

# THE CONCORDIENSIS

PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS OF UNION COLLEGE

VOLUME XLI

SCHENECTADY, N. Y., MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1918

NO. 61

## SPIRITUAL FORCES WILL WIN THE WAR

Says Abbe Flynn of the French Army.

IN CHAPEL THIS NOON

War is Uniting Peoples and Destroying Forces That Divide.

The Abbe Flynn, a chaplain in the French Army with the rank of captain, spoke before the students in chapel this noon, describing the spirit of France and telling incidents to illustrate the view of the war held by the French soldiers. He declared that a greater unity of peoples and a freedom from religious and racial prejudices would result from the war and he praised the spirit that the American people are exhibiting in their prosecution of the war. It is not men nor money that will win the war, he said, but perseverance—the spiritual forces. Had material strength been capable of winning the war, Germany would have triumphed long ago.

"I am glad," said Abbe Flynn, "to give you a message from 'over there,' at the front, where I was for twenty-three months, in first line trenches and in billets; a message to America. We feel that Americans are not only our friends but our brothers. We feel that we have the same reasons for being in the war and the same interest in the war. The war has revealed the heart of America to France, and it will reveal the spirit of France to the American people."

"I bring you a message of information, a message of inspiration and a message of encouragement. I bring you a message of facts, of the conditions of the war, what we have been doing, what we have suffered, what we are aiming at. The Germans did not think America would come in. 'America is a German colony,' they said. But when you drafted your splendid young men, they saw that it was not bluff. Now the American soldiers are being attacked with German gas and shells, they are storming the enemy trenches, and they are taking and holding them. That is the message of facts that I bring you.

"I would like you to realize that the war is going to be won. That is my message of inspiration. The war is being won at present not only by money and men, but by spiritual powers, which are playing a great part in

## SPRING TO BE HARD ONE FOR COLLEGE EPICURES

Athletic dinners are to be few and far between this spring. The dictates of economy and co-operation with the Food Administration demand that the general athletic banquet, which has annually made the Press Club famous, be discontinued this year, and will probably cause the post-season basketball dinner to be temporarily abolished. In spite of the popularity of the former with the student body and of the latter with the basketball team members, both spreads have been characterized by the campus authorities as unnecessary and therefore impossible. The election of a captain of the Union five for next season, which is usually held at the basketball dinner, may take place at a special meeting of the "U" men this week.

the war. If material forces were enough to win, Germany would have won long ago with her waves of men, coming on Belgium and France, her machine guns and her well laid plans. France was to be crushed. What saved France? Money is needed and technical efficiency, but what would they avail were it not for the moral virtues of the unknown man in the trenches? If it were not for his patience, his resignation, his strength, his perseverance, his cheerfulness and smile, his spirit of union? That is the soul of the French nation. It is the spirit of the United States. You made up your minds to go into the war with all your power, all your heart and mind.

"I have heard the French soldier say, 'I am sick of the war, but I want to fight to spare my children the suffering of another war. I am fighting in the hope that this will end wars.' That is the spirit of the French soldier. His morale is higher at present than ever before. I have seen him when he has received a letter from home. Then we have what we call 'rain and sunshine.' There is a tear in his eye, but he says 'This is stupid and childish of me,' and he smiles and a moment later perhaps he is sent over the top. He goes cheerfully, and earnestly, smiling in the consciousness of doing his duty to his flag, his country and his God."

In speaking of German prisoners, Abbe Flynn said he never saw one of them ill treated.

"The Frenchman feels that the game is over and he wants fair play. What they detest in the Germans is their want of fair-play. There is a feeling of relaxation to see thousands of German prisoners brought back behind the lines, but the French do not ill-treat them. They bring them bread and water. They are courteous and chivalrous and it is difficult to be

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## AWARDS COMMITTEE GRANTS FEW LETTERS THIS YEAR

The awards committee met this afternoon in the gym and granted "U's" and "aUa" to a number of men on the basketball squad for their work during the season just ended. On account of the fact that the same lineup took the floor in nearly every game, few "U's" were awarded. The names of the basketball "U" and "aUa" men will be announced in the next issue of THE CONCORDIENSIS.

## STENOGRAPHS SHORTEN BASEBALL PRACTICE

Candidates Resume Work This Week.  
Several Freshmen Brighten Outlook.

