hayes, '42; First Vice President, Judge A. J. Ricks; Second Vice President, Dr. W. J. Scott, '48; Historian, Mr. W. J. Boardman, '54; Secretary and Treasurer, Frank H. Ginn, Esq., '90; Executive Committee, Hon. James Lawrence, '71; E. S. Cook, Esq., '82; Rev. John D. Skilton, '88; Mr. F. H. Briggs, '88, and Mr. H. A. Lozier, Jr., '90.

This preliminary business meeting then adjourned to the banquet hall, where the following guests took their places at three long tables: Gen. R. B. Hayes, '42, Fremont; Judge A. J. Ricks, '65, Cleveland; Maj. Jacob A. Camp, '45, Cleveland; Dr. W. J. Scott, '48, Cleveland; Prof. E. C. Benson, '49, Gambier; Mr. Peter Neff, '49, Cleveland; Mr. W. J. Boardman, '54, Washington, D. C.; Dr. D. D. Benedict, '56, Norwalk; Rev. J. A. Brown, '62, Ravenna; Rev. A. B. Putnam, '69, Cleveland; W. P. Elliott, Esq., '70, Chicago, Ill.; Hon. James Lawrence, '71, Cleveland; Wm. M. Reynolds, Esq., '73, Cleveland; Mr. Geo. F. Klock, '78, Cleveland; James H. Dempsey, Esq., '82, Cleveland; Archdeacon W. M. Brown, '83, Cleveland; Mr. G. W. D. Webster, '85, Geneva; L. M. Snyder, Esq., '85, Cleveland; E. M. Mancourt, Esq., '85, Columbus; Rev. W. H. Dewart, '87, Boston, Mass.; Mr. Hugh Sterling, '87, St. Louis, Mo.; Mr. John A. Strutton, '87, Norwalk; H. N. Hills, Esq.,

'87, Cleveland; Rev. John D. Skilton, '88, Cleveland; Clifford A. Neff, Esq., '88, Cleveland; Mr. F. H. Briggs, '88, Cleveland; Mr. H. A. Lozier, jr., '90, Cleveland; Rev. O. J. Davies, '91, Gambier; Mr. W. R. Gill, '91, Cleveland; Mr. C. A. Ricks, '91, Cleveland; Mr. L. C. Williams, '92, Gambier; Mr. W. B. Beck, '94, Akron; Mr. E. E. Neff, '94, Cleveland; Mr. Geo. P. Atwater, '95, Cleveland; Mr. H. H. C. Hathaway, '96, Cleveland; Mr. Wm. Pate, jr., '96, Cleveland, O., and Prof. W. F. Peirce, of Kenyon Faculty.

Many of the gentlemen came from a long distance, evidencing thereby their earnest desire to be present. Ex-President Hayes, whose presence contributed so much to the success of the dinner, had previously made arrangements to have his entire family about him on the same evening, at his home in Fremont, but changed his plans in order to honor his Alma Mater with his presence.

The presence of Prof. Benson added not a little to the pleasure of the evening, for with the exception of three or four, he had been the beloved instructor of every man present. Prof. and Mrs. Benson were on their way to the Bermudas, where it is hoped that the genial climate of these delightful isles may entirely restore him to health, and certainly no person could have been given more unmistakable evidence of the esteem and affection of young and old, than were accorded the Professor.

Several faces, dear to their Kenyon brothers, were unavoidably absent, among which were Rt. Rev. W. A. Leonard; Rev. C. S. Bates, D. D., '73, of St. Paul's, Cleveland, who was too ill to be present; Rev. H. D. Aves, '78, who recently accepted a call to Houston, Texas, and

his removal thence with his family; and Dr. Theo. Sterling, of Gambier, whose illness confined him to his bed, much to his disappointment and that of the assembled company.

E. S. Cook, Esq., '82, and F. H. Ginn, Esq., '90, both of Cleveland, were also unable to be present owing to severe illness.

Mr. J. H. Dempsey and his fellow-members of the Executive Committee are to be congratulated for their very efficient management of the dinner. Everybody was made welcome and departed impressed with a high appreciation of Cleveland hospitality.

The menu served in faultless style, was as follows:

Blue Points.	
Consomme Royal.	Olives.
Celery.	
Planked Whitefish, aux Fines Herbes.	
Cucumbers.	Pommes Parisienne.
Chicken Patties, a la Reine.	
Filet of Beef, Pique, Sauce, Financiere.	
Delmonico Potatoes.	Asparagus, au Beurre.
St. Julien.	Chartreuse Punch.
Roast Golden Plover, au Cresson.	
Chicory Salad.	
Nougat Ice Cream.	Assorted Cakes.
Crackers and Cheese.	
Cafe.	Fruit.

After all had thoroughly satisfied the cravings of the inner man the following program was carried out as nearly as possible:

#### TOASTS.

EX-PRES. RUTHERFORD B. HAYES, *Toast Master*  
President of Association.

<i>This Occasion</i> .....	MR. W. J. BOARDMAN
<i>Past and Present</i> .....	PROF. E. C. BENSON
<i>Harcourt and the Academy</i> .....	HON. JAS. LAWRENCE
<i>The Undergraduates</i> .....	MR. GEO. P. ATWATER
<i>Vexed Questions</i> .....	C. S. BATES, D. D.
<i>Kenyon's Future</i> .....	DR. THEODORE STERLING
<i>The Trustees</i> .....	MR. SAMUEL MATHER
<i>Kenyon and the Bar</i> .....	JUDGE A. J. RICKS
<i>College and Clergy</i> .....	RT. REV. W. A. LEONARD

In response to the first toast "This Occasion,"

MR. W. J. BOARDMAN, '54.

