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Wm. J. J. J. J.

April 9. 1923

THE ORIGINAL
PHI BETA KAPPA
RECORDS

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Phi beta kappa

The Original Phi Beta Kappa Records

INCLUDING

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

From December 5, 1776 to January 6, 1781

at the

COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

Williamsburg, Virginia

and also

The Form of Initiation, the Constitution and the
Form of Charter Party

Authorizing the Establishment of Branches or
Meetings at Harvard and Yale

With Introduction and Notes by

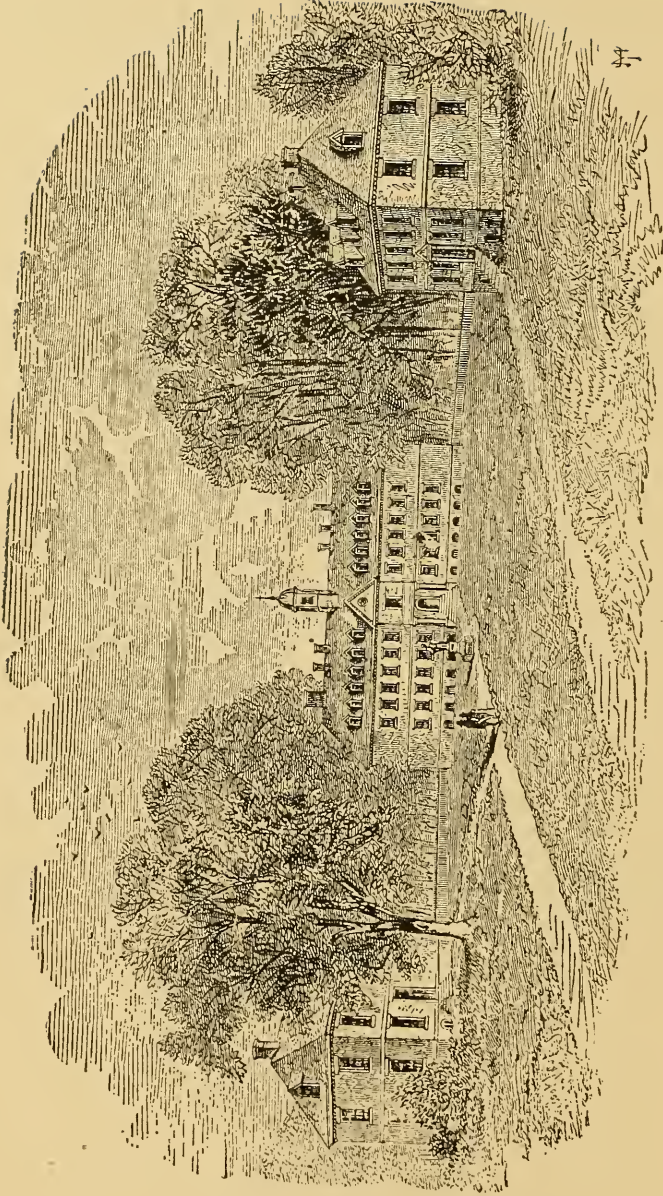
OSCAR M. VOORHEES

SECRETARY OF THE UNITED CHAPTERS

Reprinted from the

PHI BETA KAPPA KEY

ILLUSTRATED



THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY
As it was at the time Phi Beta Kappa was organized

Gift from
Mrs. Marcus Benjamin
Dec. 5, 1932

B.W.G. 22 Dec. 32

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1919

THE PHI BETA KAPPA RECORDS

INTRODUCTION

All members of Phi Beta Kappa are aware that the history of the original Society is unique. Of the main facts we are now in full possession. For many years this was not the case, owing in part to the loss of the original records, and in part to the early transference of the Society's activities from Virginia to New England. The finding of the records has made possible an entire rewriting of the early history of the Fraternity.

It is now over thirty years since the records were re-discovered. For a time they were only known through a manuscript copy. But in July, 1896, they were published in *The William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine*, which was and still is edited by Dr. Lyon G. Tyler, President of the College, and have since been available to students, not, however, to the great majority of our members. Hence we take this occasion to reprint them that this unique original source of Phi Beta Kappa history may be generally available.

For a history of the original society based upon a study of the original records our readers are referred to an article by the writer, printed in *THE KEY*, vol. i, no. 7, pp. 8-36. This was supplemented by an article in the following number entitled "Our Phi Beta Kappa Fathers in Public Life." These articles embodied the researches of the author, begun in 1890 when a student in theology at New Brunswick, N. J., the result of which was a paper read before the Alpha Chapter of New Jersey and published a year later in the Alpha of New Jersey Catalogue. This paper was expanded as a result of further study into an address delivered before the National Council held at Williamsburg, Va., September, 1907, entitled "Our Phi Beta Kappa Fathers in Fraternity and Public Life," and printed in the proceedings of that Council, and later in the articles in *THE KEY*.

The historical sketch published in the Rutgers Chapter Catalogue in 1891 was the first general history of Phi Beta Kappa prepared with a copy of the original records as a source of information. The story of the loss and recovery of these records is full of interest. The minutes of the closing meeting of the Society tell the story thus:

"1781. On Saturday, the 6th of January, a meeting of the Φ B K was called for the purpose of Securing the Papers of the Society during the Confusion of the Times, & the present Dissolution which threatens the University.

The members who attended were William Short, Daniel C. Brent, Spencer Roane, Peyton Short, & Landon Cabell. They thinking it most advisable that the papers should not be removed, determined to deliver them sealed into the Hands of the College Steward, to remain with him until the desirable Event of the Society's Resurrection. And this Deposit they make in the sure & certain hope that the Fraternity will one day rise to Life everlasting and Glory immortal."

It is presumed that the resolution was carried out and the college steward made custodian of the box with its precious contents. Of its hiding place during the next sixty-seven years we have no positive knowledge. Dr. Tyler surmises that it was placed by the steward in the hands of Landon Cabell, one of the five members present at that last meeting, when he returned to college in 1783, and was thereafter in his possession until his death, and then came into the hands of his son, Dr. Robert H. Cabell. At any rate, in the latter part of 1848, Dr. Cabell, then a resident of Richmond, Va., delivered the minutes of the Phi Beta Kappa meetings into the keeping of the Virginia Historical Society. See *The Virginia Historical Register*, vol. ii, p. 52.* What became of the other papers of the Society we do not know. Our researches thus far fail to reveal any article published at the time that throws light upon the circumstances accompanying the return of the rec-

*The statement in *The Register* is very brief, being included in the report presented to the Society at its quarterly meeting held on December 14, 1848, by the Librarian of "books and other things" that had been donated during the quarter. The entry appears far down in the list and is as follows:

"The Original Record of the *Phi Beta Kappa* Society, established at William and Mary College, in 1776. By Dr. Robert H. Cabell of Richmond."

ords. But that they should have been accepted without causing comment seems improbable.

The first result was a movement looking to the revival of the Society at the College of William and Mary. It was found that William Short, who was president in 1781, was still living in Philadelphia, and his assent to the revival of the Society was secured. However, he did not live to participate in the reorganization, for he died December 5, 1849, having passed his ninetieth birthday. The reorganization was not effected until June 25, 1851, and then not as a society of students, on the lines of the original Society, but of mature men who invited students to their circle, in accordance with the characteristics the Fraternity had come to exhibit in the ten chapters then in existence.

The only further reference in the annals of the Virginia Historical Society to the revived chapter is in a report of the librarian of the receipt in 1856 of a pamphlet entitled "A Discourse on the Convention of 1776 delivered before the Phi Beta Kappa Society of William and Mary College by Hugh Blair Griggby, Esq., by the author." See *The Virginia Historical Reporter*, which succeeded *The Register*, vol. i, part iii, p. 9.

But Phi Beta Kappa was doomed to a second eclipse at William and Mary, for the Civil War came within ten years, and College and Society suffered another period of inactivity. Unfortunately the records of those ten years, including the account of the reorganization, are lost—no doubt beyond recovery, for the college was burned during the Civil War. But the original records remained safe, though practically forgotten, in the archives of the Virginia Historical Society.

When and how they came to be found we have not learned. Hon. Frederick Chase, in his historical address, delivered June 29, 1887, at the Centennial of the Alpha of New Hampshire at Dartmouth, speaks of the "recent discovery of them in the files of the Virginia Historical Society where they had lain forgotten some forty years." It was evident that he had before him a partial if not a complete transcript of these records when preparing the address. He made slight use of their revelations, however, as his particular theme was the Alpha of New Hampshire.

Another article prepared with the records at hand appeared

in the October, 1886, number of *The Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly*, by Hon. John DeWitt Warner, Cornell '72, entitled "The First Greek Letter Society." While Mr. Warner made careful use of the records in order to establish his thesis that Phi Beta Kappa was the original Greek Letter Fraternity, he made no effort to give a complete statement of the revelations of the original records. Hence the present writer's article in the Rutgers Chapter Catalogue of 1891 was in reality the first attempt to set forth the history of the original Society with these records as a principal source.

It was through the courtesy of Mr. Warner that the writer first saw the original manuscript, and obtained the copy from which his own manuscript copy was made. The printing of the records in *The William and Mary College Quarterly* in 1896 has made unnecessary further use of this manuscript copy, but it is cherished as one of the fruits of early researches into Phi Beta Kappa history.

The publication of the Rutgers Chapter Catalogue gave the writer his first introduction to the larger circle of Phi Beta Kappa readers, and led to his selection as Secretary of the United Chapters. After a period of inactivity the College of William and Mary was revived in 1888 by the establishment in connection with it of the State Male Normal College of Virginia. Shortly thereafter Col. William Lamb, who became a member of the chapter in 1855, and had been actively associated with the college since 1867 as a member of the Board of Visitors, took steps to revive the chapter at the college. For some time he was unable to find the records, but was put on track of them by the writer. The chapter was reorganized December 9, 1893, and in 1895 sent Col. Lamb as its first delegate to the National Phi Beta Kappa Council held that year. By it he was elected a Senator and served thereafter two full terms. In 1907 he was elected a Senator for Life, being the second member to be accorded this honor. It was on his nomination that the writer was elected to the secretaryship by the Council of 1901—a nomination made, as then stated, in recognition of the aid given in locating the original records. On the request of the revived chapter they were returned in 1895 by the Virginia Historical Society to the College

of William and Mary, where they are carefully preserved as objects of veneration.

These records consist of twenty-five folios of rough unsized paper, measuring seven and three-fourths by twelve inches. The first page contains a list of forty-nine members and is considerably worn by folding; the second is blank; on the third page is the introductory statement; on pages four to nine the "oath of fidelity" and twenty-seven "proper and salutary laws" that comprised the constitution of the Society for two years; the tenth is blank, and the minutes of the seventy-three succeeding meetings occupy pages eleven to fifty. With the meetings of December 5, 1776, and January 5 and March 1, 1777, at which the organization was perfected, there were seventy-six meetings in all. Of these, one was held in 1776; twelve, in 1777; seventeen, in 1778; twenty-seven, in 1779; eighteen, in 1780; and one in 1781.

According to the records three men occupied the position of clerk—Thomas Smith, January to May, 1777; William Short, May, 1777, to December, 1778; and John Morison, January, 1779, to January, 1781. The minutes are presumably in the handwriting of these men, though other members occasionally served as clerks pro tem.

In printing the records some liberties are of necessity taken, since the peculiarities of the different writers cannot be accurately reproduced. For instance it is not thought necessary to print for "the" the abbreviation "ye" which one clerk used and the others did not. The purpose is to reproduce the thought of the writers essentially as it was expressed. Capitals and punctuation marks are reproduced as shown in the manuscript. The notes are for the most part by the editor, but he cannot hope to give in each case the source of his information. Large credit is due and freely given to President Lyon G. Tyler of William and Mary, whose researches in Virginia history have been long continued and of inestimable value.

New York, N. Y.,
August, 1919.

A List of the members, who have been admitted into the S. P. Alpha Phi Beta Society

1	John Heath	24	Daniel Carroll
2	Thomas Smith	25	Thomas Clements
3	Richd. Crocker	26	Thomas Ballard
4	Arms ^d Smith	27	Richard Baker
5	John Jones	28	John Moore
6	John Stuart	29	James Roan
7	Daniel Fitzhugh	30	William Hart
8	Thos. Fitzhugh	31	James Smith
9	John Moskos	32	James Smith
10	Isaac Hild	33	James Smith
11	John Hart	34	James Smith
12	John Harrison	35	James Smith
13	Geo. Pringle	36	James Smith
14	Henry McGill	37	James Smith
15	John Allen	38	James Smith
16	John Tinson	39	James Smith
17	Leahall Crocker	40	James Smith
18	Thos. Hall	41	James Smith
19	Samuel Hardy	42	James Smith
20	Richard Stuart	43	James Smith
		44	James Smith
		45	James Smith
		46	James Smith
		47	James Smith
		48	James Smith
		49	James Smith
		50	James Smith

FIRST PAGE OF THE ORIGINAL RECORDS

Members of the Phi Beta Kappa Society at William and Mary. For a corrected list see the next page.

