

# The Campus

A Weekly Journal

THE COLLEGE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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## SIDNEY EDWARD MEZES

*Frederick G. Lanham in the Texas University Alcalde during the incumbency of Pres. Mezes.*

The D. D. which indicate the degree of misgiving with which the preparation of this panegyric is approached stand for Diffidence and Disquietude. Candor compels the confession that the writer has feelings akin to the sensations of the swain who, when the parson inquired of him on a certain important occasion in his life "Wilt thou take this woman to be thy wedded wife?" replied, "I wilt." It is only the fact that fear and trembling can spring from great regard that inspires the writer to proceed in this instance; great regard stands convicted of the present palpitation on the first ballot.

Glad tidings have heretofore been sent with comparative calmness through these columns to a senator and a secretary, each seeking at Washington to preserve the country in a spirit of true Washingtonian patriotism, but these are lines to a president; therefore the D. D. It is much easier to read a message from a president than to convey one to him; bashfulness and backwardness are but to be expected, then, in essaying an essay with special application to the excellent educational executive Dr. Sidney Edward Mezes. The responsibility for this dissertation concerning some of his deserts rests largely upon himself; if displeased by it, therefore, he must soothe his vexation of spirit with a modicum of self-censure, for so faithfully and so well has he rendered his service as president of the University that the writer can no longer withhold the praise of his majesty and mightiness. It must break out in spite of the timidity which restrains and imprisons it.

Dr. Mezes is quite the proper sort of person to be at the head of an institution which seeks to cultivate the head and heart of aspiring young students. He is a peaceful man,—from the Pacific coast. California is his native state, a state far from unknown for the golden worth it has furnished. There were spent the days and dimes of the Doctor's minority. In that good land he may have heard in his youth that old familiar song of childish play:

"Be good, be good," my father said,  
"Though the way be dark and stormy;  
Some day you'll be a president  
Or a general in the army."

At any rate the prophecy of that ditty has been fulfilled in him. The song of his soul was not the song of the soldier; but he was destined to be a president. Accordingly, he yielded not when a boy to the call of the martial rataplan but, like the literary *rara avis* that he was, gave with rare avidity his time and his talents to the pursuits of peace. The first triumph of the cap and gown over the cap and gun was registered at the University of California when he donned a modest B. S. in 1884.

California products have been coming to Texas for a long time, both from orchard and family trees. The visits the Texans made in '49 are being politely returned. Back in the nineties when Dr. Mezes took passage, one of the finest specimens of that fertile land proceeded hitherward. The Doctor did not wait for earthquakes to jar him loose; he looked from afar upon the prairies and plains of the Lone Star State; they were comely and he came,—came of his own accord. Because he was of an educational turn, naturally he turned at once towards a center of education. He bounded straightway (thanks to his honesty, he knows no crooked way) to Austin. Residentially he has since been bounded by it; influentially, he has not been limited either by the state or the nation.

Texas secured this California nugget through the educational agency of Harvard, which has served as a prep school for many of the pedagogical workers of Texas. Up at the great New England institution his accomplishment had been typical of the man. Brickley of these days with all his fame cannot boast of any superior skill over the Doctor; the difference in their athletic prowess is in kind mainly; in degree, it is nominally at least, in the Doctor's favor. Brickley's aggressive toe has put several piskins over the goal at Harvard recently; but in the field of mental gymnastics Dr. Mezes' progressive head put three sheepskins over in his day. A. B., A. M., Ph. D. And his *alma mater*, the University of California, scored another point for him last year on a forward pass of a L.L.D. So when Dr. Mezes journeyed

to explore the great Southwest, after his thirst for knowledge had been temporarily appeased by a long draught at the Cambridge fount, he was as well prepared to give lessons as he had been formerly to take them. Like a gentle east wind he blew in opportunely from Boston to Austin. It cannot be truthfully said that the mere rhyme of the names of the two cities inspired the trip; there was reason back of the rhyme. The Doctor has been given to philosophy always and reason appeals to him. There was a demand at Austin for which he and his training afforded an abundant supply.

He was a literary man, then, who became adjunct professor of philosophy at Texas in 1894, associate professor in 1897, professor in 1900, and president in 1908 after a service of six years as dean. He has been literary always. You can look at his name and tell he is a man of letters. And a glance at his photo will convince the most skeptical of his particular fondness for Van Dyke, who has manifested his regard for Texas also. This tendency has led him to tender many valuable contributions of articles and books to the literature of the scientific world.

