

HAMILTON LIFE.

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No. 20

The Third Senior-Junior Chapel Debate.

Question: Are the Recent Franchise Restrictions in the South Justifiable?

Affirmative, Juniors—Allbright, Carmer, Blakely, Root.

Negative, Seniors—Drummond, Ward, Warren, Frear.

Mr. Allbright opened the debate for the affirmative. Franchise restrictions have been made in five southern states. No one shall vote who cannot read and write assigned passages from the constitution of the state or understand constitution when read; unless he shall pay taxes or shall have been registered and have voted previous to 1867; or have served in a previous war. "That which has a worthy purpose and proper means to that end" was declared justifiable. The restrictions of franchise under consideration are in keeping with the supreme law of the land. The purpose of the restrictions is that the ignorant negro shall not dominate in politics, because this is a white man's government. Whenever the negro has obtained power and control, the result has been direful; something had to be done to preserve government, sustain order, and to prevent chaos. The restrictions under consideration substitute for violence and intimidation, measures which are orderly, peaceful and legal. They withdraw the negro from the dissipating demoralization of politics and political campaigns, and turn him to the salutary pursuits of industry. The educational qualification for franchise is for the negro of the South an incentive, and especially for those of the black race who desire to enter politics. Conditions now prevailing will be rendered impossible, and the southerners will be enabled to enter into the affairs of the whole government. Thus, instead of the method of violence, there will be methods of peace, unity and order.

Mr. Drummond opened the debate for the negative. He insisted upon positive

requirements instead of negative qualifications. Look at the state of affairs in the South; the charlatan methods offered for the solution of the race problem do not meet the difficulties involved. Legislatures advocate repeal of the fifteenth amendment in order to discriminate against the negroes. Statements of representative newspapers show that the press of the South advocates the exclusion of the negro from political rights he now enjoys, claiming that the ignorant white vote is better than the literate negro ballot. The entire purpose of the southern legislation upon this matter and the constitutional amendments is to discriminate against the negro because he is black. The noted "grandfather clause" of some of these constitutions makes suffrage hereditary, debars every negro, brings into the fold every white ignorant man. The property qualifications prescribed are directed against the negro to the advantage of the white. The board of registrars decides franchise qualifications at the time of registration, and these boards are constituted of white men whose nefarious purpose, as well as practice, is, elimination of the negro, no matter what his qualification may be, thus annihilating him as a being of civil and political rights. There is but one conclusion that can be drawn from the entire scheme, and that is race legislation, race war, carried into the arenas of legislative halls. The constitutional restrictions are immoral and inexpedient because unjustified,—these constitutions in letter and spirit argue against the supreme law of the land.

Mr. Carmer argued that the constitutional restrictions in question were justifiable because, (1) they withdraw the negroes from the fury and dissipation of political campaigns; (2) divert him to the peaceful pursuits of productive industry; (3) and thus make possible a conservative government in the South under which the negro as a class will be immeasurably benefitted. The negro is

emotional, excitable and easily led. His years of savagery and slavery cannot be counteracted by political institutions unless he enter into their privileges in the proper educational manner which we are advocating. Booker T. Washington substantiates our contention that the negro should be withdrawn from the confusion and dissipation of political elections and affairs, and be put to work within the industrial life—this is the negro's destiny. The negro should have some motive to work for, some object that he can see and comprehend. Turn him to the life of industry, then place before him the symbol of the highest privilege of man, the ballot; but make its attainment possible only through educational qualification. When the negro thus attains this high privilege, he will realize his political equality with the white man. Permanent help must come from the negro himself; he must have education, industry and comprehension of the value of the ballot because he has qualified himself for it. He must be shown out and up by men of his own race. This is the only legitimate source of his political regeneration, for the negro as a race. Parties in the South must be established from principle; at present the negro is Republican, not from principles or policies involved, but because the Republicans gave him his liberty and franchise. The white man votes solidly against the Republican party because he would otherwise be upholding the party advocating the negro rule. The recent restrictions are removing the difficulties in the South and bringing in conditions that will make choice of party a question of right.