OUR "PHI BETA KAPPA FATHERS"

"A List of members who have been initiated
into the S. P. alias Φ B K Society

John Heath,	Thomas William Ballendine,
Thomas Smith,	Richard Baker,
Richard Booker,	John Moore,
Armistead Smith,	Spencer Roane,
John Jones,	William Stith,
John Stuart,	William Stuart,
Daniel Fitzhugh,	John James Beckley,
Theoderick Fitzhugh,	Thomas Savage,
John Storke,	John Page,
Isaac Hite,	William Cabell,
William Short,	Elisha Parmele,†
John Morison,	Geo. Brent,
George Braxton,	Peyton Short,
Henry Hill,	Joseph Cabell,
John Allen,	John Marshall,
John Nivison,	Bushrod Washington,
Hartwell Cocke,	Thomas Lee,*
Thomas Hall,	Landon Cabell,
Samuel Hardy,	Wm. Pierce,
Archibald Stuart,	Richard B. Lee,
John Brown,	William Madison,
Preeson Bowdoin,*	John Swann,
Lyttleton Eyre,*	Thomas Cocke,*
Daniel Carroll Brent,	Stevens Thompson Mason,*
Thomas Clements,	George Lee Turberville.*

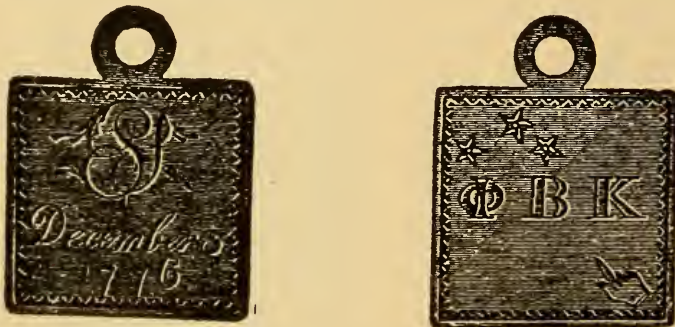
*These names are supplied from the minutes, as the portions of the page on which they were written are worn away. The name of George Lee Tuberville has been added, as he took part in the meeting of May 18, 1780. His name should precede that of John Marshall, and perhaps also of others. With this addition there are fifty names on the list. These men comprise the "Phi Beta Kappa Fathers" of the writer's paper mentioned in the introduction.

†In the minute recording the election and initiation of Mr. Parmele his name is written *Elijah Parmale*. In the minute of December 5, following, it is twice spelled *Parmelie*. On his will, now preserved in the library at Harvard, his name is signed *Elisha Parmele*.



JOHN HEATH, THE FOUNDER AND FIRST PRESIDENT OF
PHI BETA KAPPA

From a photograph of a miniature said to have been painted by Rembrandt Peale, and now in the possession of a descendant living in California. The privilege of reproducing the portrait was secured through a great grandson of John Heath, the late James E. Heath, Esq., of New York City. This portrait was first used in *Phi Beta Kappa Publications*, New Series, No. 10, May, 1910. For a biography of John Heath see *THE PHI BETA KAPPA KEY*, vol. 2, pp. 317-326 and 365-373.



THE ORIGINAL PHI BETA KAPPA MEDAL

These illustrations were made from a facsimile of an original medal in the possession of the Virginia Historical Society, and were first used to adorn the covers of the Alpha of New Jersey catalogue in 1890. The Historical Society's medal is, we believe, the only original in existence.

THE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

On Thursday, the 5th of December, in the year of our Lord God one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, and the first of the Commonwealth, a happy spirit and resolution of attaining the important ends of Society entering the minds of John Heath, Thomas Smith, Richard Booker, Armistead Smith, and John Jones, and afterwards seconded by others, prevailed, and was accordingly ratified.

And for the better establishment and sanctitude of our unanimity, a square silver medal was agreed on and instituted, engraved on the one side with S. P., the initials of the Latin *Societas Philosophiae*,* and on the other, agreeable to the former, with the Greek initials of Φιλοσοφία Βίου Κυβερνήτης,† and an index imparting a philosophical design, extended to the three stars, a part of the planetary orb, distinguished.

In consequence of this, on Wednesday the 5th of January, 1777, a session was held, in order both to adopt a mode of initiation and to provide for its better security.

And first in corporation, an oath of fidelity being considered as the strongest preservative, an initiation was accordingly resolved upon and instituted as follows:

I, A. B., do swear on the holy Evangelists of Almighty God, or otherwise, as calling the Supreme Being to attest this my oath, declaring that I will, with all my possible efforts, endeavour to prove true, just, and deeply attached to this our growing fraternity; in keeping, holding, and preserving all secrets that pertain to my duty, and for the promotion and advancement of its internal welfare.

*In the record as it now appears only the initials S and P appear, the letters following having been erased in part, and then covered over with ink. For many years there was uncertainty as to the Latin motto and many conjectures found currency. By a careful examination, made during the Council of 1907, Dean Birge of the University of Wisconsin was able to establish to his own satisfaction the motto as above. His report of his examination was published in *Phi Beta Kappa Publications*, New Series, No. 8, 1909. Dean Birge's conclusions have been generally accepted as correct.

†The letters following the three initials were entirely erased, but not inked over as in the case of the Latin motto.

duties accordingly selected them.
 The fraternity having gone through the business of
 the present session, after a recommendation of certain
 proper and salutary laws, to be prepared against the
 next ensuing meeting of March the 1st, jointly adjourned
 March 5. Agreeable to the recommendation of our
 preceding session, we have severally presented the
 subsequent laws; as proper and most conducive to
 the advantage of our growing fraternity.
 Resolved 1st That in every design or attempt where
 the great or small, we ought to invoke the D. T. G.
 by some private sacrifice or devotion for a fraternal
 prosperity.
 2^d That a propagation of the preceding oath of fidelity
 subjects the Member to the honor of the universal
 measures of the fraternity, as well as the arising of a
 true repulsion.
 3^d That every member after being properly initiated
 shall be obliged to conform himself to the Morals
 wholly corresponding with those of the Fraternity.
 4th That an orderly session of members from the
 downwards should be observed.
 5th That in case of the meeting of members, who

PAGE FIVE OF THE ORIGINAL RECORDS

Containing the first four of the twenty-seven resolutions, elsewhere called "Laws," which constituted in reality the first Phi Beta Kappa Constitution.

Whereupon the oath of fidelity being thus prescribed and instituted, was afterwards severally administered to the respective gentlemen, viz.: John Heath, Thomas Smith, Richard Booker, Armistead Smith, John Jones, Daniel Fitzhugh, John Stuart, Theoderick Fitzhugh, and John Stork, as the first essays or rudiments to an initiation. In consequence of this, we severally, freely, and jointly proceeded to the election of officers, proper and most suitable for its internal regulation.

Upon the recommendation of three members, viz.: John Heath as President, Richard Booker as Treasurer, and Thomas Smith as Clerk, the society esteeming them as necessary persons for the functions of their several duties accordingly selected them.

The fraternity having gone through the business of the present session, after a recommendation of certain proper and salutary laws, to be prepared against the next ensuing meeting of March the 1st, jointly adjourned.

March 1st. Agreeable to the recommendation of our preceding session, we have severally presented the subsequent laws as proper and most conducive to the advantage of our growing fraternity:

Resolved 1st. That in every design or attempt, whether great or small, we ought to invoke the Deity, by some private sacrifice or devotion, for a fraternal prosperity.

2. That a profanation of the preceding oath of fidelity subjects the Member to the pain of the universal censures of the fraternity as well as the misery of certain expulsion.

3. That every member, after being properly initiated, shall be obliged to furnish himself with a Medal, wholly corresponding with those of the Fraternity.

4. That an orderly session of members from the President downwards should be observed.

5. That in case of the incapacity or necessary absence of the president, the choice of any other member shall be left to the discretion of the Society.

6. That the non-attendance of any single member, unless by

The President, the choice of any other member shall
 be left to the discretion of the society.

6. That the non-attendance of any single member,
 unless by some certain obstructing inability, or ca-
 rent necessity, subjects him to the penalty of five
 shillings.

7. That no Gentleman be admitted into this Society but
 Collegians, and such only, who have attained to the
 age of sixteen years, and from the Grammar School
 upwards; and further, whose disposition be
 sufficiently unspotted, nor their merit the un-
 merited approbation of the Society.

8. That every member during a session, behave with a becom-
 ing decency; and declare their sentiments unequivocally
 avoiding confusion.

9. That the least appearance of intemperance or disorder
 of any single member by liquor, at a session, subject
 him to the penalty of ten shillings.

10. That for the encouragement of any new invention of
 Arts and Sciences, some premium be allowed from
 the public treasury.

PAGE SIX OF THE PHI BETA KAPPA RECORDS

Articles six to ten of the Original Constitution

some certain obstructing inability, or cogent necessity, subjects him to the penalty of five shillings.

7. That no gentleman be initiated into the Society but Collegians, and such only who have arrived to the age of sixteen years, and from the Grammar Master upwards; and further, before his disposition be sufficiently inspected, nor then without the unanimous approbation of the Society.*

8. That every member during a session behave with a becoming decency, and declare their sentiments, vicissively preventing confusion.

9. That the least appearance of intoxication or disorder of any single member by liquor, at a session, subjects him to the penalty of ten shillings.

10. That for the encouragement of any new invention of Arts and Sciences, some premium be allowed from the public treasury.

11. That six members shall be the fewest sufficient for the execution of business.

12. That each member when desirous of proposing anything to this fraternity shall rise from his seat and particularly address the President.

13. That a regular meeting of once a month, *unless* a necessity of sooner convening should *interpose*, is hereby established and ordained.

14. That the duty of Treasurer in keeping accurate estimates

*There were three departments at the college: First, the Grammar or Latin school, the head of which was called the Grammar Master or Professor of Humanities. He was assisted by an usher, sub-usher, and writing master. This school was open to children of eight years and upwards, who were termed *scholars*. The school corresponded to the English preparatory schools of Eton and Harrow. On attaining a sufficient age, they were passed to the philosophy schools, and were ranked as *students*, and assumed the cap and gown. There were two philosophy schools, viz.: that of natural philosophy and mathematics, and that of moral philosophy, in which was taught rhetoric, the Belles-lettres, and moral and mental science. After passing these schools, the student if he chose divinity as a profession attended the lectures of the Professors of Divinity, of whom there were two. If he proposed to be a lawyer or doctor, he apprenticed himself to some eminent practitioner in Virginia, or went to the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, or Edinburgh, or studied at the law schools in England, the Inns of Court, Middle Temple, etc.—PRESIDENT TYLER'S NOTE.

and accounts of all reimbursements as well as disbursements is esteemed nothing but legal and constitutional.

15. That if any dispute, attended with animosity and indignation, should arise amongst us, such a matter ought to be recognized by a session of the whole Society.

16. That the President be invested with the prerogative of convening the members of this fraternity, when he shall deem it expedient; that he have likewise the privilege of giving a decision, when there shall happen a division of voices, and the power of commanding due attendance to be paid him while discharging the important function of his office.

17. That the duty or office of the Clerk be indispensably requisite, as well in keeping a proper roll or conscription of the fraternity, as fair and legible books in writing.

18. That four members be selected to perform at every session, two of whom in matters of argumentation and the others in apposite composition.

19. That such of the compositions as are demed worthy by the Society shall be carefully preserved and endorsed by whom and at what time delivered.

20. That the youngest on the roll be appointed Herald for the function of convocating the members.

21. That the infringement of any of the laws enacted or to be enacted, except such as have the fines annexed, subjects the members to the discretionary punishment of the Society.

22. That no member shall be expelled without the unanimous concurrence of the Society.

23. That every person after being initiated pay into the public treasury the sum of 6s—Dollars.*

24. It is also ordained that any number of members shall have full authority and Power to transact Business of any kind, when these members shall think it absolutely necessary for the preservation of the Society.

25. That any Law or Laws which is, are, or may be enacted

*This word is in a different hand, and was added later. On August 22, 1778, the initiation fee was made \$5. On June 27, 1779, it was raised to \$10.

agreeable to Resolve cannot be altered or amended in less than a month after the proposed amendment, and then by a majority.

26. That if the number of members, according to Act 11th, cannot be convened, any smaller number shall have power of doing Business of any kind. But such Business, Initiation excepted, shall always be subject to be cancelled by a majority until confirmed according to Act 11th.*

27th. Whereas, by Resolve 19th respecting Declamation and argumentation, it is intended that those compositions only be preserved which may do honour to the Society: and, forasmuch as it is inconvenient for the whole meeting to take the merit of them into their due consideration:

Resolved that three members be appointed to judge of the Performances, and always to inform the ensuing meeting of their Determination. Provided, however, that when either of the appointed judges declaims, a temporary successor to him as judge be appointed by the meeting.†

March 27th. At a called meeting, Mr. Isaac Hite, being recommended as a worthy member of this fraternity,‡ was accordingly initiated. After which we jointly adjourn ourselves to the established time.

April 5th. Mr. Booker having been charged at a meeting of this fraternity of a thorough infringement of three of the preceding resolves, viz.: 6th, 13th and 14th, and whereupon, being willing to receive his defence, we have postponed his examination to the next meeting. After which we jointly adjourn ourselves.

April 15th. At a call meeting, Mr. William Short, Mr. John Morison and Mr. George Braxton, being recommended as worthy members of this Society, were accordingly initiated. The business being finished, we adjourn ourselves.

April 19th. Mr. Booker, having appeared and made his defence, was, with honour and unanimity restored to the

*This law, and also the one that follows, is in another hand. It was adopted July 4, 1778.

†Adopted August 8, 1778.

‡Note the use of the term fraternity, though here with a small initial letter. In Law 1 a capital is used, while in Laws 5, 7, 15, 21, and 22 Society appears. The two terms, "fraternity" and "society," seem to be used interchangeably.

good opinion of this Society. The business being finished, we adjourn ourselves.