Dr. Mezes has been president of Texas University since 1908. The institution has grown during his incumbency and he has grown with it. The rank and file of the people hardly realize just how rapidly the University is developing. Because of their lack of information they are permitting the Doctor to run the establishment with practically the same facilities and equipment which were furnished a few years ago for a student population about one-half as great as the present one. But he has been equal to the task, it seems, for so wisely has he advised and directed in the economical and efficient application of the pin money entrusted to the institution that at the time of the voting, the sovereigns of the state looked him over as president and saw no need for any amendment. There is much cause to rejoice that Dr. Mezes is existing he can do so much with so little money.

A less resourceful man might have quailed at the financial handicaps which have hampered the University lately. All Dr. Mezes knows about the word *quail* is that it represents a small fowl that is good to eat. He has maintained his energy and his cordiality unimpaired in spite of the fact that insufficient funds have been provided

for healthy operation. It may be that in many respects the institution is in a condition analogous to involuntary bankruptcy,—certainly through no fault of his,—but he has not despaired; he has kept patient and worked hopefully on. He has given candid and friendly counsel; complaints, as such, have come from other sources, not from him.

During these times of short rations in the educational struggle of the State, from many sides weepers have wailed the jeremiad:

Sing a song of suspense,  
Campus full of shacks;  
Educational floundering,  
Tackled in its tracks.  
When the school is opened  
The shacks begin to grate.  
Isn't that a sickly sight?  
To set before a state?

The shacks may be a source of shame to Texas, but they are a tribute to Dr. Mezes. With appropriations curtailed, he has thrown down his guard and invited a knockout blow. He is fighting all the harder to secure for the State an efficient university, adequately provided for. In the meantime he is doing the best he can; that best is amounting to much where others might fail completely.

And all the time he has been pegging away with the patience of a shoemaker at this loving task. Fame has been persistently flirting with him. Dame Fortune, with all the red earmarks of life's husking bee in her possession, has been seeking to lavish her affection upon him. He was tendered the position of United States Commissioner of Education under the present administration. It was a tempting post, this place on the All-American team which the President had picked, but Dr. Mezes declined it. He had been a teacher, truly. The Faculty in appreciation of his sacrifice thanked him appropriately,—and very properly, for he had frowned on the advance of honor and glory for the mere chance to sit up with a sick child of the State, hoping that by his care it might get on its feet like neighboring children.

And he succeeded in his work. In a recent letter, Mr. Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, wrote of him: "It was my expectation when we were young that Dr. Mezes would choose the diplomatic career. If he had, he would have been, I believe, even more successful than in university work. It was fortunate for Texas, however, that he chose otherwise."

## OUR PREXY

Attend, ye learned ones, to limping  
lines,  
Which try to show how far *our* Prex  
outshines  
All rival prexies! He's the unwhipped  
cream  
Of them! Could creeping muse find  
loftier theme?  
And yet, I fear my verse is much too  
rough  
Because I found my subject very tough.  
Your poet lariat, with a heavy rope,  
Will tie him down before a microscope:  
Watch closely as we briefly view, alas,  
A creature found in Abe Ruef's noted  
class.

His virtues vast must now be classi-  
fied  
In such a way that none will say I've  
lied:

Which means, O Mezes great, your  
vices too  
Must be held up quite plainly to the  
view.

In doing this I must in truth be firm,  
Although before my scalpel eye you  
squirm,

Although you shriek, my Pope-like  
verse to drown,

Although you seek imperious truth to  
down,

Although you cut my wages to the core,  
And give me work to do yet more and  
more.

He was, we're told, born in the Golden  
West,  
Where he grew up midst California's  
best.

He was not canned, like most far west-  
ern fruits,

But took B. S. and chose his own pur-  
suits.

And starting off upon his own career  
He, strange to say, became an engineer.

In geodetic work he proved most able,  
Measuring round and round and round

a billiard table,  
He found, and finding won some claim  
to fame,

Two hundred miles are needed for one  
game!

Astonished much at such a strange  
result,

To be explained alone in ways occult,  
He turned to Harvard for some further  
light.

Across the whole U. S. he winged his  
flight:

He rushed at Royce, he also rushed at  
James

To get some help upon his billiard  
games.

He read in Kant and Fichte by the  
hour,

He even scanned the works of Schopen-  
hauer,

Berkley and Hume, Descartes, Spinoza  
too,  
Their hidden meaning did he seek to  
view.

Well filled at last with philosophic lore,  
He looked about for students he might  
bore

With talk of Plato, cause, effect, and  
change,

So to vast Texas did he westward  
range.