The first general baseball workout of the season, which was held in the gym Saturday, was almost immediately postponed shortly after the candidates had assembled, on account of a civil service examination for U. S. stenographers, the time of which conflicted with baseball practice and which required the use of the whole gym. The men had an opportunity to practice for only a few minutes before the nets were taken down and the workout called off. As a result, Coach Tamsett had little opportunity to judge the merits of the upwards of fifteen men who were on hand. A number of Freshmen who looked like potential ball players lent encouragement to the baseball outlook for the spring season.

Practice this week will be held Monday, Thursday, and Saturdays. On Monday and Thursday at three o'clock, battery candidates will report, together with any candidates for the field who wish to begin to get into conditions for the season. General practice proper, however, will be held at two o'clock Saturday, when Coach Tamsett will be able to give his whole attention to the infield and outfield candidates.

War conditions are making matters hard for the baseball management, which is receiving rather slowly the season's contracts, necessary before a definite schedule can be announced. Contracts for several games on the two projected out-of-towns trips are still to be signed. Some of the refractory documents are expected this week.

## LIVELY COMMENCEMENT WEEK THIS YEAR

Plans of Committee Nearly Completed.

SENIOR BALL POSSIBLE

Change in Dating Week's Events Is Main Work of Committee Saturday.

Commencement week this year will be as attractive a sever, judging by the program for the week laid down by the Commencement Committee in its meeting Saturday afternoon. Although all the details for the celebration are not yet worked out and a number of the features are as yet only tentative, a schedule for the five days of Commencement Week is now in a state of fair completion. It is as follows:

Thursday, June 6th—Prize oratory of Sophomores and Juniors. College Chapel, 7:30 P. M.

Friday, June 7th—Everyman's reception and dancing in Hanna Hall, 2:00 to 6:00 P. M. Class Day exercises, Captain Jackson's Garden, 2:30 P. M. Everyman's Dinner, Golf Club, 6:00 P. M., followed by entertainment. Commencement Ball, 9:00 P. M., in Gym.\*

Saturday, June 8th—Alumni Day, 10:00 A. M., alumni parade. 10:30 A. M., meeting of College Board of Trustees, President's office. 11:00 A. M., flag raising and review of classes by Waldron Cup Committee. 4:30 to 6:00 P. M., President's reception, President's house. 7:30 P. M., general gathering on Alexander Field; drill by college R. O. T. C. 9:00 P. M., dancing for members of college battalion, in Alumni Gymnasium.\*

Sunday, June 9th—Vesper Services under Nott Elm in Jackson's Garden. 5:00 P. M. Baccalaureate Sermon. 7:30 P. M., in First Presbyterian Church.

Monday, June 10th—Commencement Exercises and address by Robert Lansing, Honorary Chancellor, 10:00 A. M.

\*Tentative.

It will be noticed that this year's plans are almost a complete change as regards the days of the week on which the particular features are held. In making this alteration, the committee is following out a resolution passed by the Graduate Council last Spring, recommending that Alumni Day, when hundreds of Union's older sons come back for reunions, be changed from Tuesday, the day on which it has previously been celebrated, to Saturday. In recommending the change, the Council believed that more alumni would be able to return if their big day was set for Saturday than was possible with the celebration on Tuesday, owing to the fact that most of them are better able to get away from

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## The Concordiensis

Published Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays by the students of Union College.

Entered at Schenectady Post Office as Second Class Mail Matter.  
Subscription price: Five cents a copy, \$2.50 a year; delivered anywhere in the United States. Telephone 4233.

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206 S. Center Street.

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MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1918.

### Bridge-Building Overshadowing the Fine Arts.

One of the things that are being done nowadays is to conjecture what effect the war will have upon this or that. Ordinarily people do not forecast without diffidence but amid the excitement of war some people seem to think that they see through all earthly mysteries. Touched with this pellucidity a newspaper published by the students of a great technical institute has published an article which carries the prediction that after the war college students will pursue scientific studies with great avidity while the fine arts will sink into the oblivion of the dark ages.

This article bases its prediction upon what it asserts to be the fact, that at present students are neglecting the fine arts and industriously studying the "useful" things. An extract from the Harvard Illustrated is quoted.

