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The M. T. N. Signal

Vol. I
MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE
No. 1

A literary magazine published by the students of the Middle Tennessee State Normal School.

Staff

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Q. M. Smith.

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Grady Society.................. J. B. Thompson
Claxton Society............... Johan Brumberg
Murfree Society................. Bessie Conger
Dromgoole Circle.............. Susie Smith

Business Manager
Oscar McPeak.

Editorials

Introductor

The magnitude of our undertaking is fully realized as we assume the tedious duties of editing this newly established magazine. No precedent has been furnished. We are without a guide. No road has been made plain. We grope about in a maze of uncertainty and wonder which way to move. Through this wilderness where some say may be found wonderful possibilities; which to us, however, seem unassured, nothing appears to light our pathway save the bright rays of hope that come from promised student support.

We wish to thank our fellow students for their willing assistance and earnest sympathy while the first issue of our paper was being prepared for publication. As it is necessary that we have the coöperation of the entire school as well as
the vital interest of each individual, in order to make this magazine a success and a help, we therefore beseech you to join heartily with us in making it all that it is expected to be.

With the united effort of the staff and the student body, the magazine will, unquestionably, be a profitable undertaking. But just as a great enterprise is sometimes hindered and even stopped by the frivolity of some of its champions, just so may a school paper be brought to failure by the caprice of some of its supposed-to-be-advocates. There are fancies to be delighted which are distorted; there are tastes to be suited which are peculiar; there are appetites to be gratified which are dissipated. If we should undertake to humor every such whim, we would be led to folly; if the magazine should attempt to meet every demand, it would be doomed to failure. Having placed the ideal of the Signal high above anything that bears not the marks of dignity, we design to maintain this ideal to the best of our ability and suffer the consequences.

The choice, general selection, arrangement, etc., of material for a college paper never meet the approval of all. The reason may be only "because." We do not pose as literary critics; we are not ready to boast of our refined taste; nor are we over-confident in our editorial qualifications. We are keenly conscious of our inability. The very delicacy of our task makes us so. However we shall try to give every complaint our careful attention and shall at all times be glad to take at value received any advice of the wholesome sort.

Our duties and responsibilities are new to us. You can contribute your part to no more advantage nor can you help us in any better way than by making them clear to us. Point out our obstacles to us by showing us where they were. Let every one lend a hand and this paper will be a go.

The first issue of our magazine is intended to be representative of what it shall be at all times. It intends always to magnify the virtues of the institution from which it goes. Its policy shall be to give publicity to excellence wherever found within our sphere, and to be true to the ideals of M. T. N.

The Manager is indebted to Messrs. McKnight and Goldstein for their help in soliciting advertisements. These boys have been faithful in their work and have made praiseworthy assistants.
was played later in the evening, and Miss Frances Thomason and Miss Ada Sorrels proved easily to be the belles of the occasion. An orange ice was served at the close. Ten-thirty came entirely too soon for everyone and all the girls left with the unanimous opinion that the boys had given them the best party of the year.

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**ALL SORTS AND CONDITIONS OF MEN**

_Annie Ferris_

A thorough politician
Comes leading in the train,
And no Goliath like him
Has lived since the days of Cain.
He has a big position,
But our "boss man" fills it full;
And the kindly twinkle in his eyes
Proclaims him "a yard wide and all wool."

A most charming little man
We are fortunate to know,
And if he were only single,
We would like him for our beau.
He has the manners of a Chesterfield,
And looks "spic and span and new;"
I think he seems incongruous
With Latin roots, don't you?

One was "bred in old Kentucky;"
That grand old blue-grass State;
No thorough bred out-speeds his tongue,
Which goes at a two-forty gait.
He is great on Reading and Speaking,
Teaches you to elocute, bow, and stand;
But of all he whizzingly tells you,
Not half do you understand.

One can expatiate in Civics,
Modern and Ancient History too;
Does he, so popular with the girls,
Need be introduced to you?
Of all events of history
    He can give the dates, 'tis said,
Whether seated on the table top
    Or standing upon his head.

"Monsieur" likes the "Mademoiselles,"
    And gives them their own sweet way;
When "Parlez-vous Francais?" he asks you,
    Would you answer, "Si vous plait?"
So jovial and good-natured,
    There was never a merrier quail
That repeatedly whistled his "Bob White,"
    From his perch on the top of a rail.

One lives among his test-tubes,
    Bunsen Burners and such like;
When he calls, "Attention, students!"
    Then you had better hike;
If you've chanced to break some retort,
    Or dulled those instruments fine,
Then Mercury has dropped below zero
    Away down in your spine.

One is a noted Rhetorician,
    To whom much credit is due;
He lives in a world of letters,
    And interprets such things for you,
Until the beautiful gems of language,
    Whose charms before seemed concealed,
Come sparkling in radiant splendor,
    With all their beauties revealed.

A kind, good man approaches,
    And he blushes like a girl;
He explains "precepts" and "concepts"
    Till your brain is in a whirl;
The most learned of all the faculty,
    But his ideas make us quail
About that period of evolution
    When the monkey dropped its tail.
GRADY LITERARY SOCIETY

J. B. THOMPSON, Editor.

In the month of January, 1912, about twenty-five young men of the Normal School met for the purpose of organizing and establishing a literary society. This meeting resulted in the present Henry W. Grady Literary Society.

It is the intention of the Society to have a debate each week and to give every member a chance to speak in public. This organization stands for the best interests of its members in particular, and the school in general.

