

65 "The Mask"

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GRAND CHAPTER CONVENTION IN NEW YORK.

Gamma Chapter under whose auspices the Grand Convention is held this year is completing arrangements for receiving and entertaining the visiting delegates and all brothers, both active and passive, from other chapters. New York offers many excellent ways of entertaining and the local chapter has not been slow in taking advantage of some of them.

First of all we suggest that as many of the delegates, who can do so, arrive in town Wednesday night, November 29th, notifying beforehand Bro. Wm. A. Lowell, the Secretary of Gamma, in care of the College of Pharmacy, W. 68th St., stating time of arrival and name of railroad, in order that our Reception Committee may be on hand to greet and pilot you to your hotel. Delegates will wear their pins in a prominent place in order that we may have no trouble in picking you out.

Each delegate is requested to bring his evening clothes — this also applies to the active and passive men of other chapters who intend coming on to help us celebrate.

The first business session of the convention will begin Thursday morning, November 30th, hence our desire to have all delegates here Wednesday night, in order that the business of Kappa Psi will be looked after at the first meeting by a full attendance. We have many good things planned and we want your full time from Wednesday night, November 29th to Sunday morning, December 3rd. If you will put yourself in our hands for that length of time we promise you will never regret it.

A GLIMPSE OF BROADWAY.

When a student or student body visits the "Metropolis of the Western Hemisphere," having left his labors in the world of

science, he is very apt to draw the blind over the artistic and scientific corners of his brain, and "lift the lid" off those crevices wherein lies his sense of amusement. On putting a foot ashore, he doesn't inquire where the Museum of Natural History is, but rather asks the question, "Where is Broadway?" to which his informer, looking at him in blank amazement, is tempted to reply,—"Follow your instinct and you'll soon reach it." Assuming this to be the answer given, the "new one" does follow his instinct, and sure enough lands at the "Great White Way," after getting a view of which, he does not have to be forced there again, but just gravitates to it naturally. Starting from Times' Square, he drops into the cafe of the Hotel Astor and has a "starter" with the "bunch." The editor will vouch for the necessity of making a good start, as he has done often enough and in company with the writer at that. Assuming that the visitor gets a strong "impulse," he drifts along "down the line," and, amazed at the glamour of the lights, he drops into numerous cafes, and partakes further of sufficient "impulse" to carry him past the gleam and into the "Hofbrau House." The editor will again vouch for the hospitality and attractiveness of this resort, as he, along with the writer and other genial chums, has passed many a jolly night within its walls. If the inspired visitor desires to gaze further on the sights of New York, it is a simple matter to arrange a "slumming" party and take in the indescribable "Chinatown," after which he can do what he pleases, resting content that he has so far spent a bully night. Space does not permit us to begin to enumerate the enticing places for a student visitor, but as New York is very handily arranged he is not long in "getting wise."

W. J. F.

C. P. N. Y., '04.

"THE KAPPA PSI SPIRIT."

At the beginning of each collegiate year we return to our various "Alma Maters" and find our fraternity ranks depleted some by the graduation of our brothers the previous June. It is then the "A," with a few of his trusty henchmen realize that they must be up and doing, if the standard of Kappa Psi is to be kept aloft and the colors of their chapter are to be floated triumphantly for the year to come.

It is not at all easy for the chapter to get the most desirable men, for, remember the old adage, "Competition is the life of trade," and our rivals are already on the lookout for the pick of the incoming class. With four or five fraternities out for the best, it certainly is "the survival of the fittest," and at this time of year more especially than any other, does the "A" need every loyal Knight of Psi to stand at his elbow and help encourage him in his fight for "the best."

Kappa Psi stands for everything good in fraternalism—not only good fellowship, but brotherly love—and no better way to show your fraternity spirit, than to back your "A," not only with words of encouragement, but with individual hard work as well—in short, "get out and hustle." Have that old-time, personal, Kappa Psi pride for your local chapter, and then, later in the year when the ranks are full and Harmony reigns, you can sit back with a feeling of self-satisfaction and say, "I helped to bring this about, and I am glad of it. We have the others beaten a block."

* PROGRAM OF CONVENTION.