On truth and beauty did he then dilate,  
Extending ethics o'er our lynchful  
State.

Besides he shone in Austin's social set,  
Where, if I err not, he is shining yet.

His clothes, his looks, his witty re-  
partee,

Delight all those with whom he haps to  
be.

When Houston left us for A. and M.  
A deanship perched itself on S. E. M.

I thought him first at bit too lazy for  
it,

Great, great my error, now I do abhor  
it;

For did he not, with most stupendous  
zeal,

Go after loafers till he made them  
squeal?

He made a most efficient, scrumptious  
dean,

The finest one in all these parts we've  
seen.

Delinquent boys for their gross faults  
were taunted,

The pretty girls got almost what they  
wanted.

When at the last a prex he gets to be  
He labors like the ant and busy bee;

Upon his job he works without sur-  
cease,

He wants to make our Varsity increase.  
With boys and damsels and with  
parents too,

He always knows the proper thing to  
do.

With Staff and Regents and with  
Solons wise,

With tact and wisdom and with enter-  
prise

Our Mezes labors, and beyond court-  
plaster

The loss of him would be a grand dis-  
aster.

No one can rival his impetuousness.  
Speeches he makes with great sonor-

ousness,  
His words like swollen mountain tor-  
rents flow,

He waves his arms and rises on each  
toe,

From their high place to tear the  
planets loose,

Just like our friend the Judge, Perc-  
grinus!

Hearing, I think, that as Commissioner  
He'd get no chance to say um-um,  
er-er,  
With clam-like heart he turned friend  
Franklin down,  
And for this deed he's famous o'er this  
town.

His curved legs, in Eiffel Tower wise,  
Support a form that overlooks the  
skies;  
As at the top of Eiffel shines a light,  
So is the top of Mezes much bedight  
With whiskers outside and with brains  
within,  
His brain capacious, but his whiskers  
thin.  
Righteous he is, yet opportunist wise,  
Fair, just, and broad, with each can  
sympathize,  
He yields in little things, is firm in  
great,  
His plans are laid to serve a mighty  
State.

H. Y. B.

My poem has reached its natural end,  
Yet some have asked that my remarks  
extend  
To treat of Mezes' socks, his shoes, his  
spats,  
His gorgeous vest, his million hued  
cravats:  
Others have asked that I for them ex-  
press  
With mighty force their feelings of dis-  
tress  
As in verbose procedure wore away  
The long drawn epigrams of E'win  
Fay;  
As Mezes' words, like cold molasses  
flowing,  
Or glacier slow, for hours delayed our  
going.

*The Alcalde.*

SIDNEY EDWARD MEZES

*By a member of the Texas University  
Faculty.*

My Dear Mr. Editor:

To ask a member of the Faculty to write an appreciation of Dr. Mezes is an easy thing; to write it is quite another. I fear, my dear Mr. Editor, that you do not appreciate the difficulties of such an attempt. There are the days when college presidents are rampant on the one side and J. McKeen Cattell is roaring on the other, while the poor, benighted professors are hiding in the brush and praying that both sides will get licked. We have, it is true, long believed that there are three classes of liars in this world, liars, liars and college presidents, for, as President Eliot has admitted, we have caught them in the act; but it is only of late that we have learned that all our ills, from book worms to deans, can be

traced to the same evil influence. Under these conditions, any appreciation is likely to suffer depreciation, and between the president and the public I tremble beneath the mask of a lost name feeling that a swap for the devil and the briny would have compensations.

Just how and when Dr. Mezes came to Austin has been told by other men at other times. Memories of those early days fade rapidly in the brilliant light of the present, but some traditions still remain of the colored ties and vests and socks which played havoc with the fair ones and have been celebrated in story and song. When I first knew him, ethics and marital discipline had subdued his color vision and he had acquired for public purposes an air of restrained dignity which was truly philosophical. In private he was as human as most people are, when they forget that life is a stage, and was the prince of good fellows with his friends. If, on occasions, the allurements of male finery caused a reversion to type, some of the later arrivals in the faculty left him so far in the shade that the temporary relapses escaped notice.

On the resignation of Dean Houston to become President of the A. and M., Dr. Mezes was tendered the position and finally accepted, rather I believe, as an interesting psychological experiment, which is but an embellished definition for taking a sporting chance, than for any definite reason. Be that as it may, the move was a success from the beginning. That he surprised even his friends is true. In fact, one may well question whether he wasn't a continual surprise to himself. That he confounded his enemies isn't true, for he didn't have any. In short, by his tact with the students and courtesy to his colleagues, he made an enviable record, even for the University of Texas where we would have had a Hall of Fame for our deans long ago but for the fact that we couldn't speak of a marble reproduction of "Benny" as a bust without seeming invidious.