Mr. Ward began his debate by attacking first affirmative for suggesting race distinction. We are not claiming social equality for the negro. These constitutional amendments recognize color line and race distinction—the cause of all trouble in the South. There are as many illiterate negroes in the South now proportionately as in 1863

The white and black shall not commingle in school house, thus emphasizing legalized wrong. The "Jim Crow car" emphasizes the race line and perpetuates it. Everything is directed toward the humiliation of the negro to the advantage of the white man. If the negro is more lawless than the white man, it is because the negro has the prejudice of the courts against him. All brutality in the negro arises from prejudice which these amendments in question legalize. These restrictions hinder the negro in church, school and in society. Booker T. Washington is doing more for his race than all those together that are crying out against him because he sat at the President's table and dined with him. If we are to regenerate the negro, franchise should not be taken away from him. Such a condition would be brutalizing. The negro is now a citizen of the United States, and just as much so as the white man. But he endures ignominious distinction which the white would never endure. It has been said that "unconscious habit of oppression and that alone justifies the distinction against the negro."

Mr. Blakely contended for the affirmative that the recent constitutional restrictions in the South were, (1) in perfect harmony with the fifteenth amendment which says, "The rights of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States, or by any state, on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation;" (2) they have been upheld by the Supreme Court; (3) they have been considered by Congress constitutional since Congress has taken no action against them. These restrictions are aimed at the illiterate negro who has proven himself incapable of exercising intelligently the privilege of franchise. The apparent discrimination in favor of the white is justified by the fact of Anglo-Saxon traditions which have been the heritage of the white, though illiterate, for long centuries, and capacitates him for the proper use of the ballot and the white should not come under the restriction placed upon the negro, whose traditions are those of savagery and slavery. The negro was granted franchise, and the reconstruction period of the South is one of the direst in modern history. Booker T. Washington has said: "The South is the best friend of the negro." The restrictions we are defending are aimed at

nothing but the *ignorant* negro. These constitutional restrictions have been upheld by the Supreme Court in Mississippi and are perfectly constitutional. Citizens in other states have not appealed their cases because they are convinced, after one trial, that the restrictions are constitutional. Congress realizes the conditions and tacitly endorses the means we advocate to attain a proper end. Chinese may not vote in three states though nominally citizens. Congress realizes again the conditions and endorses the means as just. In the South the southerners are working for the people of the South and thus for the whole nation. They have instituted a great movement that will result in the solution of the race problem. The franchise restrictions are in harmony with the fifteenth amendment because aimed, not at the negro as such but at his illiteracy; this position has been affirmed by the Supreme Court, and tacitly endorsed by Congress. Since then the recent franchise restrictions have a worthy purpose and proper means to its attainment, they are justifiable.

Mr. Warren opened his debate with an attack upon his opponents. He then repeats the main arguments of speakers one and two on his side, and announces that he is opposed to the recent restrictions because of their "injustice and inexpediency." First, the negro has individual interests in property and his rights to protect; second, as patriotic citizen he longs to advance the interests of the whole country—your country! The negro has large manufacturing interests; \$400,000,000 in real estate; in the last five years has produced 11,000,000 bales of cotton; his wealth averages \$75.00 per capita. Will you disfranchise such a race? Since the Civil War illiteracy has been reduced 45 per cent. Negroes have church property, school property; if you take away the ballot, you hand the blacks over to the tender mercies of the white man of the South—you hand them over the reign of terror and misrule. The negro is patriotic, industrious and capable. In war he battled for constitutional freedom; in Cuba fought arm to arm with the educated white man.