Headquarters of Grand Chapter and delegates will be established at Hotel Empire, Broadway and 63rd Street, and members are requested to report there on the evening of November 29th. Thursday, November 30th, will be devoted to business sessions and to a Theatre Party at the Hippodrome in the evening. Friday, December 1st, will be given up to business, with a Kappa Psi dance in the evening. Saturday, December 2nd, will be given up to business, (if any), with a banquet at the Hotel Astor in the evening. There will also be a few "side trips" not included in this schedule.

KAPPA PSILETS.

J. P. McKown, Ex-Secretary of Gamma, is seriously ill with typhoid fever, at St. Vincent's Hospital, New York. He has recently been with Caswell, Massey & Co., at their 25th St. store.

A. G. Gilmore is back in New York again, after trying the climates of both Maine and Florida.

Among the latest to join the "Benedicts" are Paschal M. Everts and Allan K. Hart, both old Gamma men.

“THE INFLUENCES OF THE COLLEGE FRATERNITY.”

(By F. B. WAGNER.)

On a day of January a group of young men at Stanford University laid their coats upon the grass or on the broad veranda of their club-house, and began a game of catch with a base ball. A carriage drove by, with one passenger, evidently a stranger, enjoying a view of the university grounds, and believing all that the driver told him. The visitor was unmistakably an Englishman. He halted his carriage and with a genial brown-whiskered smile and broad accent hailed the student nearest him, begged a thousand pardons, and asked to be shown the ball.

Every American newsboy knows that every American baseball is covered by two equal pieces of hide, shaped like a figure eight. This little design was a marvel of amusement to the frank-eyed, hearty Britisher. Out came his note-book. The college men surrounded him, and took notes of their own, but not in a book. The tourist was a novelty to them as the ball had been to him. It was lunch-time. The driver was paid and sent away, while the tourist was carried, bewildered, up the steps, through the open doors of the house and led to a chair at the head of a long dining-table. Twenty-one college boys sang, while deft Chinese came and went with the courses of luncheon.

The visitor proved himself a good fellow. On demand, he said something of India and of Australia, which he had seen, but the best that he said was of America, which he was beginning to see. He boasted the Oaks of Sherwood forest until the twenty-one assured him that they could all sleep within one fragrant trunk of the sequoia.

The topic turned to college clubs, for the traveller was politely curious. His note-book could have been twice filled that afternoon. His questions were eager, often innocent and amusing; and the answers were enthusiastic. He tried to interpret many things in terms of Oxford and Cambridge, Eton and Rugby—but he had stumbled upon a new species.

In coming to a chapter house of an American college fraternity, he had found a social institution peculiarly American.

There are to-day as many as twenty-five regular national or intercollegiate fraternities, established, roughly speaking, between the years 1820 and 1870. Each is named by two or by three Greek

letters. Each is made up of local clubs in various colleges, some having more than sixty branches, while the average number is about thirty. More than one hundred and sixty thousand college men have owed their allegiance to one or another of the Greek letter societies. This represents only a fraction of the total number of men who have attended college; perhaps we may name thirty per cent. as a typical proportion in a college of to-day. Exactly what it means to be of this minority will always interest college students and students of colleges.

The chapter, or unit, of the national fraternity is generally a club of about twenty men, who club together for social purposes, seeking mutual encouragement and strength of numbers. Where the dormitory system is strongly entrenched, the system of fraternity homes is not found fully developed, but the prevailing tendency of fraternities everywhere is toward the chapter home—a house where its members eat, sleep, study, play and entertain.

The social unit is founded on an economic principle. Twenty men can obtain more for their money by spending it together; therefore can be more to their taste.

The amount which men might pay individually for rent, or for furniture to be cast aside, will in time pay for permanent lodgings, well-fitted, for rugs, lounges, portraits, pianos and shower baths.