"One man, prominent in college, got an A in military science, and D's in everything else. Another man who got a B in military science and good marks in his chemistry courses, fell down 'miserably' in his fine arts. He explained to a lot of us, 'What's the use of this stuff now?' The same remark has been made time and again. The Harvard students are working harder than they have ever worked, but they are working on different subjects, and only on the useful subjects. The Illustrated has long felt that much of a college education was a luxury and as far as practical affairs, it was dross. That view only held by a mi-

nority last year is now held by the majority. Men tell with great happiness that they are to learn how to do practical things, build bridges etc. Any article that says Harvard men are not working tells a deliberate untruth; there is more work done than ever, but on different, and on useful subjects."

The expansive benevolence of Mr. Pickwick at the first reports of those diligent students of medicine, Mr. Bob Sawyer and Mr. Benjamin Allen—"They are fine fellows; very fine fellows; with judgments matured by observation and reflection and tastes refined by reading and study"—is altogether too subdued for the effulgent admiration aroused by the diligent Harvard students happy in learning the practical are of bridge-building. Nothing is more inspiring than the absorption of scientific students in their "useful" studies. Any interest in the fine arts is cold and indifferent compared with the radiant enthusiasm evoked by the study of thermo-dynamics or descriptive geometry.

In the article we are referring to, the argument is supported by an extract from another Harvard publication, the Harvard Alumni Bulletin—a letter from a man who took the academic course and now that he is in the army he advises college men to study the technical subjects. He says:

"I went to a very fashionable boarding-school, and afterwards to a large university. I remember, and wonder, sometimes, if they every really happened, dinners I have had in the ponderous edifices along Bellevue Avenue, in Newport, where bumble-bee waisted flunkies bore aloft heavy silver—sometimes gold—dishes . . . . It was pleasant to start out each evening about seven, top-hatted, with a stick. In college, and in two or three cities, I acted the part of a young clubman, a 'man about town.' Luxuries are so agreeable.

"Yet my chief interests were aesthetic ones, and my college days, aside from the friendships of them, were valued accordingly. I studied hard enough to keep a keen interest in these things, and what I didn't know, I 'bluffed.' Society is gullible. I talked about Zuloaga twice before I saw his paintings. With beautiful fluency and complete ignorance I discussed the 'Agamemnon' of Aeschylus, the 'Poenissae' of Euripides; hydraulic machinery, the Shinto religion, St. Paul, the Russian government. It made no difference; I knew a little, I bluffed superbly, and revealed in the joy of 'holding' dinner tables. . . .

"When the war came I was considering literature as a profession. I tried for a commission immediately, but unfortunately missed it. Influence didn't work. So now I'm a 'buck' private.

"I sleep in a tent, stand in line in any weather for 'chow.' I dress, because my work demands it, most of the time in overalls, and I do what I'm told. I have emptied garbage cans and cuspidors, chopped wood, shovelled coal, dug holes, done clerical work and carpentering work. I have been yelled at by irate 'non coms' for being a fool.

"They were quite right. A fool is one who is ignorant, you see. I can tell you things about the meals at Agathon's house, when Socrates died, and drank from the wine cooler, but I had no idea until quite recently how to do a great many of the jobs I've mentioned."

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the academic course. The shallowest of dilettantes, a bluffer by his own confession, more familiar with Newport flunkies and silver—"sometimes gold"—service than he ever was with Socrates, finds that his superficial dips into the fine arts profit him nothing in performing mean tasks in the army; therefore, it is concluded that after the war the pursuit of the fine arts will decline and the study of science will advance.

There is no doubt that in the present emergency students who are physically fit should study in college whatever may make them better soldiers. But there is no call to throw the academic course overboard and no reason to think that after the war the fine arts will be in the flat sea sunk. If they ever were worth anything at all they will be worth just as much then. And as we have before pointed out, they are worth something, and will make a man a better lawyer, a better engineer or a better soldier. As for the experience of the beau of Bellevue Avenue, even had he pursued a scientific course he probably would have advanced no more rapidly in the army. He was too happy holding dinner tables with his "chatter above Shelley" to rejoice in the opportunity to learn bridge-building.

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## GERMANY BEATEN WHILE UNION JACK FLIES

Prof. Hart Bases Hopes on British Fleet.

U. S. SHOULD AIM AT EAST

Road to New World Organization for Which U. S. Gives Example, Lies Through Balkans.

Two views of the war not generally taken into consideration were presented to the Upper Hudson Association of Phi Beta Kappa at a meeting held in the auditorium of the State College for Teachers in Albany last Saturday night by Professor Albert Bushnell Hart of Harvard. As long as the British fleet is intact Germany is beaten, said Professor Hart.