Mr. Root began by quoting the last speaker's contention that the negro has "individual interests in property and rights to protect," and therefore should vote. What about the women? They have individual property to protect, but do not vote. It is not considered an in-

justice to tax their property. The South will attend to the negro's property and collect any proper taxes just as we do from women. We do not question woman's intelligence—we question her wisdom. After restating the position of his colleagues as to what is justifiable, Mr. Root affirmed that the negro as a political incompetent must not carry state elections. We propose better means—legal, constitutional measures. Our purpose is to substitute constitutional method in the states for the rifle; therefore, we have a good purpose, and the means proposed are perfectly legal. The franchise restrictions will create healthy political parties in the South. As free competition is stimulating in production and determinative of good prices, so competition is good for politics. The restrictions will prevent the negro from squandering his time *trying* to vote. He will have incentives for literacy and acquisition of property; incentives to get the right to enter the state and enjoy its privileges upon the proper basis. The restrictions are constitutional in every particular, for they are for the advancement of the negro in all phases of his advantages. The future will give a larger net return, therefore, the restrictions are justifiable, more than any method or measure adopted by the American people for a long, long time.

Mr. Frear affirmed that the restrictions were discriminating in character, immoral, unjust and inexpedient, and finally unconstitutional. The first clause of the fifteenth amendment is violated by the recent franchise restrictions in the South. The restrictions do deprive the negro of the right of voting. Because black and once a savage, he should not be discriminated against. The very spirit of these laws are repugnant to the supreme law of the land. But what about the letter? The "grandfather clause" discriminated against the negro. God makes no discrimination, and we discriminate against the negro. Reference has been made to the restrictions put upon the Chinese vote in the West. The Supreme Court has held that the children of Chinese citizens may vote. That conditions have changed does not effect the constitutionality of the question. One potent objection to the franchise restrictions is that they are a re-statement of the old States Rights theory, that terminated in secession and civil war. The constitution guarantees republican institutions to all. The

southern restrictions are repugnant to this constitutional provision; they amount to an oligarchy, and defeat the very purpose of republican institutions.

THE SUMMING UP OF THE DEBATE.

Mr. Allbright: The negative admits our contention that the franchise restrictions are directed against the illiterate negro, and thus justifiable. If the white Anglo-Saxon does not understand political freedom well enough to vote intelligently, then how does the negro understand it? You would refuse franchise to the illiterate white regardless of his political traditions: why not to the negro, too, whose traditions are those of savagery and slavery? As to the constitutional argument, we mention the fact that the Constitution of Massachusetts restricts franchise, and no cry of unconstitutionality is raised against it. We claim with our opponents that the negro is capable in many respects. We do not discriminate against this class, nor against those with their millions of property. If the negro can read, we do not discriminate against him. Allbright brought the argument back rigidly to the question, and showed that the negative was arguing the general proposition, "Should all negroes be disfranchised?" instead of the question, "Are recent franchise restrictions in the South justifiable?"

Mr. Drummond: This whole scheme of negro disfranchisement represents political hypocrisy in the worst form, advocating political annihilation, driving the negro out of the political field. The affirmative do not solve, but expunge from the slate entirely the whole problem. They take away the political ladder, then tell the negro to climb up to civilization and freedom. Color is the cause of disfranchisement—there is no other. They are trying to legalize an hypocrisy. The affirmative has paraded perverted psychological views, exploited anachronistic post hoc analogies and antinomies, substituting paralogistic reasoning for sound logic; sacrificing plain sense and unimpeachable argument. Mr. Drummond was heartily cheered for his enthusiasm, and his unsparing denunciation of the scheme for the disfranchisement of the southern negro.

Mr. Carmer: The South contributes 95 per cent. of the money devoted to negro civilization, and advances by every possible means negro education. The negative says, "If the ballot be

(Continued on page 4.)