At the first meeting of the Society during the present school year, it was with some sorrow seen that the majority of the old members were absent, tho' this was more than counter-balanced by the number of new members taken in.

The members of the Society have taken a forward step not only in the development and evolution of their forensic talents, but also in the furnishing and decoration of the Grady Hall. The work of the Society during the past quarter has been unexpectedly enthusiastic and progressive. However work is not all that is in the Grady curriculum, as was shown by the excellent reception recently given it by the girls of the Murfree Literary Society, which we are sure has not been surpassed this season.

The good results of literary work carried on in this Society stand unchallenged. Several students of the Normal realize this, with the result that the prospects for new members and better work are very bright.
We cordially invite any and all young men to visit our programs and become a member.

OFFICERS.

President ................................................. Rion
Vice-President ......................................... Thompson
Secretary .................................................. Goldstein
Treasurer .................................................. Abernathy

Flower
Narcissus
Colors
White and Gold

DROMGOOLE LITERARY CIRCLE
Susie Smith, Editor

Tye Dromgoole Literary Circle was organized January 23rd, 1912, with forty charter members, for the purpose of developing literary talent and pleasant social ties in our school life. Its motto, "Learn to Stand Alone," was suggested by Miss Will Allen Dromgoole in honor of whom the circle was named.

The name is peculiarly fitting inasmuch as Miss Dromgoole is a Murfreesboro woman and one of Tennessee's most gifted writers. It was by this means that the circle wished to show its recognition of her notable achievements in literary endeavor.

In accordance with the plan adopted, the work of the Society for this year will be devoted to the study of modern writers. Miss Dromgoole being first on the list, in addition to the study course, original papers and other outside work are presented at each meeting.

The book plate shown at the top of the page was designed by Miss Dromgoole. The significance of the circle is easily
seen. The belt and buckle denote strength; the books, learning; and the laurel branch, victory. Near these is placed our state seal.

The first officers of our Society were: Lucy Alexander, President; Susie I. Smith, Vice-President; Add-Lee Porter, Secretary; Lucy L. Williams, Treasurer; Mary Lindsey, Critic; Mary Suell, Marshal.

The present officers are: President, Susie I. Smith; Vice-President, Kate Caldwell; Secretary, Alberta Lewis; Treasurer, Frances Thomason; Critic, Ada Sorrells; Marshall, Louella Wilson.

THE CLAXTON LITERARY SOCIETY
JOHAN BRUMBERG, Editor.

It is evident to all great thinking people that in order for a young man to feel perfectly at ease among his fellow men, he must be a ready conversationalist, a debater on the great issues of the day, a ready reader, and able to be a just critic of others’ doings.

It was for this purpose that sixteen young men in our school banded themselves together at the beginning of the second quarter of the school year of 1911–12. It was not an unwise move. These young men, enthusiastic over their aim, developed such remarkable talent and power, that when the time came for the first inter-society debate in May, 1912, they won the laurels of victory over their worthy opponents, the Gradys. The debating honors of the Blue and White belong to the Claxtons.

In the course of time, about sixty young men have been members of this Society. It is steadily growing in numbers. Our gates are always open to receive any young man of honest intentions, who desires to become a member of this "Circle of Brothers."

OFFICERS.

President .............................................. Brunner
Vice-President ...................................... Haynes
Secretary ............................................. Hutchinson
Critic ................................................ Templeton
Treasurer ............................................. Smith
The Mary N. Murfree Literary Society met for the first time January 23rd, 1912, with thirty-three charter members and accepted the Constitution and By-Laws offered by the Committee on Organization.

At a call meeting February 9th, the Society adopted for their colors Black and Gold, and agreed on the Black-Eyed Susan for their Society flower.

At a regular meeting March 5th, the following officers were elected: Miss Onie Martin, President; Vice-President, Miss Verna Syeffield; Oral Critic, Miss Helene Hudson; Sergeant-at-Arms, Miss Lettie King; Recording Secretary, Miss Margaret Smith; Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Berry Waller.

Many interesting programs were rendered during the year, chiefly literary in character, and marked especially by a study of Greek Myths. The last meeting for the spring term of 1912 was held May 14th, and happily concluded a prosperous year for the Society.

The gold medal offered for the best essay written by a member of the Dromgoole or the Murfree Society was awarded to Miss Verna Sheffield, the Murfree Representative, who used as her subject, “Through Narrow Passes to the Heights.”

On September 24th, 1912, the Society met with a decided increase in membership, for reorganization. During the ensuing fall term, the Society has taken up the study of the “Old Masters,” a course which has proven to be most profitable and interesting.

The Murfree Hall is rapidly being furnished through the efforts of the Society members who are ably assisted in this undertaking by their Grady brothers and their honorary members: Miss Arthur, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Gillentine, Prof. Lyon,
Prof. White, Dr. Fertig, Mrs. Swindell, and Miss Tommie Reynolds.

With the membership inspired by the work done in the past, there is strong probability of even greater work to be done in the future, and the aim of the Murfrees—The advancement of the Society as a whole by the development of the individual—seems destined to reach a glorious realization in the years ahead.

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**SMILES**

Lives of great men all remind us,
     We can make our class sublime,
And by asking foolish questions
     Take up all the teacher's time.

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If a body see a body
     Flunkin' in a quiz,
If a body help a body
     Is it a teacher's bizz?

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Life is real, life is earnest,
     We must strive to do our best,
And departing, leave behind us,
     Note books that will help the rest.