The freshman coming to college finds a dozen groups of men living there in homes of their own; jolly, energetic, self-respecting and mutual encouraging—a sort of self-constituted aristocracy. The freshman will be sought by the societies who consider him "good material." No more definite phrase can be used. The popular notion is that good looks, a good family, or athletic promise will win for a freshman his desired "bid." The best fraternities judge a man aside from his superficial qualities. Where money, or muscle, or clothes or cleverness alone are weighed, the result will be poor, for any artificial standard brings degeneracy. In general it is true that men can find the sort of companions they seek. There is a possibility of error during the period of rushing. This is a time of courtship. It can be made a time of senile flattery and fondling upon one side, and of truckling and deceit upon the other; or it may be made a period of manly and straightforward good-fellowship; but men who wish to become honestly acquainted, to be known for what they are, to choose natural friends and to be naturally chosen. The excitement and rivalry of the rushing season tend to artificial

friendships. The successful fraternity will make its courtship always natural, based on real friendship. You cannot make a real brother of a man by coming behind him unexpectedly, slapping him on the back and telling him he is elected; nor by initiating children from the kindergarten. The fraternity which conforms its bidding to the growth of natural affection and congeniality will always ideal friendship. Otherwise the "frat" is a social tyrant, bestowing favors capriciously.

His initiation is an event in the freshman's life. This ceremony is a matter of some mystery and seriousness. It may include a week of penance, with a bit of physical discipline where this is needed. The ceremony itself is made memorable. The freshman learns what the fraternity means and what it expects of him. A man will be impressed by that which he hears when he is initiated, and most fraternities tell him the right sort of thing.

Life in a home with congenial, enthusiastic fellow-students is an inspiration. It should stand in a trinity with the home from which the student has come, and the home which he will some day found. Yet it has a peculiar charm of its own. He is with equals, with rivals and comrades of his own choosing. His twenty chums are not all of a pattern; they have much in common, but they may include extremes of personality. Only notes of different pitch can make a chord. Congeniality and not similarity is the standard which determines his companions. This can produce the highest social development.

The chapter will have a double influence on the college man. It works for conformity, but not at any loss of individuality. The freshman will find that he has entered a crowd which means to train him. He will receive much advice; but he will absorb more unconsciously. He will imitate his fellows, because he admires them. He will conform in speech, in dress, in habits. A freshman in college can be spotted in a dozen ways. It is the fraternity freshman who first loses this "verdancy." Few influences excel that of the fraternity house in training and in development of character, for good or for bad. The greatest power is natural toward those things which are best in the world. Self-conceit cannot be whipped from a man, nor can he be argued out of it; but it can be dissolved by the slow force of fraternity life. Hypocrisy is hated by healthy young fellows. A selfish man, a crabbed morose chap, or a spoiled pet, will find no indulgence in the chapter house.

They will be frankly analyzed and criticized. The "star" freshman who fancies himself perfect, after the rushing season soon awakens to the fact that he has much to learn, and comes heartily to wish for improvement. Very little of the so-called "hazing" is necessary to accomplish this result. Moral force is the weapon; though it depends for effectiveness on a muscular delegation of sophomores.

Freshmen, well disciplined, will forever through college realize the need of cohesion and control; they will be most capable of guiding the future classes. A chapter is never as weak as its weakest member. The men support each other by his strongest quality. A chapter can assimilate and develop men who are deficient in one point or another. A. C. Carlyle could be endured for the sake of his literary work. The non-grammar of Jones is coaxed out of him while he teaches the others to box.

The influence of the chapter is not merely negative and repressive. There is a profound stimulus, a pressure forward. Every man encourages the next man's talent. The entire chapter will work and hope steadily for each member's success; whether he be football player, musician, chemist, or journalist. Every freshman is ordered to come out for something, be it Phi Beta Kappa, the hurdles or the mandolin club.

"Lambda Nu is everything, and every Lambda Nu is something," is the sort of motto that a good chapter is apt to have.

At no place can discussions be more frank, sincere and well meant than in a chapter house talk. Men may come from opposite sides of the continent, men differing in experience, in political, social, religious views. College alone might not reconcile such elements. The largest colleges of America have as many circles, creeds and antagonistic units as the world itself. But when these elements occur in a small coterie founded on friendship and equality, and blend as they can blend in a good chapter house, the result is broadening and uplifting to every individual. One knows something of the Southern planter from living with his son three years, something of the boy from the West and the young Vermonter that can never be learned in casual meeting for study, business, or society.

Chapter life means years of family life and of business partnership at the same time. The fraternity man acquires executive power.

To be continued.