In his genial, witty manner, said that as he had left Kenyon just before graduation he felt that he might with propriety have been treated as the speaker of the National House of Representatives was, and have been given permission to print his remarks. Mr. Boardman then referred to Prof. Benson, paying tribute to the esteem in which he is held by every Kenyon man. The gentleman then said that rich men's sons would go to Colleges in the city, and that in consequence Kenyon would have to look for students to people of moderate means. No more buildings should be erected, but the present ones should be filled with students.

PROF. BENSON '49,

Then spoke on the "Past and Present" of Kenyon. He alluded to the breadth of her founder's aim; the long list of her eminent and scholarly son's who are to be found in all professions and in every land. The outlook for the future is hopeful. The change in the legal name has enabled the Alumni to assist in promoting the prosperity of their *alma mater*. The present Freshman class, said the speaker, is composed of about forty young men, and he spoke in the highest praise of the kind of young men to be found in it. In regard to the standard of scholarship, Prof. Benson emphatically said, that it never was higher than at present and that it could not possibly be lowered so long as the present Faculty remains. He was cheered to the echo as he took his seat.

HON. JAMES LAWRENCE, '71,

Then rose in response to the toast "Harcourt and the Academy." "I asked what I was expected to speak about," said Mr. Lawrence, "and was told that co-education was a subject of interest at Kenyon."

The speaker was opposed to admitting ladies to Kenyon, but was glad that Harcourt Place Seminary for girls had been established at Gambier. He talked with much feeling about old Kenyon. "Let's quit talking about our troubles," said he. "We are all right. Let's proclaim it."

MR. GEORGE P. ATWATER, '95,

On behalf of the undergraduates, alluded with much satisfaction to the broadening of the course of study, which was being accomplished, he said, without lowering the standard of scholarship, and to the new activity which attended the same. He said that athletics were booming, but a new gymnasium was badly needed. In concluding, he paid a warm tribute to Prof. Benson, to which every undergraduate would be eager to echo his assent.

MR. WM. P. ELLIOTT, '70.

In speaking of Kenyon's future, dwelt upon the efforts which had been made in the matter of organization among the alumni, and of the success of the Association of Northern Ohio. He said that it was necessary to furnish a preparatory education at a reasonable cost; that this problem was pressing upon the attention of the Trustees, and must be met.

#### A STIRRING LETTER

From Bishop Leonard was then read by James H. Dempsey, Esq., in which the Bishop expressed his hopeful feeling and confidence in Kenyon's welfare, and his regrets at not being able to attend. Mr. Dempsey also read a telegram from President Sterling, expressing his regret at not being able to be present, and assuring the association that

#### EVERY ROOM WILL BE FILLED

In Old Kenyon and Ascension next year. Both messages were received with prolonged applause.

THE REV. A. B. PUTNAM, '69,  
On behalf of the Trustees, said that that body was no longer a close corporation. Suggestions would be gladly received by them at any time, and that they were striving to do their duty. If Kenyon's income could be increased, much greater progress might be made.

After the applause which greeted Mr. Putnam had subsided, all the guests rose to their feet and gave

The Kenyon yell for Prof. Benson who was obliged to depart for the train which bore him and his wife to New York. It was a yell expressive of the loving admiration for the Professor's noble, unselfish life at Kenyon, as felt by all from the class of '42 to '96. No one ever began a journey with warmer God speeds.

At the unanimous request of those present, the Professor was asked to convey to Mrs. G. T. Bedell, whom he expected to see in New York, an expression of their kindest regards, and the commission was accepted with pleasure.

REV. J. A. BROWN, '62,  
Spoke of the "College and Clergy," and emphasized the work which might be done for Kenyon by clergymen.

DR. W. J. SCOTT, '48,  
Gave some amusing reminiscences of life at Kenyon, and made an earnest plea for manual training.

At the conclusion of Dr. Scott's remarks,

EX-PRES. HAYES, '42,  
Was called for with great enthusiasm. He rose and talked to his "Brothers of Kenyon" as only General Hayes can. Throughout the evening he had presided in his easy dignified and unassuming manner, and now the climax of the evening was to be reached in the address, which none who heard it will ever forget.

"And so the old college is flourishing to-day. Now, that is good; that is good," said he. Then followed a talk about the good old times. He was inclined to think with Byron, that all times that are old are good. The bad is forgotten and only the good remains. Young men now have good times, but they cannot be compared to the times he used to have. In his days the woods about Kenyon were full of game, and Owl Creek abounded in ducks. There were strict rules about hunting and cooking in their rooms, but they did both just the same.

Gen. Hayes here exhibited a cane which he carried in 1841, as member of a secret society.

Many reminiscences followed of professors who belonged to faculties over 50 years ago. It seemed to him that everything in his life that amounted to anything began at Kenyon. College friendships were thought by some to be soon forgotten, but they were not. He then produced a letter which he had received from an old college friend and class-mate at Kenyon, (Hon. Guy M. Bryan) who had written him from his home in the South every Christmas except the four years in which that friend was in the rebel army.

Gen. Hayes then read the letter, which began "Dear Rud.," and in warmest terms conveyed its author's greetings to his northern friend.

"These college friendships," said Gen. Hayes in conclusion, "are worth cultivating. Life in college uncovers character almost as in the war."

"The four years spent at Kenyon were the best years of my life, except the four spent fighting under the old flag. I rejoice in Kenyon's prosperity. With the deepest emotions of my heart, I say God bless old Kenyon."

L. C. WILLIAMS, '92.