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IN THIS number LIFE wishes to acknowledge the kind letters of encouragement and counsel which it has received from young alumni just "out in it and frequently up against it, in this cold and blustery world." If we have sounded one note which aroused the old Hamilton spirit, if we have sent forth news that has gladdened the heart of any man who loves this old college of ours, it is because we have garnered the inspiration and caught the spirit of devotion from those who have preceded us. They were the ones who taught us the worth of this dear old mother and to them we extend our most heartfelt gratitude. So, to the *young* alumni struggling for a place in the cold world's fortunes, we extend our hearty greeting and urgent invitation to make their home-coming soon.

THE game with U. of P. on Monday night was an encouragement to the college. The team showed wonderful improvement. The first half was an example of what training can do. The second would have been as good as the first if the training had been started a few weeks ago. But without harrowing up the past let the future retrieve what has been lost. Every man in the game for Cornell and Hobart and let's do a good job at the finish.

U. of P. vs. Hamilton.

The University of Pennsylvania defeated Hamilton in the Soper Gymnasium by the score of 38-17. The team, although beaten, showed improvement on its previous form. Tommy's experiment in playing center is no longer an experiment but an assured success.

The game was a clean one, nearly all the fouls which were called on Pennsylvania being on account of running, and this was pardonable, as they are accustomed to different rules from those used by us.

The first score of the game is made by Pennsylvania. Peet fouls and Pennsylvania throws the basket. For the next five minutes no score is made, although Tommy tries several long shots. McCrudden throws the first basket for Pennsylvania, but Tommy immediately retaliates by throwing a beautiful basket from the center of the field. The game now grows faster, and two more baskets are quickly made, one by Hamilton and one by Pennsylvania. This basket by Pennsylvania should not have scored, as it was after a dribble, but the umpires did not notice it, so it was allowed. Tommy misses a chance to score by a foul, but retrieves himself by lodging the ball in the basket; immediately after Peet has a good chance for a score, but is confused by the referee's whistle which was blown at that moment and misses. Bennett scores for Pennsylvania. Hamilton now indulges in a little passing, and Tommy scores two baskets in rapid succession. Each team adds one to its score from fouls, and the half closes just after Evans scores for Pennsylvania. Score, 16-14, in favor of Hamilton.

At the beginning of the second half there was a little rough play, four fouls being called in rapid succession, two on Hamilton and two on Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania misses both and Tommy scores one. This proves to be our last score. After this the team seemed to lose its unity, and Pennsylvania had almost her own way, eight baskets being thrown before time is called, the final score being 38-17.

Tommy played the star game for Hamilton, and Bennett and McCrudden made the most points for Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania's scores were quite evenly divided among her men, but all of Hamilton's were made by Tommy. We can hardly expect to win against a team with five good basket-throwers when we have but one. The line-up was as follows:

Pennsylvania (38)	Hamilton (17)
Evans, Smith.	Forwards.
	S. Sherman, Peet.
McCrudden.	Center.
	McLaughlin.
Bennett, Darrata.	Guards.
	Mangan, Naylor.

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taken away, the negro will become a brute." But the Indian does not have the ballot, and does not become for this reason a brute, he is not downtrodden; on the contrary is assisted in every legitimate way. The property of the negro is protected by legal means, and no injustice is done him. No cases have been shown where the property of negroes has suffered exorbitant taxation or lacks proper protection under the constitutional restrictions. Mr. Carmer made a telling argument in his first appearance, and showed himself a thoughtful debater in his closing speech.

Mr. Ward began his closing debate by an ad hominem argument, appealing to "the women present and the chivalrous men." The experience of Mrs. Booker T. Washington, while traveling from the South to Buffalo, was related to show the deplorable indignity heaped upon the negroes on account of their color. Will you endorse a government or a state that allows such cowardly, unchivalrous language and conduct? "The South is the best friend of the negro," you say. Nay, not the best, but the worst. Mr. Ward made a pleasant debate and interested his audience by his moral earnestness.