"In the face of Germany's slight retreats on the Western Front and her

advances in the East," he said, "we have forgotten the bulwark of the Allie's strength—the British fleet. There is not one ship flying the German flag today outside the Baltic Sea and out of sight of the German coast. Before the war Germany's proud ships plied the seas everywhere."

"Take heart, friends, Allies, those who expect something for the welfare of the world. While the British fleet is intact Germany is defeated. Germany without a fleet? without commerce? without colonies? Where would she be? While the whale holds the sea, the elephant is confined."

Contrary to the often expressed opinion that the war must be won on the Western Front, Professor Hart is of the opinion that the Balkans is the place to strike and that the military and naval forces of the United States should be directed against the territory of which Salonica is the base.

This was the annual Albany

meeting of the Upper Hudson Association of Phi Beta Kappa. Officers were elected for the ensuing year. President Richmond and Dr. Morton C. Stewart of Union College were elected president and secretary-treasurer respectively. William H. Hollister, Jr., of Troy, was elected vice-president, and the following were elected to the executive committee: Dr. John Ira Bennett of Union College, Rev. Charles G. Sewell of Albany, Charles S. Aldrich of Troy and Justice Charles C. Van Kirk of Greenwich.

Preceding Professor Hart's lecture Mrs. J. T. Taft of Albany sang the "Red Cross Hymn," by Dr. John H. Finley, President of the University of the State of New York. Mrs. Taft also sang at the conclusion of the lecture.

Professor Hart's lecture was entitled "Obstacles to Peace." It was a discussion of the various discordant elements which are at the bottom of the conflict—the poor organization of the world, the imperial designs of great nations, the balance of power, the spirit of nationality and the much mooted question about annexations and indemnities. Professor Hart believes that the hope for the future lies in a world federation fashioned somewhat after the federal union of the United States. He predicted that Germany would experience invincible difficulties in holding the small dependent states she is organizing in conquered territories and he asserted that the German people have demonstrated, as exemplified in Alsace-Lorraine, an inability to reconcile alien people to her rule, as England has been able to do in her many colonies.

"The first obstacle to peace," said Professor Hart, "is in the human heart, in the passionate desire to make others bend to your will. It is a dreadful commentary on the organization of the world that the work of the first Peace Conference at The Hague in 1899 and of the second Peace Conference in 1907 broke like match sticks. One year before the first Hague Conference we went to war with Spain. One year after England fought the Boer War. Following that war came the Russo-Japanese war, the war of Italy and Tripoli, two Balkan wars and finally the Great War of 1914. The Hague had no determining force. It was absolutely inefficacious."

"The desire to govern is universal. But it can be curbed. How? By organizing the weak. The great advance towards peace is the peace that has prevailed within great territories. The United States has had peace within its borders for fifty years because it has admitted that Samson can be bound."

Professor Hart then explained the inequalities in the world organization which existed in 1914.

"The principles of international law do not correspond to the facts," he said. "There are a few great, independent sovereign powers—Japan and China in Asia, Russia, England, France and Austria in Europe, and the United States: only seven great, strong, separate states."

"Then there are states like Spain, Belgium, Italy and Holland, which are not disturbed in ordinary times but which may be destroyed as Belgium was by one of the great powers."

"There is a third group of inferior states such as Siam, Venezuela and (Continued on page 4)

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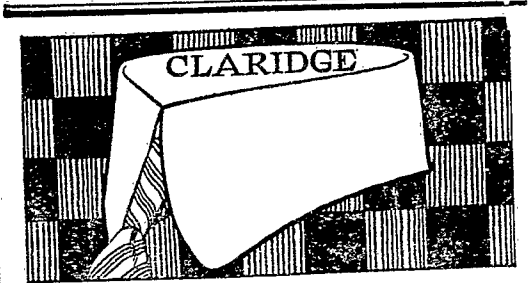
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### SPIRITUAL FORCES

#### WILL WIN THE WAR

(Continued from page 1)  
chivalrous to a German officer.

"The German motto is 'Deutschland Uber Alles'—'Germany over all.' The French motto is one very different. It is a line from one of France's poets, which I think you will like. 'Every one has two countries; his own first and afterwards France.' We do not want to be above all. You are Americans first, but afterwards remember that there is a country what deserves respect, esteem and love from you and from all the world."