On the death of President Prather, Dr. Mezes was urged to become his successor but declined with thanks saying, like the prophet of old, that he preferred to suffer affliction with the Faculty rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Three years later, however, on the resignation of President Houston, he was compelled by the unanimous call of the Board of Regents and his colleagues to reconsider his decision and, since by that time he had gotten more used to sin, he finally accepted.

Here again, my dear Mr. Editor, I face the difficulties which I mentioned in the first part of this letter. To

speaking words of praise of a dead or half-dead dean is one thing, but to say a good word for a live president is another. In the first place, it never has been fashionable. In the second place, through the efforts of Cattell and others, so much evidence has been found concerning the deadliness of the species that I fear lest any defense may be in vain. Thus, the zoologists tell us that they are now no longer classified as "downy birds" but among the Raptors or Birds of Prey. Also, they state that the majority of the specimens examined are afflicted with two diseases. The first of these is that tendency towards romancing which we have already mentioned. The second is known as *inflatus craniosus* and is most insidious in its character. As one of my colleagues has said "College presidents seem to pass through three stages. In the first they consult the faculty, in the second they ignore the faculty and in the third they insult the faculty." Had he been a zoologist he would have known that the last two stages constitute the most violent symptoms of the disease mentioned. Some years ago, it is said, a president died of this complaint and one of his friends, on hearing the sad news, said "Poor fellow! Poor fellow! and he won't like God!"

On the other hand, in spite of the popularity of president baiting, I confess that I wonder, at times, whether this sport hasn't been overdone. My knowledge of royalty being somewhat restricted by the fact that distance has prevented any intimacies, I have no opinion about the uneasy head and crown business, but I do know from observation that when it comes to personal troubles the college president has the king skinned. Changing uniforms five times a day and kissing monarchs who have been carefully disinfected isn't in it, even though when it comes to the Legislature kisses are barred. I will admit that all presidents are despots, for, in common with all the rest of the faculty, I too have suffered from a lack of appreciation of my genius and financial needs, particularly of the latter. But even that can be remedied. *Sotto Voce*, I notice that most faculty people are willing to come down off the genius perch if they can eat out of the salary dish, and I have been ready to flop like an old hen for a long time. However, I sometimes wonder whether any despot of old, in spite of his extensive menage, didn't have a care-free life compared with a college president.

This jumble or jungle of reflections on college presidents and their jobs may appear out of place in what is manifestly intended as a tribute, but, I submit, what is any tribute worth if it does not measure a man by the same rule as we use to measure his peers?

In point of fact, most of us, as we read the maledictions and predictions so generally made concerning the present and future activities of college presidents, feel a new admiration for Dr. Mezes not only for what he is, but perhaps as warmly for what he isn't. To me, I confess, he is somewhat of an enigma, for how he has remained unspoiled by praise, popularity and power without remaining in cold-storage about half the time is beyond my ken. Stepping at once into full control and able to put into effect his own ideas, he chose deliberately the harder task and for five years has steadily consulted, planned with and supported the Faculty, and, while always working for the University as a whole, has made the best success of each individual his constant aim. Though urged strongly to advertise the University by advertising himself, he has avoided the limelight and the plaudits of the crowd, and, as he himself has said, has warded off any attacks of *inflatus craniosus* by frequent inoculations of Elbert Hubbard's prescription which reads "Don't take yourself too seriously."

In this enumeration I purposely have omitted any reference to his success as an administrative officer, for that which is the most obvious and perhaps the most necessary from the world's point of view is after all of the least value. In common with many others, I have been reading Judge Clark's letters and, as I read, I could not fail to note again the lesson of his life which is that in the end we will be measured by what we are and not by what we do. And so, sometime, those who see beneath things done the personality of the doer, will measure Dr. Mezes by the qualities of mind and heart which have won our affectionate regard for the man who can command himself in labor for others.

