

NOV 23

Howard Univ

# The University Journal

Vol. 1.

WASHINGTON, D. C., NOVEMBER 15, 1903.

No. 1.



REV. JOHN GORDON, D. D., PRESIDENT HOWARD UNIVERSITY

## THE NEW PRESIDENT.

### SKETCH OF DR. JOHN GORDON, THE NEW PRESIDENT OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY.

#### A Lineal Descendent of the Illustrious New Englander, President Jonathan Edwards.

When President Rankin after many years of honorable and efficient service for Howard University, resigned last February on account of failing health, the Board of Trustees made one of their members, the Rev. Tunis S. Hamlin, D. D., Pastor of the Church of the Covenant, Acting President, and appointed a committee to seek for a new President.

This Committee reported to the Board of Trustees at the annual meeting, recommending for the position, the Rev. John Gordon, D. D., then President of Tabor College, Iowa. The Trustees unanimously elected Dr. Gordon President, and a little later he accepted the Presidency, and began his work with Howard University September 15th. The Committee to prepare his inauguration are perfecting arrangements and it is now probable it will take place November 18th, and it will be made notable by the participation of several distinguished gentlemen in the services.

Dr. Gordon was born in Pittsburg, Pa., where his father, Mr. Alexander Gordon, a well known business man, was generally recognized as one of the foremost friends of the Negro being a life long Abolitionist, and a Trustee of Avery College for colored people, Allegheny, to which he for many years rendered efficient services as President of the Board of Trustees, and Treasurer. On his mother's side he is of the purest New England stock, and a lineal descendent of President Edwards, belonging to a family which has given three Presidents to Yale College, not to mention many other College Presidents and Professors and Divines who belong to it.

He took a classical course at the Western University of Penna. from which he received the degree of bachelor of arts, and later the degree of Master of Arts, and the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. He also took a post graduate course in Philosophy and History at Yale, receiving from that institution, the degree of Master of Arts, and after a complete Theological Course, graduated from Union Theological Seminary, at New York City. He has filled important pastorates with the First Presbyterian Church, of Lincoln Nebraska, the Westminster Presbyterian Church, of Omaha and the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Pittsburg, Pa. Some twelve years ago he was drawn into educational work, and filled for eight years the chair of Ecclesiastical History in the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Omaha. Then going to Tabor College, the Presidency of which he resigned to come to Howard. During his entire career he has been a Trustee of some educational institu-

tion or other, and in this way became familiar with always active Trustee with many phases of educational work and administration.

He has delivered addresses at educational gatherings and before learned societies, and has published articles through the periodical press, and one "Three Children of Galilee," published both in Boston and London, which has passed through several editions.

Consequently through the eminently able and acceptable services of Dr. Hamlin as Acting President, transfer of the Presidency from Dr. Rankin to Dr. Gordon was made without in the least impairing the efficiency of the institution, and the Acting President, the Deans, Faculty and the Secretary were able to hand the University over to the New President in excellent condition for the year's work.

### Y. M. C. A. NOTES

The Y. M. C. A. of Howard University began its year's work under the most promising conditions. An overflowing enthusiasm of its president, W. L. Smith has met with equal enthusiasm from both the student body and the faculty. Mr. Smith said: "It is not a question with me whether the Y. M. C. A. will meet with success or failure this year, but the question is how good will be the success." There is no exaggeration in saying that this expression can be applied to any of its members.

The first meeting of the term was held Sunday, October 4th, at 6 P. M. in the Andrew Rankin Memorial Church. President Gordon was there to welcome the members. He impressed upon them the importance of the work of a Y. M. C. A. in a University. He said: "Our responsibility is multiplied because this very day stands out as a day of looking after the spiritual life of the student body, to be done by no body else but us."

Sunday, Oct. 11th, the meeting was addressed by Prof. L. B. Moore, Dean of the Teachers' College of Howard University. Prof. Moore gave us a stirring address. While he continually kept prominently before us the spiritual side of our activities, he did not fail to encourage our physical development. He said, and truly said, "The man who is developed both spiritually and physically is able to do the most active good." He tendered his cooperation and his wide experience. Prof. Moore was for five years the corresponding secretary of the Y. M. C. A. of Philadelphia, Pa.

The Y. M. C. A. Orchestra is now organized. All members of the University who play any orchestral instrument and desire to join the orchestra will do well to apply to Mr. Baker at once.

The new housekeeper and her assistants are furnishing a good table board this year, which includes a young man who board in Miner Hall able to carry the football to goal without any hesitancy.