Mr. Blakely: The negative has confused civil and political rights. Recent franchise restrictions do not impair civil rights in any way. The southern states do not discriminate against the negro as such, but against his ignorance; and this is proven by the decision of the Supreme Court of Mississippi. The fifteenth amendment was passed in a time of confusion, when the country did not know what it wanted. The South had no representatives in Congress when the fourteenth amendment was passed, though desiring to enter. The recent franchise restrictions are temporary; they place something before the negro to aim at, and will bring about results of which the whole nation will yet be proud. Mr. Blakely spoke with much force and conviction in his constructive debate, and was discriminating and incisive in his second.

Mr. Warren: Is the negro a citizen? Has he interests at stake—social, educational, property? Then he should have the ballot to protect them. You are proposing to disfranchise as many people as are in Canada, in old Mexico, in order to establish an oligarchy. This is unjust, inexpedient. The ends proposed by the affirmative show in Mississippi

that the South will do nothing to educate the negro. Take the ballot from him, and then we have the negro where we want him—this is the attitude of the South. Mr. Warren spoke with his usual fluency and carried the college with him during both appearances.

Mr. Root: The last speaker on the negative admitted that it is all right to disfranchise the Chinese and the Indians because they are few. Now this is not a question of numbers, but one of principle. Franchise is not, as the negative contends, a natural right but a privilege, and may be taken away for proper purposes and by just means. The affirmative defends the constitutional methods employed by the South. You say that the recent restrictions destroy our republican form of government because all do not vote. Search where you will, and upon this basis you will never find a Republican state, for nowhere do all the members of the state vote. Mr. Root did not sum up for the affirmative. His debate was characterized by shrewd and clear propositions and revealed much tact in rebuttal.

Mr. Frear: The recent franchise restrictions discriminate against the negro. The restrictions are immoral: being a citizen the negro should be guaranteed civil and political rights, and thus not be robbed of incentives. Lynch law shows that trial by jury is dead. The restrictions are inexpedient—the development of the South must rest upon the negro; these retard advance. The negro is a patriotic citizen. Democracy has been the back-bone of our country in times of danger—this principle should not be destroyed by present restrictions. The restrictions are unconstitutional. This new movement is the reassumption of a dangerous principle, that of the old States Rights. The negro is a man and a citizen, and cognizant of his rights as a citizen. In the campaigns of the Civil War, in the war in Cuba, he has taken his place at the front, and the Stars and Stripes are a symbol of freedom and liberty to his aspiring race. Mr. Frear summed up for the negative, bringing its main points to the front for the final impression. Mr. Frear is a convincing debater, and like Mr. Blakeley, made the best debate on his side.

The debate was an unusually interesting one, and a great credit to both classes. The argument was decided in favor of the affirmative.

—The freshmen were beaten by the Colgate freshmen by a score of 19 to 7.

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Trains arrive at Clinton from Utica, 8:30 a. m., 12:40 p. m., 5:24 p. m., 11:50 p. m. From Rome, 8:20 a. m., 5:10 p. m. From South, 7:50 a. m., 11:20 a. m., 2:40 p. m., 6:25 p. m.

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Mails Open—From Utica, 9:00 a. m., 1:00 p. m., 5:40 p. m. From Rome, 9:00 a. m., 5:30 p. m. From South, 11:40 a. m., 6:30 p. m.

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Sunday mail open from 12:00 to 1:00 p. m. Sunday mail closes at 5:20 p. m.

Mail leaves the Hill at the convenience of the Carrier, and comes up after the Carrier gets down.

F. E. PAYNE, P. M.

LIFE is entered at the Clinton Post Office as second-class matter.

College Notes.

—Weaver, '91, and Warfield, '96, were on the hill Sunday.

—Material is being drawn daily for the new Commons.

—Kingsley was forced to take a chapel "cut" Wednesday.

—The sophomores held a class meeting after Wednesday chapel.

—Fair Houghton was up in a body to attend the interclass debate.

—"Rat" White is busy thinking up a new stunt for the next "Gym." show.

—All baseball candidates were out in suits Wednesday to meet the coach.