May 3d. For the better distinction of the fraternity between themselves in any foreign country or place, it is resolved that a [The remainder of the paragraph erased.]*

Mr. Heath,† having resigned the office of President, the fraternity proceeded to the appointment of a successor, and Mr. T. Smith being recommended, was accordingly appointed.

In consequence of this appointment, they proceeded to the choice of a Clerk, and Mr. Wm. Short being recommended, was also appointed.

The fraternity having finished the business of the evening, adjourned to the second Saturday after the expiration of the holidays.

June 16th. At a call meeting, Mr. Booker, Treasurer, having resigned his office, delivered to the Society the money in his hands. And the Society adjourned.

June 21st. In consequence of Mr. Booker's resignation, Mr. Isaac Hite being recommended, was appointed to succeed him. Ordered that Mr. Hite and Short be appointed to revise the laws and propose to the next meeting such new ones as seem to them necessary. The business of the night being finished, the Society adjourned.

July 2. At a call meeting, in order that the President might resign on account of his leaving College, he resigned accordingly, and delivered a speech, which is ordered to be carefully kept.

In consequence of the above resignation, the Society proceeded to the choice of a successor, and Mr. Heath being recommended, was re-elected to this important post. The business being finished an adjournment took place.

July 26th. The Society having met agreeable to appointment assented to the amendments made by those chosen at the last session to revise the laws and make such propositions to the next

*This evidently provided for the grip, which has been preserved throughout a long series of initiations and should not be omitted. The erasure was so thoroughly done that only a few words can be deciphered.

†Mr. Heath's resignation seems not to have been permanent, for he appears later as president. See the minutes of July 2d. It would seem that he left college temporarily.

meeting as seemed to them necessary. The business being finished, the Society adjourned.

Nov. 29th. Mr. Heath, President, being absent: agreeable to the fifth resolve the Society proceeded to the choice of a temporary President, and Mr. Armistead Smith being recommended as a proper person, was accordingly elected.

Mr. Henry Hill being recommended as a worthy member of this Society, was initiated.

The Business of the evening being finished, the Society adjourned to the 5th of next Month, being the Anniversary, to be kept at the Raleigh.*

February 24. At a call meeting, the President being absent, they proceeded to nominate one in his stead, upon which Mr. Short being recommended, was elected. Mr. John Allen, Mr. John Nevison, and Mr. Hartwell Cocke being recommended as worthy members of this Society, were accordingly initiated.

The business of this evening being finished, the Society adjourned to

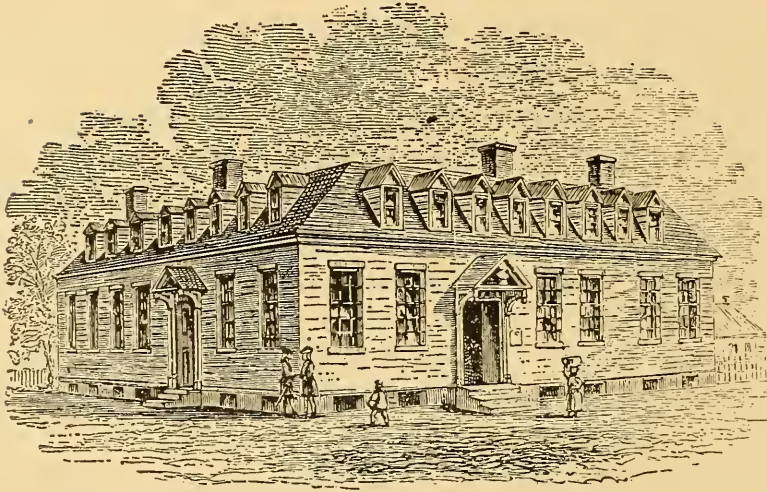
February 28. At a call meeting, Mr. Hall being recommended as a worthy member of this Society, was accordingly initiated. After which an adjournment took place.

March 21st. At a meeting of this Society agreeable to an appointment at the last Session, Mr. Fitzhugh and Mr. Stuart delivered their Declamations, which are ordered to be preserved. On a motion made for an Amendment to the thirteenth Resolve, ordered that for the future a meeting of once a fortnight be observed. Mr. Theoderick Fitzhugh and Mr. Isaac Hite being next on the Roll, are appointed to produce a Declamation at our ensuing meeting. The Business being finished, an adjournment took place.

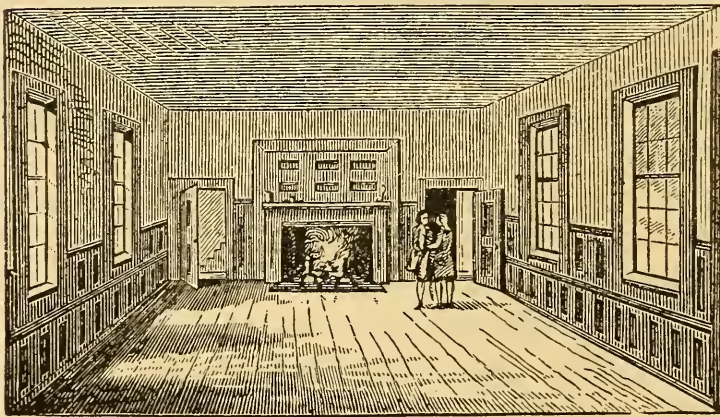
April 4th. At a meeting of this Society, agreeable to an ap-

*Note the celebration of the first anniversary. We must regret that no record was made of the exercises that marked the occasion. The celebration of an anniversary must be deemed an essential feature of an orthodox Phi Beta Kappa chapter.

It will be noted that during this first year five members were added to the original nine, Isaac Hite in March; William Short, John Morison, and George Braxton in April; and Henry Hill in November. We should also bear in mind that practically all the initiates were in their teens, and were admitted shortly after entering the college.



THE RALEIGH TAVERN



APOLLO ROOM

A tradition persists that the first meeting of Phi Beta Kappa was held in the Apollo room of Raleigh tavern, though the minutes do not so state; but they do affirm that other meetings, especially anniversaries, were held there. Of this famous Inn Lossing thus writes in his *Field-Book of the Revolution*, Vol. 11, pp. 278 and 280, from which also the illustrations are taken:

"When I visited Williamsburg in December, 1848, the front part of the old Raleigh tavern had been torn down, and a building in modern style was erected in its place. The old tavern was in the form of an L, one portion fronting the street, and the other extending in right angles, in the rear. Both parts were precisely alike in external appearance, and as the rear building was yet standing and unaltered, I am able to give a restored view of the Raleigh as it appeared during the Revolution. The leaden bust of Sir Walter Raleigh, which graced the front of the old inn, now ornaments the new building."

"The [Apollo] room used for public meetings is in the rear building . . . and up to the day of my visit remained unaltered. Carpenters were then at work remodeling its style, for the purpose of making it a ball room; and now I suppose that apartment hallowed by so many associations connected with our war of independence has scarcely an original feature left. Had my visit been deferred a day longer, the style of the room could never have been portrayed. . . . This view is from the entrance door from the front portion of the building. . . . The sound of the hammer and saw engaged in the work of change seemed to me like actual desecration; for the Raleigh tavern, and the Apollo room are to Virginia, relatively, what Faneuil Hall is to Massachusetts."

pointment at the last session, Mr. I. Hite and Mr. T. Fitzhugh deliver'd their Declamations, which are ordered to be preserved.

April 4th. At a call meeting, the President being absent, the Society proceeded to nominate one in his stead; upon which Mr. I. Hite being recommended, was elected, and likewise Hartwell Cocke was chosen Clerk.

Mr. J. Morison and Mr. G. Braxton being next on the roll, are appointed to produce a Declamation in opposite composition at our ensuing meeting.

The Business being finished, an adjournment took place.

May 2. At a meeting of this Society, agreeable to former appointment, Mr. Morison delivered his Declamation, which is ordered to be preserved. Mr. Braxton being absent.

The Business being finished, adjournment took place.

July 4th. At a meeting of this Society according to adjournment: ordered that an addition of the 25th and 26th Resolves be made to the former Body. The Business being finished, an adjournment took place.

July 25th. At a meeting of this Society, it being found convenient to have temporary Presidents, the members proceeded to confirm one in that office and Mr. Smith being deemed a proper Person, was accordingly elected.

Ordered by an unanimous voice of the present meeting, that an Amendment be made to Resolve 25th.

The Business of the Evening being finished, an adjournment took place.

July 30th. At a call meeting for the Initiation of Mr. Samuel Hardy, recommended as being worthy of an admission into this Fraternity, he was accordingly initiated.

There being no other Business, an adjournment took Place.

Aug. 8th. At a meeting of this Society, W. Short and J. Allen delivered their Declamations agreeable to appointment.

Ordered that an addition of the 27th Resolve be made to our Code of Laws. That Mr. Hardy, Mr. Hall, Mr. Fitzhugh, Mr. Short be appointed judges agreeable to the above resolve.

That the absentees of former meetings be exempted from Fines,

and in future the excuses be examined at their next attendance without Fail.

The Business of the night being finished, an adjournment took place.

Aug. 22nd. Resolved that the last appointment of Judges of Composition be abolished, and that three members, agreeable to Resolve 27th, be chosen by Ballot. The Society proceeded to this appointment; upon examination of the Box, the greatest Number of votes appearing in Favour of Mr. Hall, Mr. Short and Mr. J. Stuart, they are accordingly confirmed.

Resolved, that as the Price of Initiation hitherto paid is inadequate to the Purpose, it be augmented to five Dollars.

Resolved, that in future, meetings of this Society be held regularly once a week. An adjournment.

Aug. 29th. Resolved, that three members be appointed to revise the Laws, and that an Election of them be held on the next full meeting.

That every member who desires to propose anything to this Society produce it in writing.

That every member who is absent from the Society be written to in the most pressing Terms to attend on the 5th of December in order to celebrate that glorious Day which gave Birth to this happy Union. The Society, wishing not to impose this Business altogether on the Clerk, proceeded to appoint an assistant, *Mr. Hardy*, to him for this Purpose.

Resolved, that the two members appointed to argue, agreeable to Resolve 18th, shall be confined to the subject of the Compositions delivered at the same meeting; and that it be moreover strongly recommended to the other members, *as an* additional and improving *Exercise*, to give their sentiments extempore on the same subject after hearing the others.

Sept. 4. At a meeting of this Society, the President being absent, Mr. Short was appointed to that Post. Mr. Hall and Mr. Cocke, agreeable to the last appointment, delivered their Declamations upon the advantages of an established church.* Three mem-

*While the fact of literary exercises being held has been frequently mentioned this is the first time that a record is made of the subject discussed. Though the rule governing these exercises—Law 18—was definite

bers, agreeable to a Resolve at the last meeting, were appointed to revise the Laws, viz., Mr. Stuart, Mr. Hall and Mr. Hardy. Mr. Hall being one of the Judges, a temporary successor was appointed to inspect his performance, viz., Mr. Hardy. An adjournment.

Sept. 11 and 18. At two meetings no Business appearing from Absence of the appointed Members. Adjournment took Place.

Oct. 10. At a meeting of this Society, resolved that a late Resolution requiring a convention of members once a week be annulled, and that in future, meetings be held as formerly, viz., once a Fort-night.

Nov. 21st. Not a sufficient number of members appearing hitherto at this meeting, it was resolved that Messrs. Smith and Stuart, being the two oldest members, declaim at the next meeting, and that Messrs. Fitzhugh argue on the same subject.

Resolved, that Messrs. F. Fitzhugh, Morison and Cocke be appointed to make Provision for the ensuing Anniversary, that it may be celebrated with a becoming Solemnity.

Mr. Archibald Stuart being recommended as a gentleman worthy an admission to this Society, was in due form introduced.

Whereas the members of this Society are willing to take under their care objects worthy of charity, Resolved, that Messrs. Hardy and Cocke be appointed to look out for some Orphan likely to receive advantage from being put to a proper School, and make their report of the same to the ensuing meeting.

Resolved, that the Clerk purchase for the use of the Society two Quires of paper,* and that he draw upon the Treasurer for the Price of the same. An adjournment.

December 4th. At a called meeting, it appearing that the State of the Society was declining through Want of Members, Resolved, that a committee be appointed to take the same into their consid-

the practice varied somewhat. A subject being assigned, two of the four appointed to "perform" were expected to bring in written dissertations extemporaneously—"opposite composition and argumentation" as it was elsewhere termed. The Judges of Composition were expected to report on opposite sides of the subject, and the other two followed, speaking the fact in case they deemed any composition worthy of preservation. Their reports were seldom recorded.

*It was upon part of the paper the purchase of which was thus authorized that the records of the society were copied for preservation.

Whereas the Members of this Society are willing to be under their
 Care, Objects worthy of Charity, Resolved that Messrs. Hoagy &
 Cooke be appointed to look out for some Orphan, likely to receive
 Advantage from being put to a proper School, & make their Report
 of the same to the ensuing Meeting.

Resolved that the Coler be purchased for the Use of this Society, &
 Lines of Paper, & that he draw upon the Treasurer for the Price of the
 same.

An Adjournment.

Dec^r 4th At a Call Meeting, it appearing that the State of the Society
 was declining through Want of Members, Resolved that a Committee
 be appointed to take the same into their Consideration.