On the other hand, this record would be incomplete if it failed to include some appreciation of his work in building a great University. With a clear vision of the mission of a State University and with an appreciation of conditions in the State at large, he has labored unceasingly towards that day when the University shall be at once the master and servant of all. Were I a Morris Sheppard I would snatch out a few chunks from the firmament, pile them up for a monument and cover it with oratorical flowers. Being just a plain man and not wishing to anticipate his finish, I shall cut out the monument business and simply record my final, firm conviction that the University of Texas is far more fortunate than she knows in having had as a leader one who in all points measures up to the standards of a great college president. I am proud to sign myself,  
"ONE OF HIS CLAN."

# The Campus

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*"The accumulation of a fund from the profits . . . which fund shall be used to aid, foster, maintain, promote realize or encourage any aim which shall go towards the betterment of College and student activities . . . This corporation is not organized for profit."*

*—Article of Incorporation of  
The Campus Association.*

A man more dignified and lovable in appearance than Sidney Edward Mezes

could not have been introduced to the Faculty

and Student Body assembled in the Great

Hall to greet their new president, last

Monday.

His words were few, well-chosen and

fraught with a wholesome idealism.

He has already intrenched himself

in the hearts of the students.

To the Editor of THE CAMPUS:

Sir: Kindly renew my subscription to THE CAMPUS. I am very much interested in your periodical as it keeps me in close touch with all the activities connected with our Alma Mater. I hope the members of the Alumni are as generous in their financial support of your paper, as its merits warrant.

Cordially yours,

Gabriel R. Mason.

Secretary of the Associate Alumni.  
New York, Dec. 17th.

To the Editor of THE CAMPUS:

Sir: After reading your number of December 16th I turned to my file of THE CAMPUS and glanced over the issues for this term. I could not help being struck by the praiseworthy improvement you have made since the present editorial staff has been in existence.

If it were possible to make mention of this fact in the Literary Number of *The Mercury*, I should do so, but unfortunately the edition is already in press. Let me ask you, then, to print this letter in your pages, not because I wish to adopt an I-told-you-so air in regard to my prophecy that you would make good in time, but to show that the mutual criticism indulged in by both of us is constructive, and that apparent "rivals" in collegiate journalism can speak well of each other when occasion warrants.

May you progress and prosper!

Theodore Goodman,

Editor of *Mercury*.

C. C. N. Y., Dec. 16th.

*Letters like these, one from a graduate who is Secretary of the Associate Alumni of the College and the other from a popular student encourage us to greater efforts.*

## No Compulsory Assemblies

To the Editor of THE CAMPUS:

Sir: It was once said that our "Union could not endure half slave, half free." And slavery gave way to freedom.

What sort of slavery is that which would now seek a foothold in this a democratic institution? What sort of autocratic, irrational, demagogic halo would a certain few of our student body place over the heads of a freedom loving, democratic-spirited fellowship?

Compulsory assemblies. Think of it. As if we are a set of spineless creatures who must be subjected to an authority that breeds class distinction, that smacks of mediaeval conditions when the underdog was forced to lick the hand of his master.

For, let it be remembered, all you of the student body of this institution, our Alma Mater, that the spirit which says: "thou must obey" is being at this very hour destroyed on blood-stained battle-fields abroad. The spirit of democracy cannot prevail among us if we stifle it with any such deadening force as compulsion licenses.

Why should the Student Council force an unwarranted obstacle in the path of a freedom loving body of students and question their intelligence to properly guide themselves?

I am glad that we all shall be permitted to vote on this important issue which on the surface seems trifling, but which, at bottom, involves the principle of what is right and what is wrong. I appeal not only to the higher intelligence of the members of our respected Student Council, but to all fair-minded students of the college to realize that great discredit from within and greater discredit from without will reflect upon our characters should we sanction any such step as is proposed.

Have I attended two of the largest universities in the East in vain? There is no finer democratic spirit than that shown at Cornell and Pennsylvania. And this edifying condition was brought about largely through the independence, through the more wholesome and broadening character of the student body. Forced chapel attendance of old is now involuntary attendance of a new day which lights up a warranted freedom and darkens an imperialistic enslavement.

Can we not better appeal to the true, finer feeling of our fellow students in an effort to arouse that much needed vivifying and contagious college atmosphere which makes us young as the years roll by? Other colleges have succeeded. Can not we, too, succeed? We have the leaders. What we lack is the proper understanding of true values and true methods for bringing to pass a state of wholesome good-fellowship. Compulsion does succeed in its object. But, is it not true that where the spirit of revolt is in the air; where men resort to cuss words in order to gain their point, at some time there must come a break? Can the upholders of compulsory assemblies point to a single instance in the history of mankind where mere compulsion succeeded in lasting peace and progress?

If we consider ourselves college men, let us live up to the standards of college-bred men in the highest sense.