—Heacock, '05, has returned to his work, after an illness of four weeks.

—"Brick" Blake held the Chemistry lectures while "Stink" was in New York.

—The Rhetoric class consider that they are being unjustly "soaked" this term.

—Apparently our "Easter" vacation is a misnomer, as we spend Easter Sunday on the hill.

—A number of fellows from the hill attended a card party at Houghton on Wednesday night.

—The evils of not training strictly were only too evident in the U. of P. game in the second half.

—Lown, '04, took advantage of G. Washington's birthday and some cuts to visit his home last week.

—The sophomores are complaining strenuously of the overwork they are

getting in Dutch at the hands of "Bill Shep."

—"Hank" White told Strickland that if he would spend more time on his rhetoric work, he would appreciate the book more.

—The juniors had their class picture taken Tuesday morning. They had the large drift west of "Old North," for a background.

—We can't believe that Spring has come, but if you but shut your eyes you could have sworn that the "poets' season" was upon us last Saturday and Sunday.

—Ward, '02, Youker, '03, Ferguson, '04, and Hallman, '05, have gone to Toronto to attend the world's convention of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions.

—Sloppy weather; wet shoes; cold feet; bad temper. We'll appreciate our stonewalk about this time when we have to struggle knee-deep in the shale paths.

—"Windy" suggested that some of the budding poets of the sophomore class translate some of Horace's satires into verse. Supplicate your muses, then, oh poets, or "Hinds and Noble," more probably.

—Chess seems to be the all-absorbing fad of the day. If you see a fellow walking about the campus bare-headed, and with a blank expression on his face—don't mistake—he's not crazy, only studying a new move.

—Our long prayed-for bell came Saturday afternoon. It is about forty pounds heavier than the other and hasn't as large a clapper. The cracking of the other was attributed to the fact that the clapper was too heavy for the bell.

Senior Elections.

President of campus day, N. L. Drummond; orator of class day, J. W. VanAllen; junior response, G. E. Miller; sophomore response, R. R. Wicks; freshman response, W. J. Downey; poet, F. H. Clark; ivy orator, D. R. Campbell.

President of class day, E. J. Ward; orator, C. K. Gilbert; poet, D. T. Hawley; historian, A. H. Naylor; prophet, W. H. Slaughter; presentation committee, Signor, E. VanAllen, Warren, Scoville.

Permanent secretary, A. H. Naylor. Editor-in-chief of Senior Class Book, J. W. VanAllen; associate editor, J. M. Scoville; business manager, F. G. Miller.

Junior Whist Club.

Friday of last week the whist club met at the Chi Psi house. The play started at eight o'clock, "Tommy" arriving with his squad of basket-ball men twenty minutes late. With the exception of the prize debaters all were present and a lively round was enjoyed. During the progress of the game it was noticed that some men, either through laziness or some other reason, did not care to change their seat or table, but preferred to remain comfortably in the same chair with the same score. "Jack" Mangan had a lively time chasing Tommy about but we noticed it was always about the same table. It was easy to distinguish the lucky ones by the cries of triumph and the unlucky by their moans of despair. After a dozen odd hands we were treated to a round of refreshments and then gathered around "Brick" who had a new(?) trick he wished to try, and picking out Hoffman as a likely subject proceeded to thrust upon him the fatal lamp chimney, but "Brick" had picked the wrong man, and while looking for the cent which he had dropped on the floor, received the water in the neck.

We then struck up the strains of "Dear is Thy Homestead," and after a song or two said "Good Night" with a cheer for our entertainers.

—For quite a while the hill has been disagreeable, to put it mildly, for sliding because of the numerous and deep pitch-holes in the path. The hill is so much used that it would be a matter of expediency to fill in some of the worst places.

—There was a good number out on Wednesday afternoon for pyramids, and the practice was good. There were also quite a few men who did not show up, who were expected. Now for this work every man must be present to learn his place, or the pyramids will not be a success.

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