

# THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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No. 3

## A VALENTINE TO THE ALMA MATER

Oh, bring me brushes fairy-fine,  
And bring me vellum smooth as cream,  
For I would fashion a valentine  
To fit the Lady of my dream!

Oh, bring the thin bright beaten gold  
To make the singing letters shine,  
And bring vermilion bright and bold  
For a gallant glorious valentine!

I'll twine the text with Arab arts,  
And all around my Lady's name  
I'll make a ring of red, red hearts,  
And on each heart a golden flame.

And all about them and between,  
With leaves and tendrils many a score,  
I'll make a wreath of the ivy green,  
To bind them fast forevermore.

Oh, I have loved my Lady long,  
With single faith, with simple truth,  
And I have sung to her many a song,  
For I began in the days of youth.

And I will love my Lady still  
And sing to her with all my might,  
The whole way down the slope of the hill,  
Till I shall journey out of sight.

We deemed she dwelt in one dear place,  
Because 'twas there it chanced to be  
We had the vision of her face  
Whenas our eyes were young to see.

But she abides above, afar,  
Aloof from all the dust and din,  
Unsoiled as some white lovely star,  
And never walls could hold her in.

When we have journeyed out of sight.  
Past the turn at the foot of the hill,  
Oh, many and many a new-made knight  
Shall serve our sweet liege Lady still.

Out of the gates of the unknown years  
In brave procession I see them ride,  
With the ivy garlands about their spears,  
Loving and loyal, side by side.

Fresh from the accolade they start,  
Carolling loud their Lady's name;  
On every shield is a red, red heart,  
And on every heart a golden flame.

HELEN GRAY CONE

## THE ALUMNÆ BREAKFAST

On February 13—anticipating the good St. Valentine by a matter of hours only—the Associate Alumnae, over 600 strong, gathered in the Grand Ball Room of the Hotel Astor in honor of our Alma Mater's fifty-ninth birthday, and in honor, too, of the golden anniversary of the Class of 1878.

The tables were decorated in red—red flowers, red lamps, red hearts, which in themselves expressed the spirit of the gathering.

Mrs. Maxwell Hall Elliott, as President of the Associate Alumnae, fittingly and charmingly as ever, presided over the festivities. In her inspiring word of greeting, she urged us to have always "an impulse greater than ourselves" spurring us on. It was no doubt such a fine and eager impulse that impelled Mrs. Elliott to such great achievement in the project for a new building. Touching on the new Hunter College of the now immediate future, our President confided that in addition to "a little theater, bells, and an organ", an entire floor of the building which is designed with a Gothic tower, will be reserved for the exclusive use of the Alumnae. In closing, Mrs. Elliott expressed the belief that "It is in proportion to the true greatness of her children that Hunter College will be erected."

We were very happy to have with us among other distinguished guests (who included Professor A. Broderick Cohen, Mrs. John B. Golden, Dean Annie E. Hickinbottom, Mrs. James M. Kieran, Miss Ruth Lewinson, and Mrs. Michael J. Mulqueen) Dr. Frederick B. Robinson, President of the College of the City of New York. Dr. Robinson was happy to bear greetings from our "older brother" College—older by twenty-three years, since it was founded in 1847. With a gallantry seldom met with in brothers, City College, we were assured, is deeply interested in "its charming, promising, vivacious younger sister." In addition, Dr. Robinson thought that it was superfluous to have the "bells" mentioned by Mrs. Elliott, since we had already so many "belles" among us; but he wished our Alma Mater "godspeed and good fortune in all that she may undertake."

Dr. James M. Kieran then made what Mrs. Elliott referred to as "his first public appearance as Acting President of Hunter College." Dr. Kieran sketched briefly a history of the growth of the College, touching particularly on the stirring crisis in her existence during the years from 1901 to 1904, when she was

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As a delegate to the Third Conference on the Cause and Cure of War recently held in Washington, your Editor had invaluable opportunities for enlightenment on questions of vital importance to the stability of the civilized world.

From the innumerable messages which she would like to present for consideration and group action by all the Alumnae is the following thought from the Resolutions:

"Whereas, we recognize that women of other countries are deeply concerned with us in the building of world peace,

"Be it resolved: . . . that we express our hope that together we may be a strong influence in the development of international public opinion for support of the use of peaceful methods as a substitute for force which may enable all civilized nations to renounce war as an instrument of their national policy; and in addition we ask their continued support of concrete methods for the peaceful settlement of international disputes."

## ALUMNAE CORRESPONDENCE

[The following interesting letter is from a member of the class of June '15 to one of her class-mates. The writer taught astronomy at Hunter before her marriage to a fellow-astronomer, John S. Paraskevopoulos. Mr. and Mrs. Paraskevopoulos until recently were located at the Harvard Observatory in Arequipa, Peru.—Editor.]

Bloemfontein,  
Orange Free State,  
December 8, 1927.

Dear Adelaide:

I found your letter of March 19th awaiting me here when we arrived July 5th. It had been forwarded from Arequipa to Cambridge, Mass., and from the observatory there forwarded to me here. I was indeed very sorry not to get to Hunter to see you or any one else there while we were in New York en route from South America to South Africa. We have moved the whole observa-

tory from Peru here to Bloemfontein because of the extended cloudy season in Arequipa, which interfered with our work. The observatory had been in Peru for thirty-eight years, and it was quite a wrench to take it away from the Arequipans, who had come to look upon it as belonging to them and were very proud of having it there.

We started dismantling and packing November 5, 1926, and left Arequipa February 25, 1927. After a month's visit in New York and Boston, we took our vacation in Europe, visiting Paris, Lausanne, Milan, Venice, Rome. From Brindisi we crossed to Greece and visited relatives in Athens for three weeks. Then we returned to Paris via the Mediterranean and Marseilles, and after another five days in the Gay City, which I loved very much (not so much for its gaiety as for its beautiful parks and boulevards), went on to London, where we spent a week. Thence to Southampton, where we embarked for the final lap of our long journey.

Here we are very busy building up the observatory on a larger scale. We have secured a hill fourteen miles outside of Bloemfontein and near the Municipal Water Works. The city water supply is from the Modder River, which is dammed here at Mazelspoort; the water is filtered and chlorinated here and pumped into town. We have in this spot the prettiest scenery for miles around, but we miss terribly the grandeur of the Andes. The country all around here consists of vast stretches of "veldt" or rather plains, with occasionally a "kopje" or hill of iron rock formation. The "veldt" is divided up into great sheep and cattle farms. In the summer during the rainy season the grass is a beautiful green, but in the winter everything is scorched and dry and brown. Our winter is not very cold, the minimum being generally 20 to 10 degrees above zero. The summer is quite warm: we have had 100 degrees already, and 104 to 110 degrees is *not unheard of*.

Work started on our private road up the hill last week, and when this is completed we shall begin construction on top. We are working over plans for house, offices, laboratory, telescope buildings, etc., etc. I hope to send you some snap-shots later on.

This is, as you probably know, a two-race country (besides the native blacks). We have the British and Dutch elements, who are still not too friendly since the Boer War. Fortunately there has recently been a compromise over the much discussed Flag Bill.

I should enjoy hearing from you. Write me all the Hunter news. And remind me to write you about our visit to the Diamond Mine at Kimberly, which we visited a few months ago.

With best wishes to all Hunter friends,

Cordially yours,  
Dorothy W. Paraskevopoulos  
(D. W. Block, June '15)