We can, all of us, if we will, see the folly of a compulsory notion where the direct object of college attendance is not under fire.

Who does not want to leave C. C. N. Y. in good grace; to look back on that Great Hall and say: "there I sang; there I cheered that dear Alma Mater might take her place among the leading colleges of the country; that she might continue in her upward growth and onward march; there I was free to attend an instructive lecture, to hear sweet music; to meet at will with my colleagues in social intercourse."

Ah! Fellow students! Think, and think hard before you vote for compulsory assemblies. Each one of us is concerned in this issue which means so much to the kind of spirit which will permeate this great institution in the future. And it is to the future we must look.

Forced assembly attendance will bring quantity, but not quality.

Let us strike for the "lone live throat that will outcry twenty dead ones." Come, now,—you don't sincerely desire to make your fellow students wear an autocratic collar. There is only one right way to vote in this matter. You know what that right way is. For me it is against compulsory assemblies.

Victor T. Stern.

C. C. N. Y., Dec. 17th.

#### No Compulsory Assemblies

To the Editor of THE CAMPUS:

Sir: Permit me to express my views upon the recent action of the Student Council to introduce compulsory assemblies. This step was taken with the purpose of bringing about an end, without due regard to the principles violated in the means. But the end does not justify the means! We already have compulsory attendance in classes, compulsory studies, compulsory observance of rules and regulations both necessary and unnecessary. And this is already carried to an extreme, so that as a result the student's will is disregarded, and this, coupled with many events in life outside of the institution of learning, deprives the student of his individuality, and he goes out into the world in the manner the masked children who beg pennies in stores on Thanksgiving Day: "Give me a penny and throw me out!" The root of this situation is to be found in actions similar to the present action of the Student Council.

Let us suppose that the student assemblies will be educative, let us suppose that an hour's attendance at

those assemblies is worth a week's attendance in the college, will any man in the student council guarantee that he is making up for the infringement upon the students' personality? No body has any moral right to compel a person when the compulsion does not involve the body into the same position toward the person, as the latter is toward the former. To illustrate what I mean: A state is justified in expecting an individual to protect it only when it guarantees the same to the individual. But under no circumstances has the state any moral right to force the contract upon an individual. In the question of compulsory assemblies, the Student Council, by means of a majority vote, is willing to force a contract upon the minority, which is an immoral act. That this is forcing a contract is evidenced by the fact that they propose a punishment, which is never a remedy for existing evil, but is the expression of brute force to make one obey. Will any member of the Student Council guarantee that the benefit derived from the assemblies will cover this diseducative, immoral situation?

All this reduces itself to the fact that the members of the Student Council have not enough imagination, they have not read enough of Greek mythology: they have let story of the Bed of Pocrastes slip by, and have not profited by the lesson taught therein. I am willing to be shown how every assembly will be beneficial to every student even to those who do not like them.

In this letter I therefore touch upon three questions, which I request the students to take into account.

1. The right of a body to compel an individual.
2. The efficiency and justification of punishment.
3. Is the existence of the assemblies justified when introduced through compulsion and punishment?

Do not be led away by the granting of another hour. You can spend as many extra hours at college as you wish, without the kindness of anybody.

Henry Hankin.

C. C. N. Y., Dec. 19th.

#### No Compulsory Assemblies

To the Editor of THE CAMPUS:

Sir: We, the undersigned, representing the clubs of C. C. N. Y. wish to protest against the proposed system of compulsory assemblies as advocated by the Student Council.

We realize that college spirit is eminently desirable and forms a very important part of college life. We do not believe, however, that this spirit can be fostered by credit deduction and

similar punitive measures.

The fourth hour on Thursday is now utilized by the various clubs for their meetings. Each club engages speakers who discuss topics intimately associated with the aims and interests of the members. The number of students attending these club functions represents a large percentage of the student body.

It is now proposed that we abandon this system, and crowd into the Great Hall. Some will be interested in the lecture; the rest will be held by the spectre of credit deduction.

It is for this reason that we protest against the proposed innovation. We do not believe that it has any value as an instrument for promoting college spirit. Furthermore, when the referendum on this question is taken, it should register the opinion of the entire student body (1600 students) and not merely that of the eight hundred who have paid the Student Council tax.

A. Leichtman, Pres. of Menorah.  
Jos. J. Zweifel, Pres. of Newman Club.

Everett Hood, Pres. of Y. M. C. A.  
Lewis Greenburg, Pres. of Civic Club.  
C. C. N. Y., Dec. 19th.