## FOOT BALL AT HOWARD.

### CAPTAIN WASHINGTON SAYS A WORD.

#### Notes and Announcements.

The foot ball situation at Howard, while encouraging in some respects, is giving the coaches, captain, and undergrads no little alarm. It is the same old trouble that they have had in past years. To get the same men to come out daily for practice, seems a matter of impossibility. They do not realize its importance. A man will come out one day for practice but if he can possibly rake up an excuse for not reporting the next day, he does not show up at all. There were so many men claiming sickness and injuries incurred in practice, as reasons for not reporting for practice, that the coaches had to make a rule requiring every man, who came with such an excuse, to bring with him a doctor's certificate to that effect. Since that rule has been in operation they have not had so many on the hospital list.

Again, there is a tendency on the part of some of the old men who played on the varsity last season to believe that it is not at all essential for them to get this daily practice, but that their positions on the team are secure, because of past reputations. The coaches think otherwise, consequently they had it understood by all, that past reputation in itself was not sufficient, and that old men would have to win their right to positions on the team by actual play, just as any new man, entering the University for the first time would have to do.

Laboratory work in Chemistry and Physics during afternoon hours is playing havoc to anything like satisfactory foot ball practice. Many of the very best men are kept in from one to three days a week on that account, consequently progress in the way of new plays is very slow.

A mixture of day and night school in the Medical Department makes it quite difficult for medical men to come out at all; so we cannot expect very much from that part of the University, which in past years has given so much valuable material. But it is hoped that in the future that some arrangements will be made that will enable medical men to don their foot ball togs again.

The most encouraging thing of the year, however, is the appearance of so many new men on the field. For the last two weeks not fewer than thirty men in uniform have been on the field every day. Of course they were not the same men, but even that is good for Howard. Most of them, however, are too light for varsity material, but there are some plucky, dashing fellows among them, whom the coaches are expecting to make good use of as subs on the varsity if not regular players.

Howard is having some difficulty in arranging her schedule for the season. While the dates have not been definitely fixed, it is understood that they will play Shaw and Union Universities, Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute, Morgan College and Jefferson Medical College.

## OUR LITERARY.

The Alpha Phi Literary Society met Friday night Oct. 16th. Mr. Chas. A. Manns presided. The Association having extended its welcome to new members of which there was a large aggregation, entered upon the election of officers for the new term. The names of Mr. Chas. A. Manns of the senior college class and Mr. M. Morton of the Senior Philosophical Class were offered as candidates for the presidency but Mr. Manns in a most pleasing manner declined in favor of Mr. Morton, who was unanimously elected. Mr. A. D. Tate of the freshman class was elected vice president over Mr. O. C. Taylor of the sophomore class by a small majority. The freshman class of which there was by far the largest representation present, made a bold dash for the balance of power but this rash movement was checked by the combined efforts of the other classes. The more learned heads realizing what folly it would be to entrust the destiny of this sacred body to such feeble minds, once more reminded the Freshies that they were still subservient to the will of upper classmen. The house then proceeded to elect the following gentlemen to office: Mr. Morrison, Secretary; Mr. Gragg, Treasurer; Mr. Dennis, Chaplain; Mr. J. S. Carter, Critic; Mr. O. Taylor, Editor; Mr W. H. Lee, Sergeant at-Arms.

That the Alpha Phi aids in developing an up-to-date student is not to be questioned. Besides offering an excellent opportunity for knowledge in parliamentary procedure, the student is kept informed on the various current topics, which are brought in weekly for discussion. For here solutions are reached for many problems which perplex our representatives in Congress. This society governs like any other well organized body, according to Robert's Rules of Order, gives the student a good training in parliamentary usages which many make use of after leaving school, when entering the great arena of life. The participants in the Henry A. Brown annual prize debate are taken from this society.

That this society has been instrumental in developing fluent speakers is well known to those who have witnessed any of its contests. Since students of the law and medical departments are members of the society, we regret that their night classes prevent a larger attendance.

Owing to the poor attendance of the meetings during the past year there has been a tendency on the part of many to feel that the absence of the young ladies of Miner Hall, has operated seriously against the progress of the society, and zealous efforts have been put forth to revive interest. Though it is much to be regretted that we are deprived of the presence and co-operation of the young ladies, yet it is hoped that the young men will awake to the true conception of their duty. If their attendance is found to be the necessary stimulus, we feel sure that the faculty will not hesitate to adjust matters accordingly, since this is a phase of co-education.

# The University Journal.

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY BY THE STUDENTS' PUBLISHING  
ASSOCIATION OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY.

TERMS—50 Cents per year, - Single Copy, 5 Cents

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Address all communications to THE UNIVERSITY JOURNAL,  
Howard University, Washington, D. C.

Students and Alumni of the University are invited to contribute.

Entered at the Post-Office at Washington, D. C., as second  
class mail matter.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 15, 1903.

## JOURNALISM AROUND HOWARD.

JOURNALISM among the students starts back in 1803 with the publication of the "Howard Quarterly." Other papers such as the "Howard Reporter," "Howard News" and "Howard Standard" have been published and edited by the president and professors, (but nothing previous to the time above mentioned had been attempted by the students.