Resolved that Messrs. Hall, Hoagy, A. Stuart & Short, & D. Stuart
 be appointed

Messrs. John Browne, Piersson Dowdoin, Lyttleton Ege & Daniel ^{Conrad} ^{Price}
 being severally recommended as Gentlemen worthy an Admission
 to this Society were accordingly initiated.

The Business of the Evening being over, the Society adjourned in Har-
 Agreement on tomorrow Evening at the Raleigh, to celebrate the
 Anniversary of this Fraternity.

Dec^r 6th The Society having your agreeable Appointment, after the
 President had resigned and delivered a valedictory on the Occasion, the
 Messrs. ^{W. B. Heath} & ^{Smith} Mr. B. Heath and Th^o ^{Smith} ^{of} ^{the} ^{City}
 were present on Dec^r 6th which had been the

PAGE NINETEEN OF THE ORIGINAL RECORDS

Record of the second anniversary at
 The Raleigh

eration. Resolved, that Messrs. Hall, Hardy, A. Stuart, Short, and J. Stuart be appointed.

Messrs. John Brown, Preeson Bowdoin, Lyttleton Eyre, and Daniel Carroll Brent, being severally recommended as gentlemen worthy an admission to this Society, were accordingly initiated.

The Business of the Evening being over, the Society adjourned with an agreement to meet on to-morrow evening at the Raleigh, to celebrate the Anniversary of this fraternity.

Dec. 5th. The Society having met agreeable to appointment, after the President had resigned and delivered a valedictory on the Occasion, the Night was spent in Jollity and Mirth. Mr. J. Heath and Thomas Smith, of the former members, attended on this auspicious Day, for which they have the grateful Acknowledgments of the Society.*

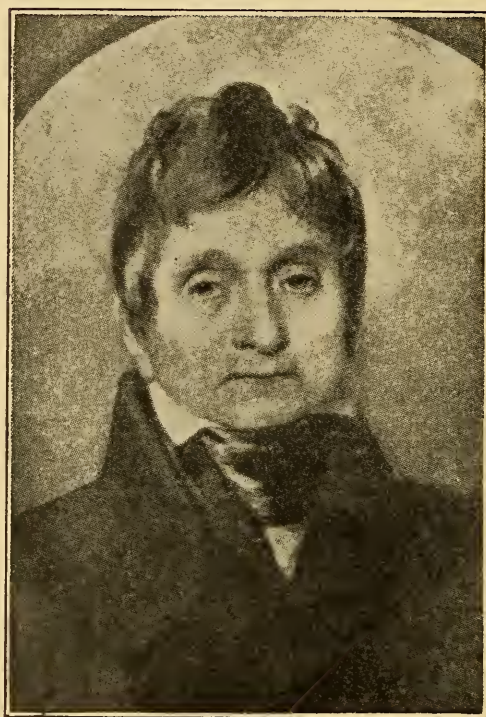
December 10th. At a meeting of this Society, upon a motion made that a President be elected, it was agreed on, and after examining the Ballot box, the greatest Number appearing in Favor of Mr. Short,† he was in pursuance confirmed, for which the Society received his Thanks.

Resolved, that in future, admission to this Society be not confined to Collegians alone. That if any Member appointed to declaim or argue, absent himself on the Night of his intended Performance, he be subject to the Penalty of five Dollars, unless his excuse be deemed sufficient by the Society.

Mr. J. Stuart, formerly appointed one of the Committee to revise the Laws, being about to leave College, Mr. A. Stuart was appointed to succeed him. An adjournment.

*Thus closes the record of the second year. The effort to hold weekly meetings will be noted, and its failure; though fortnightly meetings continued with commendable regularity. Several additions were made to the Code of Laws, until in September a committee was appointed to propose a thorough revision. Note the interest shown in the anniversary, for which plans were laid in August, and absent members invited. Two appeared. Ten members were initiated during the year, John Allen, John Nivison, Hartwell Cocke, and Thomas Hall in February; Samuel Hardy in July; Archibald Stuart in November; and John Brown, Preeson Bowdoin, Lyttleton Eyre, and Daniel C. Brent in December. The total membership was twenty-four, of whom a number, perhaps one-half, had left college.

†William Short thus becomes practically the second president, for while Thomas Smith had been elected in May, 1777, he left college and resigned early in July, and John Heath again became president.



W. Short

President of the Φ B K at the
College of William and Mary
from December 10, 1778,
to January 6, 1781

Jan. 23rd. At a meeting of this Society, the Clerkship being vacant by appointment of the late Clerk to the chair, a new one was balloted for, and the greatest number of votes appearing in favour of Mr. John Nivison, he was accordingly confirmed.

Resolved, that in future, members be elected and expelled by ballot, and that it be performed by the words *Pro and Con*.

Mr. Heath and Mr. Hite were appointed to engage in composition, and Messrs. Short and Nivison in argumentation at the ensuing meeting. An adjournment.

February 6th. At a meeting of this Society, Mr. Heath being absent, the compositions were not delivered.

Mr. Clements being proposed as a worthy member was balloted for and received.

Mr. Ballandine being also recommended as a worthy member was balloted for and received.

On a motion made for appointing a Successor to Mr. Samuel Hardy in order to revise the laws, Mr. Short was appointed to succeed him.

On account of Mr. Hite's indisposition he is excused and Mr. Short appointed in his stead to produce in opposition to Mr. Heath. Messrs. Hall and Nivison to argue. The business of the evening being finished, an adjournment took place.

February 27th. At a meeting of this Society, Messrs. Heath and Brown, upon making known the reason of their absence at the last meeting, were excused by the Society.

According to appointment, Messrs. Heath and Short delivered their compositions, and Messrs. Hall and Nivison argued.

Messrs. Hite and Bowdoin were appointed Judges instead of Messrs. Hall and Short, who were engaged in composition and argumentation.

Messrs. Stuart and Brown were appointed to produce compositions on the justice of African Slavery. Messrs. Bowdoin and Eyre to argue. The Forms of Initiation instituted by the Committee were read and resolved upon. [*The Form of Initiation follows. The minutes are continued at the top of page 35*].

Acknowledgements of the Society.
 Dec. 18th. At a Meeting of this Society, upon a Motion made that a
 President be elected, it was agreed on, and after examining the Ballot the
 greatest Number appearing in Favor of Mr. Short, he was in Bureau
 confirmed, for which the Society received his Thanks.
 Resolved that in future, Admission to this Society be not confined to
 lay persons alone.
 That if any Member appointed to declaim or say a Discourse upon the
 Night of his intended Performance, he be subject to the Penalty of being De-
 clared, unless his Discourse be deemed sufficient by the Society.
 Mr. S. Duval formerly appointed one of the Committees to receive a Discourse
 being about to leave college, Mr. A. Short was appointed to succeed him.
 The Adjournment.

Jan. 23rd. At a Meeting of this Society, the Moderator, it
 being vacant by appointment of the late Clerk to the
 Chair, a new one was ballotted for, and the greatest
 number of votes appearing in favor of Mr. John Newton
 he was accordingly confirmed.
 Resolved that in future members be elected and ex-
 amined by ballot and that the be performed by the way
 1790 & 1791

PAGE TWENTY OF THE ORIGINAL RECORDS

New officers elected including William Short as
 President to succeed John Heath

“Forms and Ceremonies of a Society Adopted February 27, 1779*"

The Person to be initiated having been properly recommended and approved, shall be brought to the door by him who recommended him: Then he shall be met by some other member who shall introduce and seat him on a Chair prepared for the purpose, the whole Society rising from their seats and bowing:—The Stranger at the same time having a Paper in his hand which he, after being seated shall deliver to his guide, who shall read it as follows:

“The address of _____ of _____ to the Members of the Φ B K.
Gentlemen

From a full conviction of the benefit arising from Society in general, and particularly from one which I hope has Friendship for its Basis, Benevolence and Literature for its Pillars I am induced to accept of the Invitation for an admission into the Φ B K, and for the honor conferr'd on me by this invitation I return you my most sincere thanks.” _____

*While the text of the Form of Initiation does not appear in the minutes, it has been preserved in the records of the Alpha of Massachusetts, and is printed here that it may be easily accessible to students of Phi Beta Kappa history. It has been presumed that the “Committee” which reported this Ritual was the one definitely mentioned in the next paragraph as reporting for consideration a revision of the laws, but this fact is not definitely stated in the minutes recording its authorization and appointment. See the minutes of August 29 and September 4, where the work assigned to the Committee was “to revise the laws.” We find no reference to the appointment of another committee; hence the inference that the one committee brought in both reports. As originally constituted by election the committee consisted of John Stuart, Thomas Hall, and Samuel Hardy. Three months after he was named as a member of the committee, John Stuart resigned, being about to leave college, and Archibald Stuart was appointed to succeed him. This was on December 10, 1778, just two weeks after he became a member. The other members of the committee were also neophytes, for Mr. Hall had been a member but a little over six months and Mr. Hardy only five weeks, when they were placed on this important committee. Three weeks before the committee made its report, Mr. Hardy resigned, and was succeeded by William Short, who was the only veteran of the group, for he became a member only four months after the Society was organized. The members of the committee, then, that brought in these momentous reports were Archibald Stuart, Thomas Hall, and William Short. This matter is discussed at length, because of the bearing the substance of these reports has had on the character and subsequent development of Phi Beta Kappa. It is worthy of note that the work was so well done that it met with unanimous approval.

Then the President shall say

Mr. ——— ——— It was in consequence of our good opinion of you, that we have admitted you thus far, and we hope you will render yourself still more acceptable by answering in the affirmative to the following questions. ———

1st If upon hearing you dislike the principles of this Society and withdraw, do you promise upon the word of a Gentleman to keep them secret? ———

2nd Is it of your own free choice unbiassed by persuasion that you become a member of this Society?

3rd Will you approve yourself a worthy member of it by being a Friend to Morality and Literature?

4th Will you regard every worthy member of this Society as a Brother?

5th Will you assist them when in distress with your Life and Fortune?

After which the Laws shall be read by the Clerk, and if the Person to be admitted approve them, the Oath shall be administered by the President; then the Medal and sign of the Society shall be explained; and afterwards the President shall thus address the newly initiated Member.

Brother

It is an uncommon pleasure which I feel in being able to address you by this tender appellation; such have been the mutual pleasures ever distributed among the Members of the Φ B K.

This Society was founded by a few friends to social and improving intercourse. At first it was confined to a small number of very worthy Students; they planted the scion, from which has grown this tree, that now buds forth before your eyes, with the blossoms of harmony and concord. It was ingrafted on the stock of friendship, in the soil of virtue, enriched by Literature. To cherish and keep it alive hath been the constant care of those members who have succeeded.

To which end they have ever kept in view the design of its worthy founders, who adopted this friendly communion as a recreation to the philosophic mind, satiate with investigating the various springs of Human nature and human actions.

Now then you may for a while disengage yourself from scholastic Laws and communicate without reserve whatever reflections you have made upon various objects; remembering that everything transacted within this room is transacted *Sub rosa*, and detested is he that discloses it.

Here too you are to indulge in matters of speculation, that freedom of inquiry which ever dispels the clouds of falsehood by the radiant sunshine of truth.—Here you are to look for a sincere Friend, and here you are to become the Brother of unalienable Brothers.

After which the President turning to the members shall thus address them:—

Gentlemen

You all at this moment experience in yourselves the heart-felt satisfaction, which I do at our late valuable acquisition.—

Friendship herself pleased with her success now smiles at this addition to our Fraternity. Let it be our joint care to extend the Friendship which has ever been exercised by this Society, to this new elected Member, that he may thereby become a veteran in her service. Let us consider that this is no longer the stranger whom we have hitherto seen; he is a Brother, a member of the Φ B K; in which character I am inexpressibly happy to introduce to you Mr. ————.

After this, the President shall take him by the hand, with a congratulation, and then the Secretary who shall introduce him to each of the Members separately; all taking care to use the mode of shaking hands peculiar to the Φ B K." [*End of Ritual. Minutes of February 27th continued*].

The Laws revised by a committee appointed for that purpose were read and received universal approbation.* [*Continued, p. 35*].

The Laws

“Whereas it is essentially necessary to the well being of every Fraternity, that it should be Governed by certain established and

*The note respecting the Form of Initiation applies in general to the revised Code of Laws or Constitution, under which the original society concluded its early activity at William and Mary. This code was transmitted to Harvard and Yale, and is quoted from the records of the Alpha of Massachusetts.

salutary Laws: the following are adopted for the governing rules of the conduct of each Member of the Φ B K; and each and every Member of the said Society is hereby required to observe the same with the most scrupulous punctuality, in order that this institution which does honour to the founders, may be handed down to the latest ages, firm and inviolate.

LAW 1st

To the execution of the Laws, and the several duties of the Society, a President, Clerk, and Treasurer shall be chosen.

LAW 2nd

The President shall be invested with the prerogative of convening the Members of this fraternity when he shall deem it expedient; of maintaining order when convened; and of giving a decision in case of a division of voices.

LAW 3rd

The duty of the Clerk shall be to keep a list of the Members, and fair and legible Books in writing, containing the proceedings of the Society.

LAW 4th

The duty of a Treasurer shall be to keep accurate accounts of the fund of the Society which shall always be laid before it the first meeting in the months of March, June, September and December.

LAW 5th

The youngest member residing in College shall be Sergeant whose office is to summon the members when a meeting shall be called.

LAW 6th

In case of necessity or necessary absence of the President the chair shall be filled by election or succession.

LAW 7th

In all cases of election the matter shall be determined by Ballot.