#### No Compulsory Assemblies

To the Editor of THE CAMPUS:

Sir: Allow me to congratulate you on your firm stand against compulsory assemblies.

It appears to me that our Student Council having nothing to do (or rather too much), has hit upon the happy idea of making its existence felt by championing compulsory attendance at assemblies. And why may I ask? Do not the various societies provide the great student body with weekly lectures which in my experience have been well attended? And furthermore I think that one is at liberty to listen to what he pleases.

If mass meetings must be held, as the Student Council claims, to discuss matters of vital importance to all, let us have them by all means.

The reason why student assemblies have not been well attended in the past, is because they offered nothing of common interest to all.

Fellow students, you will be given the opportunity at the referendum to prove that you are capable of deciding for ourself what is good for each one of you to listen to. Assert your power.

Morris Mendelsohn.

C. C. N. Y., Dec. 17th.

*It is not always possible to print communications immediately upon their receipt. Our correspondents must be patient. There are too many letters received weekly to publish in one issue.*



Harvard Show in New York

To the Editor of THE CAMPUS:

Sir: The Harvard Dramatic Club is bringing its fall show to New York on rather short notice because of delay in securing faculty approval, due to the war. Hence we ask your help to the extent of securing for us any notice you can in the college paper.

Lawrence S. Kubie,  
Acting Business Manager  
Harvard Dramatic Club.

Cambridge, Dec. 16th.

Societies and College Spirit

To the Editor of THE CAMPUS:

Sir: I wish to avail myself of the opportunity offered by your journal, to express my indignation at the attitude of the City College men towards our societies. It is a lamentable fact that only about 200 men actually take any interest in these splendid organizations.

There are numerous courses under the auspices of these societies that are given by some of the most prominent men in different lines of endeavour, men of ability and distinction. Yet, in spite of all appeals it is shameful that only one or two men participate in these courses.

I can not see any earthly reason why a college man can not and should not be a member of some society and thereby sacrifice perhaps an hour a week of "craminology" for the benefits derived from the association with well thinking, sensible, and sociable men. I believe it is unnecessary to enumerate these benefits for anyone who has a mind to think, and sense to reason.

The man who enters the building at the stroke of the morning bell and is seen hurrying home with his bundle of "knowledge" when his sessions are over, does not know much of college life and is not getting a college education. This same sort of creature will be seen during a blank hour "digging" away in some distant, secluded corner, his head buried in a text. Association to him is utter foolishness. These fellows are a menace to our institution, and the pity of it is that we have too many of them.

It is just for these men that the student council has tried to introduce compulsory assemblies; and if we can open up their minds to the usefulness of our societies, the result of fostering "college spirit" will then be evident.

I thank you for this valuable space.

Solomon Lasky.

C. C. N. Y., Dec. 7th, 1914.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Wednesday, December 23—

10 A.M. Study on the *Book of Job*, Menorah Alcove.

1 P.M. Chess Club meets in Room 208.

1.45 P.M. Post-Biblical History Course.

4.45 P.M. Freshman Basketball Practice.

8 P.M. Mr. Hatch at the Open Meeting of the Adelpian Literary Society, Room 209.

Sunday, December 27—

8 P.M. Y. M. C. A. Delegation.

Monday, December 28—

8.15 P.M. Annual Smoker of the Engineering Society in the Faculty Lunch Room.

Wednesday, December 30—

9.30 A.M. Trip of the Engineering Society to Grant City, Staten Island. Members will meet at South Ferry.

Thursday, December 31—

9 P.M., Junior Prom.

Faculty Holds Meeting

At the last meeting of the Faculty, splendid tributes concerning the long and useful service of Professor Werner were made by various members. The office of the Acting-President expired on Wednesday, December 16th upon the beginning of the new administration under President Mezes.

400th Organ Recital Receives

Wide Notice

Judging from the publicity in the press, the 400th Organ Recital in the Great Hall by Professor Baldwin was of tremendous importance in the musical and educational world. Most of the city newspapers announced the recital, devoting considerable space to it and every musical journal printed the entire program and dwelt on the excellent work of the Department or Music at the College.

Dr. Breithut Lectures

Last Thursday Dr. Breithut of the Chemistry Department lectured on "Vitamine—a New Food Principle" before the Research Club of the College. This Society consists of the Faculty of all the Science Departments who make original researches in phases of their respective subjects.