The editor of the Quarterly was Mr. George Mitchell assisted by Mr. Winston, Mr. Davidson and Mr. Robinson, all members of the college department. The paper was published quarterly at a subscription price of ten cents per copy, or thirty cents per annum. While the paper was edited and published by the students the largest contributors were the President, Professors and Alumni. The publication continued a year and then suspended on account of a lack of interest among the students.

The "Spachograph", more humorous than serious, made its appearance about the same time but was short lived.

In the fall of 1896 Messrs Sumner Lark and Peter R. Lee began the publication of "The University Journal", which was published the following year by Mr. Lee and Mr. Gillam. This was the most prosperous year for student journalism. Under their management the paper grew from a four page paper to a twelve page publication. This was, as also the previous paper, published monthly at a subscription price of ten cents per copy or fifty cents per annum.

Contributions were principally made by the students. Every department had its representative on the staff. Essays, poems, and original stories were contributed. Everything was done to make the paper a success, not only for the editors, but for the students.

This year finds the Journal once more in publication.

It is the desire to make it a University paper. There will be two publications a month. The staff has been increased and work divided among the different members so that every department will have a direct interest in the management, thereby making it a paper, for the students, of the students and by the students. It is the hope of the editor to create an interest among the students in different departments by bringing them into closer touch with each other through the medium of the press.

We welcome and invite contributions and news items from every member of the University.

## THE DECLINE OF LITERARY SOCIETIES.

No doubt to many of us who have been here a few sessions the question arises, why have the two principal literary societies fallen so far from the standard? And unless they quickly change from what they have been the last two sessions, a similar question will confront the new students who naturally expect to find at least one good literary society among us. But to those of us who have been here at least four sessions and have been actively connected with either of these societies the reason is very evident.

These societies are respectively College and Preparatory organizations. To the one, all members of the College of Arts and Sciences, The Teachers' College, the Theological Department, the Law and Medical school are eligible. To the other, all members of the Preparatory and Commercial departments are eligible. Looking at the vast number of students in these departments, one can hardly see why both of these societies should not be in a flourishing condition. Yet if we stop and investigate the matter for a while it will not be hard to find what has so far been the chief reason.

For some reason which I fear has never been adequately explained, in the year nineteen hundred and one the young ladies in Miner Hall were prohibited from attending these literaries. And to that principally may we attribute the slump of these societies.

To many it must seem strange how about thirty five young ladies could so vitally effect such important branches of the university life. But to us who are well acquainted with the facts and have given the question the consideration that it deserves, the reason is clear.

When the young ladies in Miner Hall were prohibited from attending these meetings, the young ladies living in the city ceased their attendance also. And when the young ladies living in the city withdrew their patronage, slowly but surely a large number of our young men living in the city ceased their attendance.

It must be remembered that in some of these departments a large number of the students are young ladies and anything that effects them must effect the different departments of which they form so great a part. This in the Teachers' College, according to last years statistics

ties, of the eighty-seven students, seventy-three were young ladies; of the forty-seven in the College of Arts and Sciences, eight were young ladies; of the hundred and sixty-six in the Preparatory department, thirty were young ladies; of the hundred and forty-two in the English department, ninety-one were young ladies.

Again it must be remembered that on account of the night session of the Medical and Law school the students of these departments cannot attend the meetings of the Alpha Phi. Society, for all practical purposes that society must depend upon the College of Arts and Sciences, the Teachers' College and the Theological department. Of the hundred and sixty-eight students in these three departments, eighty-one were young ladies. Of the three hundred and eight students eligible to membership in the Eureka society one hundred and twenty-one were young ladies.

We must also keep in mind that the large majority of our students reside in the city and anything that affects them must seriously affect the school of which they form so large a part.

So in this way the societies have taken a decided slump and have remained in that condition for the last two years, despite the efforts put forth by a few loyal members, in each of them, to bring about a much needed revival.

Our knowledge of the history of the societies dates from the autumn of ninety-six. Then we found both societies in flourishing condition. But why these conditions that have brought so much harm to our literaries, have always remained a mystery to us. Why should the young ladies in Miner Hall ever have been denied the benefit of the literaries? Do they not need the training in literary work which they can obtain from these societies?

These same young ladies attend the weekly meetings of the two religious societies fostered by the school, but when it comes to the literary societies they are prohibited from attending.

As the administration of the school has undergone a change this year, we cannot tell what changes have been thought of in reference to the literary societies, but we thought a few words upon the subject would be perfectly in order.

J. P. C.

### THE TEACHERS' COLLEGE.

The Teacher's College opened this year in splendid form, both Dean L. B. Moore, Ph. D., and his students are alike enthusiastic. The girls are marching off with Wentworth's Solid Geometry, while the boys are battling Nicols' Calculus and Todhunter's Mechanics.