LAW 8th

Five members shall perform at every session, one shall write a dissertation, two in opposite composition, and the other two shall dispute extemporaneously on the same subject.

FACSIMILE OF THE PHI BETA KAPPA CHARTER

For text of the charter see pages 47-51

Dear Sir, I have the honor to receive your kind letter, and in reply to inform you that I have not the pleasure to know any of the persons mentioned in your letter.

I am sorry to hear that you are not a member of the Society, and that you are not acquainted with any of the persons mentioned in your letter. I am sure that you will be glad to hear that I am a member of the Society, and that I am acquainted with many of the persons mentioned in your letter.

I am sure that you will be glad to hear that I am a member of the Society, and that I am acquainted with many of the persons mentioned in your letter. I am sure that you will be glad to hear that I am a member of the Society, and that I am acquainted with many of the persons mentioned in your letter.

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LAW 9th

Three members shall be appointed as Judges of the compositions, who shall inform the ensuing meeting of their determination; that such performances as are thought worthy of the honour, may be preserved.

LAW 10th

When either of the Judges declaim, a temporary successor as Judge shall be appointed.

LAW 11th

The non-attendance of any member in the evening he is appointed to declaim, subjects him to the punishment of six shillings, and on any other evening to the penalty of three shillings, unless his excuse shall be deemed sufficient by the Society.

LAW 12th

Every Member who desires to propose any thing to the Society, shall produce it in writing and particularly address the President.

LAW 13th

Every Member during a session shall behave with becoming decency; delivering his sentiments vicissively to prevent confusion.

LAW 14th

No Gentleman shall be initiated into this Society under the age of sixteen, nor then but by an unanimous concurrence of all the members by Ballot; neither shall anyone be expelled without the same.

LAW 15th

Every member after being properly initiated shall pay to the Treasurer Six shillings, and shall be obliged to procure for himself a medal wholly corresponding with those of the Fraternity.

LAW 16th

A majority of three members shall be the fewest for the execution of business.

LAW 17th

A regular meeting shall be held once a fortnight at 7 o'clock P. M., in Summer, and 6 in Winter.

LAW 18th

The violation of any of the Laws enacted or to be enacted, except such as have the fine annexed to them, subjects the violator to the discretionary punishment of the Society.

LAW 19th

At the first meeting in June annually two members shall be chosen to prepare Orations upon any suitable subject given by the Society to be delivered at the celebration of the anniversary.

LAW 20th

If any Member of this Society be heard to express sentiments inimical to the same, he shall be informed against at the ensuing Meeting, when, after being heard he shall be subject to being censured, fined, or even expelled, if the Fraternity deem it expedient.

LAW 21st

No member of this Society shall be punished upon any accusation whatever, without being first heard with his accusant confronting him.

LAW 22nd*

Every thing proposed at any meeting (Initiation and such business as cannot be cancelled, excepted) shall first be discussed in a Committee of the whole in form following.

The President for the time being after taking his seat and having the order of last meeting, and the appointments of declaimants on the present, read by the Clerk, shall on motion made resign the chair to some Member not immediately interested in the debate, which member while Chairman shall have all the authority and privileges of the President vested in him. When all the business is finished, the committee shall rise and the proceedings of the same being read by the Clerk, the Society may then alter, amend or confirm them; after which they shall be assigned by the President or in his absence, by the Vice-President and then be deemed valid. [*End of the Laws. The minutes of February 27th continued on page 35*].

*This was not in the code as adopted February 29, 1779, but was added nearly a year later. See the minute of December 2, 1779. The adoption of this Law resulted in a marked change in the method of conducting the meetings.

Messrs. Baker, Moore, and Roane, being recommended to this Society as worthy members, were ballotted for and received in due form.

A Letter was received from our worthy Brother, Mr. John Stuart in which was inclosed twelve shillings which was to purchase a Testament for the Society, but as the Society had been presented with one from Mr. John Nivison, it was put into the Treasury.

The business of the night being finished, an adjournment took place.

At a Meeting of this Society on March 13th, 1779, according to appointment, Messrs. Stuart and Brown delivered their Compositions and Messrs. Bowdoin and Eyre argued.

Upon examination of the Treasurer's accounts there was found to be £18, 8s. in the Treasury.

Mr. Wm. Stith being recommended to this Society as a worthy Member, was ballotted for and initiated in due form.

Messrs. Brent and Clements were appointed to produce compositions, inquiring whether Agriculture or Merchandise was most advantageous to a State.

Messrs. Baker and Ballindine were appointed to argue on the same subject.

The business of the evening being finished, adjournment took place.

At a meeting on Saturday, March 27th, 1779. The Judges having examined the compositions produced at the last meeting, Mr. Brown's was deemed by them worthy of being preserved, and was accordingly preserved.

Mr. William Stuart being recommended as a worthy member of this Society was ballotted for and initiated in due form.

Messrs. Brent and Clements, according to appointment, produced their compositions.

Mr. Ballendine being excused from arguing on account of his situation, and Mr. Baker, the other disputant, being absent, the subject was discussed by the Members.

Messrs. Ballindine and Moore were appointed to produce compositions inquiring whether Brutus was justifiable in having his

and Messrs. Coan & Tubb argued
 Mr. John James Beckley being recommended
 as a worthy member of this Society was balloted
 for and it was resolved that he should be
 initiated on Monday Evening for his initiation
 Messrs. Baker and Stuart were appointed being
 concerned in introducing into the cause and
 danger of Society, Messrs. Heath and Holzinger
 argued on the same subject.
 The business of the evening being finished
 an adjournment took place.
 At a meeting held the 12th of April to obtain
 members, Mr. John James Beckley was initiated
 and from
 At a Meeting held the 13th Mr. Thomas
 Savidge being recommended as a worthy mem-
 ber of this Society was balloted for & initi-
 ated on Tuesday evening Mr. Bowdoin being
 appointed to depart for Europe requesting

PAGE TWENTY-FIVE OF THE ORIGINAL RECORDS

Messrs. Beckley and Savage elected and initiated

sons executed. Messrs. Roane and Stith were appointed to argue on the same subject.

The business of the Evening being finished, an adjournment took place.

At a Meeting on Saturday, the tenth of April, as our President was absent, a temporary one being ballotted for, Mr. Hite was appointed.

According to appointment, Messrs. Ballindine and Moore produced their compositions, and Messrs. Roane and Stith argued.

Mr. John James Beckley being recommended as a worthy member of this Society, was ballotted for, and it was resolved that there shall be a meeting on Monday Evening for his initiation.

Messrs. Baker and Stuart were appointed to bring Compositions enquiring into the cause and origin of Society. Messrs. Heath and Fitzhugh to argue on the same subject.

The business of the evening being finished, an adjournment took place.

At a meeting April 12th, agreeable to appointment, Mr. John James Beckley was initiated in due form.

At a Meeting April the 19th, Mr. Thomas Savage being recommended as a worthy member of this Society, was ballotted for and Initiated in due form. Mr. Bowdoin being about to depart for Europe, requested the company of the Society at the Raleigh, where he gave them a very elegant Entertainment. After many toasts suitable to the Occasion, the Evening was spent by the Members in a manner which indicated the highest esteem for their departing Friend, mixed with sorrow for his intended Absence and Joy for his future prospects in Life.

April 24th, 1779.

According to appointment, Mr. Stuart produced. The other gentlemen being absent the subject was not discussed.

Messrs. Heath and Hall making the Society acquainted with the reason of their absence at the last meeting, were excused.

Messrs. Beckley and Savage were appointed to bring in Compositions enquiring whether a wise state hath any interest nearer at Heart than the Education of the Youth. An adjournment.

Pursuant to summons from the President for a meeting of the

Φ B K,* eleven Members convened at College Wednesday Evening, May 5th, 1779. In absence of the President, Mr. Hall is proposed pro Tem.; and on Ballot received a majority of votes.

Whereupon he took the chair accordingly.

J. J. Beckley is in like manner proposed and appointed Clerk.

Mr. Hite being about to leave College, begs Leave to resign the Office of Treasurer, and desires that his Acct's may be examined.

Ordered to be referred to a Committee. Mr. Brent and Mr. Stuart to retire and report immediately.

Committee reported accounts fairly stated, and Cash in Hand £18.19.8 with a Balance due the Treasury £4.10.

Ordered to transfer Cash in Hand to the next Treasurer, with the Accts.

The Society proceeds to appoint a Treasurer. Mr. Stuart being proposed on Ballot, received a majority of Votes.

Mr. President, Mr. Nivison, and Mr. Nivison† absent and ordered to be noted.

Adjourned till meeting in Course.

Saturday, May 4th,‡ 1779.

Mr. President and Mr. Nivison offered reasons to excuse their non-attendance at last meeting, which were admitted as sufficient.

Mr. John Page and Mr. Henry Blunt§ were severally recommended as worthy Members of this Society, and on a Ballot taken, Mr. Page was unanimously elected and initiated in due form. Mr. Blunt, on a Ballot taken for him, was rejected, three ballots being returned with the word *con*.

Mr. Savage and Mr. Beckley delivered compositions pro and con on the question whether a wise State hath any Interest nearer at hand than the Education of Youth?

*This is the first time in the records that the Greek initials are used as the name of the society. Note that it is "the Φ B K," not the Φ B K Society. It would seem that in the discussions that led to the preparation of the ritual the thought of the members as to the name of the organization was crystallized. At any rate the minutes are consistent with the usage of the ritual and the Code of Laws. This is the first occasion when the number of members present at a meeting is recorded.

†Dr. Tyler suggests that *Mr. Morison* was intended.

‡This should be May 8th, as the 5th, as noted above, was Wednesday.

§This is the first occasion when a member balloted for was rejected.

Mr. Stuart and Mr. Heath argued on the same question.

Ordered that the Treasurer be directed to furnish candles and such other conveniences for the accommodation of the meetings as may be necessary, placing the same to proper account, and taking Vouchers for the disbursements.

It being suggested that it might tend to promote the designs of this Institution and redound to the honor and advantage thereof at the same time, that others more remote or distant will be attached thereto,* Resolved, that leave be given to prepare the form or Ordinance of a Charter party, to be entrusted with such two or more brothers of the Φ B K, as to a General meeting shall, on due application for the same, be thought to merit such a trust; with delegated power in the plan and principles therein laid down, to constitute, establish and initiate a fraternity correspondent to this, and that a Committee be appointed of Mr. President, Mr. Stuart and Mr. Beckley to prepare a draught of the same and report at next meeting.

An adjournment took place. . . . †

Saturday, June 5th, 1779.

A meeting of the Φ B K was convened by summons from the President.

Present, five members.

Mr. Stuart appointed President pro tempore.

Mr. Beckley, Clerk.

*It would be of interest to know who made the initial suggestion respecting fraternity expansion. The records are entirely silent respecting his identity. Fortunately we have a letter written fifty years later by William Short, Jr., the president, embodying his impressions and giving large credit to Samuel Hardy. We quote a portion of the letter. It was written to Edward Everett in 1831.

"I remember yet my surprise when he communicated to me his plan for extending branches of our society to the different States. It was the first symptom of anything coming from him indicative of his mind. He expatiated on the great advantages that would attend the binding together of the several States.

"I happened at that time to be acquainted with a gentleman from the eastward who was private tutor in the family of one of my friends. And as I knew he then contemplated returning to his native State, I suggested to Mr. Hardy the propriety of bringing forward his plan before the Society so that the Charter might be ready to be sent by this gentleman. It was accordingly done. And if my memory serves me a charter of the same kind was sent at the same time to New Haven."

†Some words follow that are too indistinct to be deciphered.

Mr. William Cabell is recommended as a worthy member of this Society, and on a Ballot taken he is unanimously elected and initiated in due form.

Ordered that further time be given to the Committee appointed to prepare the draft of a Charter party and that they report to the next meeting.

An apology was offered for Mr. Heath's non-attendance, which, being deemed sufficient, he is excused.

Mr. Hartwell Cocke and Mr. Brown appointed to declaim, Mr. Stuart and Mr. Beckley to argue on Question: Whether an Agrarian Law is consistent with the Principles of a wise Republic.

An adjournment took place.

A General Meeting of the Φ B K.

June 12, 1779, being in course.

Mr. Brent is elected President pro tempore, and took the chair accordingly.

Mr. Beckley, in like manner, as Clerk.

Mr. Cocke and Brown offered declamations on question, Whether an agrarian law is consistent with the principles of a wise republic. Mr. Stuart and Mr. Beckley argued on same question.

Committee appointed reported form of Charter party to lay till next meeting for consideration of the members.

An adjournment took place.

At a meeting June 27th

The Clerk being absent, Mr. Brown was appointed pro Tempore. The committee formerly appointed, having been prevented by unavoidable accidents from completing the Business relative to the Charter, prayed for an additional allowance of time. Upon a motion made it was agreed to.

The Treasurer being about to leave College for some time, desires that his accounts might be examined by a committee and a successor to him appointed.

Ordered to be referred to a committee, Mr. Brent and Mr. Brown to retire and report immediately.

Committee reported that the accounts were fairly stated, and cash in hand £21, 19. 8., with a ballance due the Treasury of

£6. 0. 0. Ordered to transfer the cash in hand to next Treasurer with the Ballance due.

Proceeded to appoint a Treasurer. Mr. Wm. Cabell being recommended was accordingly appointed.

Resolved, that as the Price of Initiation hitherto paid is inadequate to the purpose it be augmented to Ten Dollars.*

Messrs. Roane and Stuart were appointed to bring in Compositions enquiring whether anything is more dangerous to Civile Liberty in a free State than a standing army in time of Peace.

