

Freshman History of the Class of 1904, O. C. D. S.

ABOUT the tenth moon of 1901, it seems that a common desire seized upon a great number of individuals in widely separated parts of our country—well, possibly at not quite the same time, but it had become so strong in each at about that time, that it urged each one to do what all the others did. This impelling force, was a desire to become proficient in relieving their fellow-men of two great evils, toothache and money. And, to reach that end, they came singly and in pairs, to a place where they might drink and be filled with a knowledge for their future use.

So, thus it came about, that fourscore or more young men and women came to Cincinnati, to enter the O. C. D. S. in 1901. They came from far distant parts, stretching from Canada south to Texas, and from New York west to Minnesota; yet, wide as these boundaries are, still they are open to expansion, if others wish to come in. They had not been here long, when the progressive spirit of organization moved some to talk of banding together for greater strength and harmony. Soon this spirit was entertained by all, and a gathering was called, in which it found expression.

At that meeting, on the 25th of October, 1901, was born the Freshman Class of 1901, the Class of 1904, O. C. D. S. The Class grew rapidly, and soon was strong in the work, and a very important factor in the school life. At an early date, it began picking up traits and habits from the examples set by older members of this family into which it had been born. From its infancy, people have never been at a loss to distinguish it from others, for its lungs are strong, and it has a cry distinctly all its own, which has often resulted in bringing something to it by the Way.

Days passed into weeks, and the weeks made two months. Then, there was an unaccustomed activity in the class, for all the surroundings were changing a little, and assuming new shapes, as if to withstand some coming conflict. And a conflict (?) it was that the Freshmen encountered at the coming of the mid-winter examinations. Each, as the day came, rode into the battle with fixed purpose and a strong heart, and when the opposition had been reduced (to writing), each retired again, some 'tis true, unhorsed, but all as victors.

For long weeks now, they had been away from their respective homes, and when the last of the examinations was over, which meant the beginning of a holiday vacation, they were soon hurrying in every direction to that home where once again each would be given the warm welcome of a returning college man.

Here we must pause to chronicle what came to the class as the saddest part of its Freshman history. While most were at home, enjoying the pleasantries of the Christmas time, one of their number lay sick in the city unable to return to her home. As the days passed, her condition was unimproved, and on December 30th Death made his first claim in the Freshman ranks, and her soul returned to its Home, where joy and peace rule on forever, and partings are unknown.

In the death of Miss Reynolds, the Class of 1904 lost one of its most highly respected members, and one who was ever earnest and faithful in all her work.

With the opening of the new year, the class returned to its duties, prepared to pursue them to the end. Its number was increased by the addition of several new members to the organization, and everybody felt that the home-stretch lay ahead, and the goal, the Junior Year. On to the end the time passed pleasantly, and with all the fun and work (these go together) every Freshman could look back and say, as he took one step higher in his college career, "Farewell, my Freshman year; now, as I leave you, may your lessons go with me, and your successes be my inspiration for the future. Farewell!"

And now, as we bring this brief history to a close, it is with hopes that it has been a true record of our first year, full of experiences in old O. C. D. S. May the friendships here formed be never forgotten; may the lessons here learned be remembered; and as each of our number climbs higher and higher, may his life as a Freshy, be pleasant to memory, and the same high ambitions still leading us on, bring each to success, with "Well done!"

ROBERT GILLIES.