The Psychological Laboratory presents a scene of especial interest. The seniors in philosophy are doing some original work, using as a basis Rozenkranz' Philosophy of Education and Dr. Harris, Psychologic Foundation of Education.

The Pestalozzi-Froebel Literary Society of this department always presents a program of first order.

### THEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT NOTES.

Rev. R. D. Brister of the class 1902, and now teacher and preacher in the "Snow Hill Normal and Industrial Institute," Ala., writes: "We shall have two Bible classes after this week; hope to have over one hundred members. Our Y. M. C. A. is very active."

Rev. J. U. King of the class of 1902, now pastor in Bridgeton, N. J., writes, with reference to Degrees: "I believe a man can if he will, convince the world who and what he is, be he great or small;" and with reference to success: "A minister's success will be largely determined by his ability to know men, and how to deal with them intelligently."

John W. Hollins of the class of 1901, is about to enter upon the active work of the ministry.

The Evening Class numbers over forty and is still growing. The Day Class numbers over thirty.

The officers of the Literary Society are as follows: J. B. Hopkins, Pres.; James Derricks, Vice-Pres.; I. S. Holness, Secretary; Thos. G. Clark, Chaplain; W. H. Best, Sergeant at Arms.

The officers of the Livingston Missionary Society are: J. W. Manoney, President; P. Penick, Vice-President; Thomas G. Clark, Secretary.

Prof. Clark, Dean of the Department, serves as Critic for the Literary Society; and also as Treasurer for the Missionary Society.

There are fifteen students in the elementary and advanced Hebrew Classes—a larger number than ever before. Those who take the full Hebrew course of three years get a very good working knowledge of "the tongue in which God and angels spoke of old."

The Church History now runs through the three years. The seniors take Solm's Church History, a splendid epitome of the long course of the Church of Christ in the world. The German original has run through thirteen editions in sixteen years.

Prof. Ewell has just returned from a trip to Auburn Theological Seminary where he had gone to visit his son, Mr. W. L. Ewell, who is a student there. The Doctor is very much pleased with his trip. He brought back some very useful suggestions for the Department.

The Freshmen have a monopoly of the Dean's door this year to such an extent that the Seniors have to cut their bigness through the floating element.

**THE EUREKA SOCIETY.**

Every member of the preparatory department of Howard University should take profound interest in the Eureka Society, which will not only put the organization upon a higher plane, but will also be an indispensable aid in developing each individual for future work of its kind.

The "Eureka" is almost as old as the department itself, and having existed for many years, its influence has been felt by those members who have been most active, and thereby receiving the greatest good.

The purpose of this society is to train young men and women to acquaint themselves with literary work; both as to the development of the mind and as to the readiness and fluency of speech, which is attained by the investigation and free discussion of religious, educational, political and other topics.

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## THE SLEEPING ALUMNI.

## An Old Graduate Deplores Existing Conditions.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 3, 1903.

MR. EDITOR:

Just a word, which I trust will be in time and in time with the purpose of your object in launching a Senior Class Paper. The step between the state of being a Senior and an Alumnus is usually very short—occasionally very long indeed. The Senior Class in any institution is a good field in which to sow the seed that may bloom into a fine harvest of orthodox "Alumniism." There is no place where the spirit is more needed because of its absence than in Howard University. It is a signal fact that with an active and successful corps of graduates, Alma Mater is thriving without and mourning for the deep and effective interest of her children. She has an army of offsprings—an army heterogenous and scattered, with no positive design for the institution's good and often, as is shown in controversy, a loyalty in spirit that can make a warfare honorable in endeavor and potent in results. In fact the Alumni of any and all the departments of Howard University, are powers latent—yes, sleeping. I beg pardon, no matter how tempting the opportunity we will not base force in complaints, but as one responsible for the cause of complaint will set about to make matters better.

It is time that the graduates of Howard University stir themselves and become energetic factors in the problems involved in all interests in the new order of things on the "Hill." Colleges are largely what loyal sons and daughters make them. It is now time that the graduates have a potent voice in Howard affairs, backed by that which makes potentiality, or state the reason "why not."

With the proper stimulation to endeavor, the graduates of every department should make specific donation for some important point of need. There are many such points. We feel assured that with the proper machinery for action that each Alumnus will march in the procession of *substantial sympathy*; if not, let somebody state the reason why.

The different departments should organize and form a good Executive Committee that will make the dry bones move once more. That is a call of duty and should be one of interest and love.

Brethren, let us move.

ONE OF THEM.

There are some young ladies in Miner Hall this year who are too good to talk to young men unless they have permission from Miss Jacobs. Give them wings—I need not tell you what they are.

The young ladies of Miner Hall claim that the social was a failure since there were only three callers Saturday.

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