Messrs. Page and Savage to argue on the same subject.

The Business of the evening being finished an adjournment took place.

At a meeting called by the President July 5th, 1779.

Mr. Beckley reported form of Charter party† read and referred to a Committee of the Whole,‡ Mr. Brown in the Chair, reported a debate by paragraphs and agreed to.

Resolved, that the Charter party do pass.

Mr. Short presented additional laws, read and agreed to.§ Mr. Beckley offered excuse for non-attendance at last meeting, admitted as sufficient. Mr. Fitzhugh in like manner excused for his first non-attendance and fined for twice not attending.

Adjourned.

At a meeting held in Course, July 10th, 1779.

The Clerk being absent, Mr. H. Cocke was appointed pro tempore.

Mr. Stuart and Mr. Roane brought in their compositions as by the last meeting appointed, and likewise Mr. Savage and Mr. Page argued on the same.

The Persons appointed to examine and return whether the

*Notice that though the treasurer has been reporting balances in English currency the initiaiton fee is stated in dollars. It may also be worthy of note that William Cabell had been a member just three weeks when he was chosen treasurer.

†Why this document was called a "Charter party" has not been made clear.

‡This is the first occasion where the familiar parliamentary method of the "Committee of the Whole" was used in Phi Beta Kappa. Five months later it was made a regular method of procedure. See Law 22.

§We have no means of knowing what was provided by these laws. They may possibly be those numbered 19, 20, and 21 of the code printed above, page 34.

Pieces delivered be worthy or no to be kept, two of which have now left College, there being two appointed, one of which is pro tempore, the other is appointed constantly to act, vizt. Mr. Brown to act constantly, and Mr. Beckley pro tempore.

Resolved, that the Clerk provide an Ink stand and return the price of the same to the Treasurer, which may be reported the next meeting.

The persons appointed to form a seal* for this Hon: Society are Mr. Short, Mr. Brown and Mr. Bickley.

Ordered that Mr. Hardy have this Charter† by the unanimous voice of the members now met. The meeting to be called The Βῆτα.

Mr. Cabell and Mr. Fitzhugh appointed to bring in compositions the next meeting, and Mr. Short and Mr. Cocke to argue whether Parents have a right to prevent the marriage of Children after entering into contract. The business being finished, an adjournment took place.

At a meeting called by the President July 11th, 1779.

The form of Charter Party being again referred to the consideration of a committee, several alterations were suggested as necessary in the same by Mr. Short. The amendments proposed were read in their proper places, and were agreed to.

Mr. William Steward‡ then petitioned the Society that a form

*This seal was evidently secured in order to confirm the charters sent to Harvard and Yale and was so used, by impressing the design upon melted wax. Unfortunately the wax has become broken on the Harvard charter, hence the device cannot be made out. What we know of it is contained in letters of William H. H. Stuart, son of Archibald Stuart. One of them written to the editor in 1890 reads, respecting the seal, in part as follows: "It was of brass. The face of the seal was about the size of a quarter of a dollar, and the Greek letters *Phi Beta Kappa* were engraved on it. On the obverse side was a socket for a wooden handle, which had been removed. I have been sorry to learn that the seal has since been lost or mislaid. It was probably in the College building, and was destroyed when that building was burned during the late Civil War." The entire letter may be seen in *THE KEY*, vol. ii, pp. 464-67.

†It was appropriate that Mr. Hardy, the prime mover in the matter of expansion, should have the first charter. But the rule providing that charters should be given to "two or more" members was broken in the very first instance, as in every other.

‡This should be Stuart. Note the certificate of character here given Mr. Stuart, especially as he had been a member less than four months. The committee appointed to copy the charter and laws were industrious, for the documents were ready the following evening.

of the Charter party should be granted him. The Society, considering his zealous attachment to her interests and the particular attention he having paid to her laws, unanimously resolved that the same be granted him and that the meeting be called Γαμμα.

Resolved, that a copy of the form of Charty party and also of the laws be drawn off and delivered to Mr. W. Stuart. Resolved, also, that Mr. Savage and Mr. Cabell be appointed to do the same.

Adjourned till to-morrow night.

July 12th: The Φ Β Κ met agreeable to adjournment. Pursuant to a former resolution the form of Charter party was delivered Mr. Stuart, together with the Code of laws drawn off according to direction.

Adjourned till day in course.

At a meeting held in course July 24th, 1779.

The Clerk being absent, Mr. Cabell was appointed pro tempore.

Mr. Fitzhugh and Mr. Cabell brought in their compositions agreeable to appointment and Mr. Short and Mr. Cocke argued on the same.

Upon a motion made, ordered that the fines instead of one dollar and five, as they now stand, be raised to ten dollars and twenty.*

Messrs. Brown and Brent appointed to bring in compositions. Messrs. Roane and Beckley to argue the subject, "Whether the Institution of the Ostracism was Legal."

An adjournment.

At a meeting called by the President July 31st, 1779.

The Clerk being absent, Mr. Brent was appointed pro tempore. Mr. Elijah Parmale is recommended as a worthy Member of this Society, and on a Ballot taken he is unanimously elected and initiated in due form.

An adjournment took place.

At a Meeting of the Φ Β Κ, August 7th, 1779.

The Clerk being absent, Mr. W. Cabell was appointed to act in his stead.

The Gentlemen appointed to compose, brought in their com-

*In the large increase of fines and dues will be seen a response to the depreciation in the currency that marked the closing years of the Revolutionary War.

positions and those that were to support them offered their declamations.

Resolved that Mr. Brent and Mr. H. Cocke be appointed to procure a box of such dimensions as may appear most proper to deposit the papers in belonging to this Society; also they procure an inkstand for the use of the same.

Mr. Beckley and Mr. Brent to write, Mr. Savage and Mr. Page to argue. The subject of disputation to be whether Commonwealths or Monarchies are most subject to Seditions and Commotions.

Adjourned.

At a Meeting of the Φ B K, August 14, 1779, John Beckley offered excuse for non-attendance at the two last meetings, which were admitted as sufficient.

Mr. Hartwell Cocke in like manner.

Mr. Brent was called on but offered no reasonable excuse, and was thereupon fined according to law.

On the motion of Mr. Cabell,* the form of a Charter party is granted him by duplicate to be signed according to Law. The meeting hereby established to be called the $\Delta\epsilon\lambda\tau\alpha$.

Adjourned.

At a meeting called October 25th, 1779.

The President not present, Mr. John Nivison was appointed pro tempore and likewise Mr. Hartwell Cocke was appointed Clerk pro tempore.

Mr. Richard Cocke was balloted for, there being a dissenting voice, he was not initiated.† The business being finished an adjournment took place.

At a meeting of the Φ B K, October 29th, 1779.

The president being absent, one was balloted for a majority appearing in favour of Mr. Brown, he resumed the chair.

The Clerk being likewise absent one was balloted for and a majority was for Mr. Nivison.

In consequence of one of our Laws, we proceeded to the choice

*Mr. Cabell had been a member only two weeks and two days when this charter was placed in his keeping.

†It will be seen that the rule requiring absolute unanimity in elections to membership was fully enforced. This is the second occasion when a candidate was rejected.

of two gentlemen to declaim on the Anniversary. Mr. Short and Mr. Brown were elected for that purpose.

Mr. Fitzhugh and Mr. Cocke to write, and Messrs. Stuart and Brent to argue.

The business of the evening being finished, an adjournment took place.

Meeting convened the 13th November, 1779.

Ordered that the Gentlemen appointed to declaim and argue at this meeting be continued therefor at the ensuing meeting.

A subject is directed on the following question: Whether a General Assessment for the support of Religious Establishments is or is not repugnant to the principles of a Republican Government.

Mr. Brown discharged from appointment at last meeting to declaim on the Anniversary, and a Ballot taken for another person in his stead—Mr. Stuart elected.

Ordered that summonses issue to convene the absent members on the Anniversary.

Various Causes suggesting to this Society the Necessity of appointing a vice-president of this Body to reside in College, and the insufficiency of former laws having occasioned delays in Business and other inconveniences therefrom; It is hereby declared a future law of this Society, that a standing vice-president be appointed who shall have the same powers, in the absence of the efficient president that is given by Law, and it is ordered that this be added to the standing Laws of the Society.* So much of any former law as is repugnant to this is hereby repealed.

Mr. George Brent was recommended as a gentleman worthy the honor of admission as a member of this Society, and on a Ballot taken he was unanimously admitted and initiated in due form.

The Society proceeded to Ballot for a Vice-president, and on examining the Ballots, Mr. Stuart is elected.

Ordered: Mr. Fitzhugh withdrawing himself be noted.

An adjournment took place.

*This addition to the laws was not incorporated in the code already printed.

At a meeting convened November 27th, 1779. The Clerk being absent Mr. Cabell was appointed to act pro tempore. The Gentlemen appointed to the usual exercises performed agreeable to custom.

Ordered that Saturday next be celebrated as the anniversary of this Society.

Ordered also that Messrs. Beckley and Ballindine be appointed to make a proper provision for the evening of the 4th December, for the entertainments of this Society. Ordered that the fine of five shillings be inflicted on Mr. Fitzhugh for withdrawing himself on the evening of the 13th November.

Mr. Beckley excused from performing at the next meeting from the multiplicity of business which pressed him. Messrs. Ballindine and Roane appointed to declaim and Messrs. Savage and Page to argue. The theme of Disputation whether Theatrical Exhibitions are advantageous to States or the Contrary.

The business of the evening being over an adjournment took place.

At a meeting called by the Vice-President December 2d, 1779.

Mr. Cabell agreeable to Law, laid his accounts as Treasurer before the meeting, and desired that they might be examined.

Ordered to be referred to a Committee. Mr. Brown and Mr. Brent to retire and report immediately.

Committee reported accounts fairly stated and cash in hand £23. 9. 6. and a balance due to Treasury £6. 17.

Mr. Cabell about to leave College for some time begged that a Treasurer might be appointed to act pro tempore.

Ordered, that Mr. Brown be appointed to do the same. Introduced a Law which is ordered to be added to the Standing laws of the Society, and may be seen under XXII.*

Adjourned till Saturday evening.

Saturday, the 4th of December, 1779.

A meeting of the Φ B K was convened at six o'clock p. m., being the Eve of the Anniversary to Commemorate that day, at Mr. Davenports in Williamsburg, present, Mr. President and twelve other members.

*This law was incorporated in the code, and gave a new characteristic to the meetings during the following year.

Mr. President left the chair and Mr. Fitzhugh was called to the chair for the Evening.

Mr. President and Mr. Stuart agreeable to appointment of a former meeting exhibited their Declamations on given subjects.

Petition of Mr. Parmelie for a Charter Party to Institute a Branch of this Society at Cambridge* in Massachusetts, granted: To be called *Επισιλον*.

Mr. Brown, Mr. Bickley, Mr. Cabell appointed to examine exhibitions and report to next meeting.

Adjourned till to-morrow evening. W. SHORT JR. President.

[*The minutes continued on page 51*].

“Form of a Charter Party†

The Members of the Φ Β Κ, of the meeting *Αλφα* of William and Mary College, Virginia, to their well and truly beloved Brother Elisha Parmeli.

Greeting

Whereas it is repugnant to the liberal principles of Societies that they should be confined to any particular place, men or De-

*Here for the first time we have a statement respecting the location of the Branch for which a charter was asked. While the date is December 4, it was in reality the anniversary meeting, the 5th being Sunday, not a suitable time for “jollity and mirth.” It seems evident that the importance of this matter of preparing a charter for Harvard was deemed so great that it overshadowed the formal anniversary exercises, and the discussions were so prolonged that a special meeting was called the following evening to conclude the matter, as the minute of the following session will show. At that meeting, December 5, 1779, the form of charter was revised by the introduction of “some innovations.” Just what they were we are not told, but it is not difficult to gather their import when the Harvard Charter is studied. For instead of designating the new branch the *Επισιλον* as stated in the resolution it is designated the Alpha of Massachusetts Bay, and given coordinate rank with the original society in the matter of granting charters for other branches within its own state. These changes were to give the Phi Beta Kappa “an extensive footing” in that commonwealth.

As we read the Charter as here printed we should bear in mind that the official title of the state was then “Massachusetts Bay.” The constitution as revised the following year omitted the word “Bay” from the title. Hence when organized the year following the branch became the Alpha of Massachusetts.

†The text of the charter is here printed from the original document, now preserved in the Harvard College Library. The title of the Branch is, however, inserted in two places where it had been omitted. It differs only in trifling details of spelling and capitalization from the copy transcribed in the Harvard Chapter records. Respecting the document itself an interesting bit of history should be recorded.

scription of men, and as the same should be extended to the wise and virtuous of every degree and of whatever Country;—

We the Members and Brothers of the Φ B K, an Institution founded on literary principles, being willing and desirous to propagate the same, have at the Instance and petition of our good Brother Elisha Parmeli of the University of Cambridge in the State of Massachusetts Bay, and from the confidence we repose in

In some way, not now known, it became separated from the chapter records and had virtually been forgotten, when Hon. John C. Ropes, Harvard '57, of Boston, the distinguished historian of the Civil War, discovered it in a sale of memorabilia and purchased it. Though a member of the Harvard Chapter Mr. Ropes chose to return it to William and Mary and sent it to Col. William Lamb of Norfolk, Va., then president of the Alpha of Virginia, which he had been largely instrumental in reorganizing two years before. Colonel Lamb exhibited the charter at a meeting of the Society held at Williamsburg, February 18, 1896, thus creating quite a sensation. The Alpha of Virginia generously voted to restore it to the Alpha of Massachusetts and sent Colonel Lamb the following year to make the presentation. He executed this trust at the Anniversary meeting, July 1, 1897, personally delivering it to the officers of the chapter before the company assembled in Sanders Theatre.