In speaking of the religious side of the war, the Abbe said:

"At the front we feel the necessity of turning to God. When we know that at any moment we may be killed we realize the necessity of lifting our souls to God. In France we now have a sacred union of all creeds and opinions. One of the blessings of the war is that it is bringing us all together. We all try to do what may unite us, never what may divide us. I am living in France with Protestant chaplains and Jewish rabbis, and we get on so nicely together! In France we want to do away with all racial and religious prejudices. We must have love for one another.

"I bring you also a message of thanks. America means work and duty, not pleasure and trade as the Germans said."

Towards the end of his remarks Abbe Flynn said:

"Do not listen to stories of vice and drunkenness that you hear. We know where they come from, from calumnious German propaganda. You are splendid, clean boys and you are going to a splendid, clean country, a country from which you will come back better, I think."

Prolonged applause followed the Abbe's speech and as he was leaving chapel, after a long yell had been given for him, the applause continuing, he stopped and exclaimed, "Long live Union College! vive la France!"

### LIVELY COMMENCEMENT WEEK THIS YEAR

(Continued from Page 1)

business on the last day of the week.

In conformity with the change in the scheduling of Alumni Day, the rest of the Commencement Week program has changed, only excepting the Vesper Services and Baccalaureate Sermon, which come on Sunday, as heretofore.

Although the holding of a Commencement Ball is not yet assured, plans are going forward for holding it, and it is very probable that this feature of the week, which was eliminated last year, will once again be on the schedule.

Rather more elaborate than that of last year will probably be the exhibi-

tion drill of the college battalion on Alexander Field, Alumni Night. Although the Committee on Military Affairs has not yet made public any details, it is understood that some open order drilling and possibly a sham battle will enliven the evening's sport. An entirely new feature is the dance for members of the Union R. O. T. C., which is a distinct possibility. Further details of the week's events will be announced by THE CONCORDIENSIS as they are worked out.

### GERMANY BEATEN WHILE UNION JACK FLIES

(Continued from page 3.)

Portugal and there is a fifth group made up of the tropical colonies which were taken by the first great state that could reach them. Northern Africa has been divided between the great states and not one African there has a voice in the government. This was not the way that the United States was colonized. The State of New York, for instance, was settled by the Dutch and English who came here to live with their families. Americans go to the Philippines and come away. They do not want, nor do they expect to die there."

"Except small holding in Africa and a little strip on the coast of China Germany had no colonies, and in this fact is one of the main-springs of the war, which will have to be adjusted. When war broke out the world was not well balanced."

"Before the war German shipping entered British ports on the same footing as British ships. German mercantile houses were flourishing under the eaves of British houses. If Germany had sat still, by 1924 her commerce would have been trebled or quadrupled without the loss of a man. But they want Gibraltar, Malta, Hong-Kong, the Suez Canal and the other naval bases. When they say sea-power, they mean the naval bases."

Professor Hart traced the century old struggle between Asiatics and Europeans for the near East and said that it was a terrible shock to Germany to have to fight for sea power and for the East at the same time.

After discussing the questions of annexations and indemnities, he took up the matter of nationalities, which he said was a question which will be readjusted if the United States has its way. In answer to those who objected to England's rule in Ireland, Egypt and India, Professor Hart declared that it was a mild rule and that the Pax Britannica with its incorruptible administration of justice has been a blessing to these peoples.

"The Germans," he said, "will make enemies of all the people in Finland and the Ukraine where she is now supporting little national units for the purpose of controlling them. Germany is incapable of reconciling people to her,

as she has shown in Alsace-Lorraine. She will not give these peoples a share in the imperial government, as we gave the people of Florida, Louisiana and California a share in the federal government."

After discussing the dangers of economic inequalities after the war, Prof. Hart concluded by his presenting his views in regard to the Balkans as a military and naval objective.

An all-college military camp, with the various institutions of learning pooling their interests and resources, is the suggestion made by the Harvard Crimson. It is urged in favor of the plan that it would be less expensive than a large number of small camps by individual institutions, that it would permit manoeuvres and military exercises on a real army scale, and that it would be so efficient as probably to win Government recognition.

University of Oklahoma men who leave to enlist in the army or who have enlisted since Thanksgiving will be given credit for all the courses in which they have passing grades. This makes it possible for Seniors to receive their degrees, even though they are called from the University by the draft.

Military drill has been made compulsory for all male students at Boston University. Beginning next year this rule will also affect students in the College of Business Administration, which is connected with the University.



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