

it was decided that Johnson was guilty of the charges made against him, and by order of the Society this decision was published in the *Granville Times* and in the *Newark Advocate*, and was communicated to the President of the Senate of the United States Government.

One of the old customs in Franklin was that of maintaining a court, which decided all questions concerning fines and kindred delinquencies. This custom was discontinued about forty-five years ago, but traces of it are still found in the societies of Doane Academy. Another of the old customs, continued till about 1880, was that of the division of the Society into two grand divisions at the beginning of each term. Each week throughout the term one division would present the debate and the other the compositions.

In the years 1853 and '54 the College was in poor condition, and Franklin barely escaped with its life. Provisions were made for the disposal of the goods of the Society, but this did not prove necessary, as the Society struggled bravely on in spite of adverse circumstances, and found itself again firmly established.

We might thus go on and tell of the ups and downs of Franklin, of times when the Society was the most prominent organization in the University, an organization in which membership was an honor much sought after. Let it suffice to say that Franklin has always had loyal supporters who have ever been true to their motto.

In the history of the Society the place of meeting has changed several times. In the early years, when the College building stood across the Raccoon on the Columbus road, the Society held its meetings in Professor Carter's recitation room which was furnished with rough wooden benches. When the building was moved to its present site, the Society was given a room for its use. Later, when the building now called the Academy Dormitory was ready for use, the Society occupied a hall on the fourth floor in that building. With the completion of Cleveland Hall the Society finds itself comfortably housed.

To some of the alumni of our University there seems to have been within recent years a decided falling off in the importance of the literary societies at Denison. This is evident. The broadening of the courses of study, the increase in social life as a result of coeducation, the misuse of fraternities, the increasing importance of athletics, the time given to the Y. M. C. A. and its various departments, and the time thought necessary for the various other college activities, all have helped in making this evident. In spite of all these influences, and on account of some of them, the literary society still holds an important place here at Denison, and is bound, as it has been in the past, to be an important factor in shaping the success of its members.

Thus we read the history of Franklin Society, an institution loved by its alumni and loyally supported by its present constituency, an institution whose members ever strive to make it worthy of the name of that American, truly great, Benjamin Franklin.