The charter is carefully written on one large sheet of paper, $11\frac{1}{2}$ by $18\frac{3}{4}$ inches, there being fifty-two lines of writing, with ten additional lines on which the signatures of nineteen members appear.

In the lower right hand corner a bow of pink and blue ribbon appears, the pieces being inserted through two slits in the paper having been tied, very probably, as Colonel Lamb suggests, by some "fair Virginia hand." The two ends of the blue ribbon were joined by wax on which the seal of Phi Beta Kappa had been impressed; but this has become broken, only portions adhering, so that the design of the seal cannot be distinguished.

Respecting the color of one of the ribbons there has been a difference of opinion. Colonel Lamb believed it to be green, and even now, because of its faded condition, the color cannot be asserted with absolute positiveness. The question, however, would seem to be settled by the action of the Alpha of Massachusetts, for on June 19, 1782, within ten months of its organization, it voted "that all the members at the celebration of the Anniversary, have their medals suspended with pink and sky blue ribband." This action was taken by men who were familiar with the charter, and knew the colors it bore. The Harvard Chapter has used these colors consistently from that early date. So far as we are aware Phi Beta Kappa has never officially adopted any colors, though the propriety of so doing was suggested at a recent council. One proposal met with some favor, i. e., that white, the color of the College of William and Mary, be added to the pink and blue of the original Society. So far as now known the Alpha of Connecticut has not adopted any definite colors.

The Harvard Chapter has had made a full sized facsimile of the charter, and presents a copy duly signed by the chapter officers to each new member. A reduced facsimile, about six by ten inches was printed in THE PHI BETA KAPPA KEY, vol. 1, no. 4, pp. 24-25, but the plate from which it was printed was destroyed by a fire in the printing office in which it was stored. The facsimile in this number is slightly larger than the one destroyed.

the Integrity, Discretion, and good Conduct of our said Brother, unanimously agreed and resolved to give and delegate, and we do therefore, by these our present letters of Charter-Party, give and delegate by unanimous consent to you the said Elisha Parmeli, the following Rights, Privileges, Authority and Power that is to say

1^{stly} That at the University of Cambridge you establish a Fraternity of the Φ B K, to consist of not less than three persons of Honor, Probity, and good Demeanor, which shall be denominated the $\text{Αλφ}α$ of Massachusetts Bay. And as soon as such number of three shall be chosen, you shall proceed to hold a Meeting, to be called the Foundation Meeting and appoint your Officers according to Law.

2^{ndly} That the form of Initiation and Oath of Secrecy, shall be, as well in the first, as in every other instance, those prescribed by Law and none other.

3^{dly} That the Governing Rule of your conduct and that of the Society be to further and promote the fundamental principles and maxims of the Φ B K, to the best of your knowledge; and above all you are to be careful to promote friendship and union among one another, as well as to bring it forth in a Communion with us here; so far as it may be practicable and convenient.

4^{thly} That the Code of Laws herewith transmitted, being the Laws of the Φ B K, $\text{Αλφ}α$ Society, or such of them as the Society shall approve, be considered as conclusive and binding. And except in cases where local convenience alone may make it necessary, are not to be altered or liable to Innovation.

5^{thly} That everything suggested by you as essential to promote the generous design of our Institution or necessary to be enacted into a Law, and all correspondencies shall be through the President of each Society by means of the Table herewith transmitted. Which Table we charge you to preserve with the utmost care, observing to be thoroughly acquainted with the use of the same lest misunderstandings should arise in our Correspondence.

6^{thly} That you by this Charter be invested with the privileges of the Meeting $\text{Αλφ}α$ of Virginia in granting Charters for the establishment of other Meetings any where within your State of Massachusetts Bay which meetings are to stand in the same rela-

tion to you that the Junior Branches of this Society stand in to the meeting $\text{Αλφ}\alpha$ here.

7^{thly} That the Arcana of this Society be held inviolate.

8^{thly} That the Members of the Alpha of Massachusetts Bay each of them be provided with a medal of the same form and kind with that herewith transmitted you, without any alteration whatever and that the token of Salutation be the same with that used here, observing to make it known as a general means of Introduction to the Members of the $\text{Αλφ}\alpha$, or any of the Junior Branches.

9^{thly} That once in every year for the proper communication between the Societies, to wit, on your Foundation day, you take a List of your Members and transmit the same as soon as possible to our President, noting your Officers, and such new Members as have been initiated since the last return with the name of their County or Place of abode.

10^{thly} That in everything conducive to the great ends of our Institution you correspond freely and without reserve, stating fully and specially all such matters and things as you may judge worthy of our regard and attention.

11^{thly}* That a power be retained by this Society, to make such farther and additional Laws for the Government and better regulation of the Alpha of Massachusetts as we may judge most conducive to promote the general welfare of the whole; and that in cases considered as Constitutional, the same be declared to be within our Power either for alteration or amendment.

12^{thly} That we do hereby ratify and Confirm this Charter and all the Rights, Privileges, Authority and Power incident to the same, unto you the said Elisha Parmeli the Members of the Alpha of Massachusetts and their Successors forever, confidently relying on the prudence and discretion of you our Brother; to secure the same with our Reputations and fortunes.

Witness our hands and the Seal of the Society this the fourth day of December, 1779.

**The eleventh Article to be void as far as it regards the Superiority of this Society over that of Cambridge.*

WILLIAM SHORT, JR., President	THOMAS HALL
ARCHIBALD STUART, V. Pres.	SAMUEL HARDY
WILLIAM CABELL, Treasurer	JOHN BROWN
JOHN JAMES BECKLEY, Sec'ry	DANIEL C. BRENT
THEODORICK FITZHUGH	THOMAS WM. BALLENDINE
JOHN MORISON	SPENCER ROANE
JOHN ALLEN	WILLIAM STITH
JOHN NIVISON	WILLIAM STUART
HARTWELL COCKE	THOMAS LITTLETON SAVAGE
	JOHN PAGE [SEAL.]

[*The minutes of proceedings continued*].

At a meeting convened on the evening of the 5th December, 1779.

Mr. President leaving the chair called Mr. Brown to the same. Mr. President suggesting the necessity of making some innovations in the form of Charter Party, to introduce it properly and give it an extensive footing, in the State of Massachusetts Bay, proposes some amendments to the same which being read in their proper places were accorded to.

Resolved, that so much of Mr. Parmelie's petition as relates to the establishment of a Phi: Society to be conducted in a less mysterious manner than the Φ B K be not agreed to as the design appears to be incompatible with the principles of this meeting.

Ordered, however, that Mr. Parmelie be thanked for the proof which he has given of his Zeal by openly communicating his Sentiments to this Society.

Mr. President and Mr. Cocke appointed to do the same. Adjournment took place. W. SHORT JR. President.

At a meeting called by the President December 9, '79.

Mr. President leaving the chair, called Mr. Stuart to the same. The Clerk being absent Mr. Brent is appointed pro tempore.

Whereas this Society is desirous that the Φ B K should be extended to each of the United States.

Resolved, that a second Charter be granted to our Brother, Mr. Elisha Parmelé for establishing a meeting of the same in the College of New Haven in Connecticut, to be of the same Rank,

to have the same Power, and to enjoy the same Privileges with that which he is empowered to fix in the University of Cambridge. To be called the Ζήτα.*

An adjournment took place. W. SHORT President.

At a meeting in course Saturday the 11th December, 1779.

Agreeable to usage a Committee was formed, Mr. Brent as chairman. Messrs. Ballindine and Roane delivered Declamations on the subject given at the late meeting, the same was argued and after some discussion the subject was postponed.

Mr. Cocke excused for first non-attendance.

Same for second non-attendance and not writing excused.

Same for third non-attendance at third meeting fined. Mr. Beckley fined for once non-attendance. Mr. Fitzhugh's non-attendance noted.†

W. SHORT JR. President.

The inclemency of the winter season and recess of the students and other members of the Φ Β Κ having interrupted the regular meetings of this Society, a few of the members remaining in Williamsburg convened on Saturday the 4th March when a subject for Declamation on the same day se'ennight being agreed on a meeting was called and held on Saturday the 11th March, being the day of meeting in course (as well for this as other business). Present, Mr. President and six other members.

Mr. Nivison and Mr. Short delivered declamations on the

*The designation of this branch or meeting the Ζήτα was evidently a clerical error, for the charter when issued was consistent with the one just granted and designated the new meeting the Alpha of Connecticut. Of this we are sure even though the charter itself is not now in existence. Note that it was just seven months after the idea of expansion was first mentioned, May 8, 1779, that the plan was completed whereby the Phi Beta Kappa "should be extended to each of the United States."

†Thus was brought to a close the most important year of Phi Beta Kappa's early history. In it the laws were thoroughly revised, a ritual perfected, a policy of expansion worked through, and a charter for the establishment of a branch at Harvard, the oldest and most prominent institution of learning in the colonies, definitely voted. Before the calendar year closed the charter for Yale had also been voted, and the documents prepared, signed, sealed, and placed in the hands of Elisha Parmele, the only member who was not of Virginia.

During this year thirteen members were received. Thomas Clements in January; Thomas W. Ballendine, Richard Booker, John Moore, and Spencer Roane in February; William Stith and William Stuart in March; John J. Beckley and Thomas Savage in May; William Cabell in June; Elisha Parmele in July; and George Brent in November. The total membership at the conclusion of the year was thirty-seven.

question "Is a Public or Private Education More Advantageous."

Mr. Cocke and Mr. Stuart argued on the same question, and after discussion the same being fully investigated was closed.

Ordered that a Charter party be granted to Jno. Beckley by the unanimous vote of this meeting to be denominated the *Hra*, and established at Richmond.*

Mr. Brown and Mr. Short appointed to declaim. Mr. Nevison and Mr. Cocke to argue at next meeting. Question: "Had William the Norman a Right to Invade England."

An adjournment took place. W. SHORT, President.

At a meeting of this Society Thursday the thirteenth of April, 1780. Present the President and seven members. Mr. Hartwell Cocke being absent the literary business was postponed.

Messrs. Short and Joseph Cabell being proposed as worthy members of this Society were balloted and received.

Ordered that a copy of the Charter be drawn off immediately and sent to Mr. Beckley, together with a letter of thanks.

The business of the evening being finished an adjournment took place.

At a meeting of this Society April 22nd, 1780.

Present all members except Mr. Cocke and Mr. Ballindine.

Mr. Brown and Mr. Short, according to a former order, delivered their declamations on the Question had Wm. the Norman a right to the Crown of Great Britain. Mr. Cocke being absent, Mr. Nevison delivered his Sentiments.

According to order of last meeting a charter party, together with a letter of Thanks was sent to Mr. Beckley.

That the business of this Society may be carried more regularly than of late, it is resolved that in future every Member who is fined by this Society for Non-attendance and neglects offering the money to the Treasurer immediately, shall be obliged to pay an interest of 25 per cent. monthly upon every such fine so long as he is in arrears.

*By this time the capital of the Commonwealth had been removed to Richmond and the doom of Williamsburg as a political center was sealed. Mr. Beckley was clerk of the House of Delegates, and evidently had in mind a meeting among his associates there. We have no knowledge that any of these proposed junior branches in Virginia were ever organized. At any rate none of them lived long enough to become known.

drawn & sent to Mr. Bieley.
 That the business of this Society may be carried
 more regularly than at late it is resolved, that in
 future every Member who is fined by this Society
 for nonattendance & neglect of office, the money
 to the Treasurer immediately, shall be obliged to
 pay an interest of 25% per cent monthly upon every
 such fine so long as he is in arrears.
 Mr. John Hart and Mr. Geo. E. Lybough ap-
 pointed a committee Mr. Broth. Hart & Mr. Ed-
 Balantine to argue the question, whether the
 execution of charters be first investigated?
 An adjournment
 1790
 At a meeting of this Society the 18 of May 1790
 Cap^t John Marshall being recommended as a good
 man who would make a worthy Member of this Society
 was balloted for & received
 Mess^{rs} Tho^s Lead & John Cabell being also recom-
 mended as worthy a seat in this Society were balloted
 for & received
 Mr. George Lee Tinsville respectfully a Motion
 to establish a branch of this Society in Lexington
 it was unanimously agreed upon that his request
 be granted & that the branch be denominated
 The Association of the City of Lexington being finished a
 resolution was passed

PAGE FORTY-TWO OF THE ORIGINAL RECORDS

Captain John Marshall, afterwards Chief Justice of the
 United States, initiated. A charter voted

Mr. John Stuart and Mr. Theodorick Fitzhugh appointed to declaim, Mr. Archibald Stuart and Mr. Thomas Ballindine to argue. The Question, Whether the Execution of Charles the first was justifiable?

An adjournment.

W. SHORT, President.

At a meeting of the Society the 18 of May, 1780.

Capt. John Marshall* being recommended as a gentleman who would make a worthy member of this Society was ballotted for and received.

Messrs. Thomas Lee and Landon Cabell being also recommended as worthy a seat in this Society, were ballotted for and received.