Student Council Meets

At the fortnightly meeting of the Student Council the expulsion of the President of the A. A., the Editors of *The Mercury* and *The Campus* was discussed. The vote of the Council favoured the retention of the present officio members.

The Councillors voted the abolition of the two dollar class tax.

The report of the Treasurer stated that 841 students had paid their Student Council Tax.

Dr. Foster Addresses Open Social Meeting Of the Menorah Society

The first "Open Social" Meeting of the Menorah Society was successfully conducted last Wednesday evening in the Faculty Lunch Room.

The Society was fortunate in securing the services of Rabbi Solomon Foster of Newark who spoke on "Fundamental Jewish Conceptions of Peace."

"Peace" said Dr. Foster, "has ever been the thought and purpose of the Jew. Our fundamental conceptions are that peace is morally right—that God must be taken into peace—that peace is righteousness, conducive to prosperity, and progress, and it is practical. . . Universal peace would make way for that desirable brotherhood of man, and would not respect that narrow spirit of national patriotism or chauvinism. Were a chamber of the horrors of war to be displayed—pictures of men in the trench, of suffering ones at home, of deserted factories, I feel sure that the rising generation would shun war in deed as we now do in word and theory."

*All about that intensely indescribable Faculty-Senior Gathering in the General Webb Room last Friday in next issue of THE CAMPUS.*

Boys' High Club Holds Smoker

The first Smoker of the Boys' High Club was held last Friday evening. Professor Palmer of the Public Speaking Department spoke to the members on the splendid training given at B. H. S.

*Owing to the lack of space the lectures given by Prof. Woolston on "The Factory Investigation Committee" and by Dr. Leiser of the Board of Health on "The Organization and Functions of the Board of Health" will appear in the next issue of THE CAMPUS.*

St. Lawrence Wins

in Extra Period

On Saturday night President Mezes was present at one of the most exciting basket ball games that has ever been played on our court. In the first half Capt. Wheeler of St. Lawrence caged two field goals and shot four fouls. Drake shot a goal for us and Lefkowitz shot six fouls making the score 8 to 8. The second half also ended in a tie each side scoring a field goal and four foul shots. It was agreed to play an extra five minute period and during that short time St. Lawrence got to us for three of the prettiest goals that were ever cagd.

Our team visits Canton on the twenty-eighth when it will return with St. Lawrence's scalp.

In the preliminary game the Freshmen defeated the Newtowna High school five by the score of 21 to 12.

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Varsity line-up

St. Lawrence	C. C. N. Y.
6. Griswold L. F.	2. Saltman R.F. McGill
2. Noble R. F.	6. Lefkowitz R. G.
	1. Feldman L. F.
3. Clements C.	1. Drake C.
1. Wheeler R. G.	8. Tanz L. G.
7. Morgan L. G.	
Goals, Clements 2 Wheeler 3	
Morgan, Drake, Tanz. From foul	
Wheeler 10, Lefkowitz 10.	

minor sports will differ from those for the major sports cited above and will also contain the initial letter of the sport.

"Mack" Addresses Student

Council Mass-Meeting

A mass-meeting to discuss the questions of Compulsory Student Assemblies and the Removal of Townsend Harris Hall was conducted under the auspices of the Student Council in the Great Hall on Thursday, December 17th. The students present numbered one hundred.

The President of the Council and Feldman spoke in favor of compulsory assemblies. Manz, Biloon and Hirsch spoke for the opposition.

"Mack" addressed the meeting and presented his view of student assemblies. He was in favor of devoting one hour of the week for the discussion of student topics,—without credit deduction for absence.

The abolition of Townsend Harris Hall was discussed by a member of the Council, who declared that the Council intended to concentrate all its energies to accomplish this aim. The students were almost unanimously in favor of the proposal.

A. A. Notes

C. C. N. Y. meets Lafayette in Basket-ball on Saturday, January 9th. This will be the first time that the two Colleges meet in this sport. However, the two colleges will meet regularly after this, as we are entering relations with them in all sports.

Because the Freshman Class held its Banquet on the night of a basketball Game, the Athletic Association has suspended it from Inter-Class Athletics for a period of six months.

New A. A. Insignia

The A. A. has adopted new monograms as rewards for members of successful teams so that one can see at a glance what sport a man excelled in. The basketball letters will be a monogram with cs; the baseball letters will have round cs; the swimming cs will be oblong and those for track will be oval. The monograms for

Jones and Riemer Win at Princeton

Jones won the plunge in the Princeton meet with 61 ½ feet beating out the second man by six inches.

Riemer won the two-twenty.

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