Mr. George Lee Turberville† requesting a Charter to establish a branch of this Society in Westmoreland, it was unanimously agreed upon that his request be granted, and that the branch be denominated the ©.

The business of the evening being finished an adjournment took place.

At a meeting in course Saturday, May 21st, 1780.

Mr. President leaving the chair, called Mr. Brown to the Same. Mr. John Stuart according to appointment delivered his Sentiments on the execution of Charles the 1st. Mr. Fitzhugh not being able to procure an author who has treated of this Subject said nothing on the occasion. Mr. Ballindine being absent, Mr. Archibald Stuart and gentlemen not interested on the occasion argued the same.

Mr. Wm. Cabell and Mr. Peyton Short appointed to declaim the Question whether any form of Government is more favourable to public virtue than a Commonwealth?

Mr. Joseph Cabell and Mr. Marshall to argue the same.

An adjournment.

W. SHORT, President.

*At this time John Marshall was nearly twenty-five years of age, being one of the number "not collegians" to whom the door of membership was opened by the resolution of December 10, 1778.

It is very probable that Bushrod Washington, a nephew of General George Washington, was admitted to membership at the same time with John Marshall for his name follows in the list of members, and precedes those of Thomas Lee and Landon Cabell who were admitted on that date.

†No record of Mr. Turberville's initiation appears in the records, nor is his name on the list of members. The charter granted him was the last on the list of proposed Virginia branches.

Meeting in course Saturday May 25th 1798 ⁽⁶³⁾
 President leaving of Chair called Mr Brown
 to of same. Mr John Stuart according to appoint-
 ment delivered his sentiments on of execution of
 Charles 1st Mr Fitzhugh not being able to procure
 an author who has treated of this Question Subject
 and nothing on of occasion. Mr Balcanhal being
 absent, Mr Archibald Stuart & Gentlemen not interested
 on of occasion argued of same
 Mr Wm Cabell & Mr Peyton Short appointed to decline
 of Question, whether any form of Government is more
 favorable to public virtue, than a Commonwealth.
 Mr Joseph Cabell & Mr Marshall to argue of same
 An adjournment
 Meeting in course Saturday June 13th 1798
 Mr President leaving of Chair called Mr Brown & Fitz-
 hugh to of same. Mr Wm Cabell according to order delivered
 his declaration on of Question give read Mr Peyton Short
 being unprepared was silent on of occasion. Mr Marshall
 & Gentlemen not immediately interested argued of same
 Capt Wm Pierce being recommended as a worthy person
 for of this Society, he was balloted for Officer according of
 the Society agreeable to one of of Fundamental Rules
 of this Society had his accounts before of same for of
 the year

PAGE FORTY-FIVE OF THE ORIGINAL RECORDS

Captain William Pierce initiated

At a meeting in course Saturday, June the 3rd, 1780.

Mr. President leaving the Chair called Mr. Fitzhugh to the same. Mr. Wm. Cabell, according to order, delivered his declamation on the Question given out. Mr. Peyton Short, being unprepared, was silent on the occasion.

Mr. Marshall and gentlemen not immediately interested argued the Question. Capt. Wm. Pierce being recommended as a worthy member of this Society, was ballotted for and received accordingly.

The Treasurer agreeable to one of the fundamental Laws of this Society, laid his accounts before the same for an examination.

Ordered that Messieurs John and Archibald* do examine the Treasurer's accounts by the meeting, when they shall make a report of the same.

Mr. Ballindine's excuse for his non-attendance at the last meeting being deemed sufficient, he was accordingly excused.

Mr. Peyton Short being called on to give his reasons for not delivering a declamation according to appointment gave such as were thought insufficient.

Ordered that Mr. Washington and Mr. Peyton Short bring in declamations at the ensuing meeting, the Question whether the rape of the Sabine women was just. Mr. Lee and Mr. Landon Cabell to argue the same.

At a meeting on Course Saturday, June the 17th, 1780.

The President being absent the Vice-President filled the chair.

Mr. Richard Bland Lee being recommended as a Gentleman worthy a seat in this Society was ballotted for and received.

The Vice president leaving the chair called Mr. Wm. Cabell to the same.

Mr. P. Short being absent, Mr. Washington alone delivered a declamation on the subject given out. Mr. Lee, Mr. Lan Cabell and Gentlemen not immediately interested, discussed the same. Mr. Richard Lee and Mr. John Stuart appointed to bring in declamations, and Mr. Wm. Short and Mr. Theodorick Fitzhugh to argue.

At a meeting in course, July the 1st, 1780.

*There is an evident omission here, as no surnames are given. It may be that Stuart is intended.

Mr. Wm. Madison and Mr. John Swan being recommended as Gentlemen worthy of a seat in this Society, were ballotted for and received.

The Vice President, leaving the chair, called Mr. Brown to the same.

Mr. Richard B. Lee and Mr. John Stuart, according to appointment, brought in declamations, the question, Whether Religion is necessary in Government. Mr. Short and Fitzhugh being absent, it was not argued.

Mr. Nivison and Mr. Spencer Roane appointed to declaim. Mr. Brent to argue.

An adjournment.

At a meeting of the Society, July 29th, 1780.

Mr. President, leaving the chair, called Mr. Wm. Cabell to the same.

According to appointment, Messieurs Nivison and Roane delivered their declamations, the Question, Whether in a civil War any person is justifiable in remaining Neuter.

Mr. Brown and Mr. Brent being unprepared, were silent, ordered that Mr. John Stuart who was appointed one of the Committee to examine the Treasurer's accounts, is now absent, that Mr. Richard Lee do supply his place, and that the Committee shall, at the ensuing meeting, make their report.

Mr. Archibald Stuart and Mr. John Brown to declaim.

Mr. Daniel Carol Brent and Mr. Thomas Ballindine to argue.

At a meeting in course, August the 12th, 1780. Conformable to Custom the Committee was framed. Mr. Roane, Chairman. Mr. Brown and Mr. Archibald Stuart, agreeable to order, delivered their Declamations. The Question, Whether Duelling ought to have toleration in this or any other free State. Mr. Brent and Mr. Ballendine argued the same.

The Committee to whom the Treasurer's accounts were referred, have examined the same and reported that there are £27. 4. 8. in the Treasury £24. 17. 0. in arrears.

Mr. Wm. Cabell and Mr. Joseph Cabell appointed to bring in declamations at the ensuing meeting. Mr. Bushrod Washington and Mr. Thomas Lee to argue.

An adjournment.

At a meeting in course, August 27th, 1780. Both the President and Vice President being indisposed, Mr. Brent was appointed. Agreeable to usage, a Committee was formed, Mr. Roane, Chairman. Mr. Wm. Cabell, according to appointment, delivered his declamation, the Question, Whether all our affection and principles are not in some measure deducible from self Love, declaring the Negative, Mr. Joseph Cabell being absent, nothing was offered in the affirmative. Mr. Washington reasoned extempory upon the same, Mr. Thomas Lee, his antagonist, being also absent.

Ordered that Mr. Landon Cabell and Mr. Wm. Pierce, bring in Declamations at the ensuing Meeting. Mr. Richard B. Lee and Mr. Wm. Madison to argue.

An adjournment.

At a meeting in course, September the 12th, 1780. Agreeable to custom the Committee was formed, Mr. Swan as Chairman.

Mr. Pierce and Mr. R. B. Lee being absent, the Question, whether Poligamy is a dictate of Nature or not, was only handled by Mr. Landon Cabell and Mr. Madison.

Resolved, that Mr. Wm. Short and Mr. Richard Lee do bring in Declamations, at the celebration of the Anniversary. Mr. Wm. Cabell being about to depart College, Mr. Daniel Carrol Brent is appointed to succeed him in his office as Treasurer.

Ordered that the thanks of the Society be given Mr. Cabell for the faithful discharge of his office, and that Mr. Swan and Mr. Washington wait on him for that purpose as well as to receive the Books. Mr. Swan and Theodorick Fitzhugh to bring in Declamations at the ensuing meeting. Mr. Short and Mr. Nivison to argue.

An adjournment.

At a meeting in Course, September the 23rd, 1780.

Agreeable to custom the* was formed. Mr. Brent as chairman.

Mr. Wm. Short and Mr. Theodorick Fitzhugh being absent, the Question, whether Avarice or Luxury is more beneficial to a Republic, was only handled by Mr. Swan and Mr. John Nivison.

*The word "committee" is evidently omitted.

Mr. Thomas Cocke being proposed as a Gentleman worthy a seat in this Society, was ballotted for and received.

Mr. Joseph Cabell fined 20 Dollars for non-attendance on the Evening he was appointed to declaim. Mr. Swan, Mr. Thomas Lee, Mr. Washington, Mr. Madison and Mr. Nivison fined 15 Dollars each for absenting themselves on Evenings when disengaged. Mr. A. Stuart and Mr. Brent to declaim, Mr. Roane and Mr. Peyton Short to argue at the ensuing meeting.

The business being finished, an adjournment took place.

At a meeting in Course, October 6th, 1780.

Agreeable to custom the* was formed, Mr. Richard B. Lee as Chairman.

Mr. Stuart being indisposed, and Mr. Roane being absent, the question, Whether Brutus was justifiable in killing Cæsar, was handled by Mr. Brent, Mr. Short and other gentlemen not immediately interested in the debate.

Mr. Joseph Cabell and Mr. Bushrod Washington to declaim. Mr. Thomas Lee and Mr. Landon Cabell to argue at the ensuing meeting.

An adjournment.

At a meeting in course, October the 22nd, 1780. The vice President being absent, Mr. Daniel Brent was appointed in his stead pro tempore.

The vice president leaving the Chair, called Mr. Swan to the same. Agreeable to appointment, Mr. Joseph Cabell and Mr. Bushrod Washington delivered their declamation, the question, Whether a man in extreme want is justifiable in stealing from his Neighbour to relieve his present necessities? Mr. Thomas Lee, having obtained leave of absence, and Mr. Landon Cabell being absent without leave, the subject was not argued. Mr. Wm. Madison and Mr. Swan to bring in declamations at the ensuing meeting. Mr. Thomas Cocke and Mr. John Stuart to argue.

An adjournment was agreed on.

At a meeting called on the 30th of November. The President and vice President being absent, Mr. Brent Vice President pro tempore took the chair. The Clerk being absent, Mr. T. Lee ap-

*The word "committee" again omitted.

pointed pro tempore. Mr. Stevens Thompson Mason being recommended as a gentleman worthy of a Seat in this Society, was balloted for and received.

Mr. Fitzhugh and Mr. Landon Cabell were appointed to speak for a Supper at the Raughley on the night of the Anniversary.

Adjourned to the Raleigh on Tuesday, 7 o'clock.

At a meeting at the Raleigh on the 5th December, to celebrate the Anniversary of this Noble institution, were present Mr. Brent, Vice President, Mr. Roane, Mr. L. Cabell, Mr. Richard Lee and Mr. Cocke.*

Mr. Brent Vice President pro tempore took the chair, the clerk being absent, Mr. L. Cabell was appointed. The Vice President left the chair and called Mr. Roane to the same. Mr. Richard Lee, according to appointment, then proceeded to declaim on the progress of the arts and sciences.† President Short, who was likewise

*Note the list of those present, five in all. Evidently the men were drifting away from college in view of the impending crisis in military affairs. For four years the scourge of war had fallen elsewhere, first in the North and later to the South. Now Virginia was to have her peculiar experience. But the fourth anniversary of Phi Beta Kappa could not be omitted. That the members expected so great an upheaval does not appear; for only one week earlier they had added Mr. Mason to their circle. But the month following the anniversary wrought a great change, as the record of the last meeting shows.

The concluding year of Phi Beta Kappa's life at William and Mary was outwardly prosperous. Twelve, or, if we should include Mr. Turberville, thirteen, members were received, several of whom in later years contributed largely to her reputation by distinguished achievements. But the year added nothing to the internal development of the organization. That was practically completed during the year 1779.

The members received were Peyton Short and Joseph Cabell in April; John Marshall, Bushrod Washington, Thomas Lee, and Landon Cabell in May; William Pierce and Richard Bland Lee in June; John Swan in July; Thomas Cocke in September; and Stephens Thompson Mason in November.

†This is the last topic discussed before the Society disbanded. Hence the literary features that marked early Phi Beta Kappa meetings were continued to the last. It is evident that many topics were not recorded for the first one noted was discussed at the meeting of February 27, 1779, at the end of two full years of activity. Here is the list of topics, which would be doubled had all been recorded.

The Justice of African Slavery.

Whether Agriculture or Merchandise is most advantageous to a State.

Whether Brutus was justifiable in having his sons executed.

The cause and origin of Society.

Whether a wise State hath any interest nearer at Heart than the Education of the Youth.

to declaim on this night, being absent and the business of the night being over, Mr. Brent returned to the chair, the remainder of the Evening was spent in sociability and mirth.

Mr. John Stuart and Mr. Theodorick Fitzhugh were both absent. An adjournment took place.

1781. On Saturday, the 6th of January, a meeting of Φ B K was called for the Purpose of Securing the Papers of the Society during the Confusion of the Times, and the present Dissolution which threatens the University.*

The members who attended were William Short, Daniel C. Brent, Spencer Roane, Peyton Short, and Landon Cabell. They thinking it most advisable that the papers should not be removed,

Whether an Agragian Law is consistent with the principles of a Wise Republic.

Whether anything is more dangerous to Civil Liberty in a free State than a standing army in time of Peace.

Whether the Institution of the Ostracism was Legal.

Whether Commonwealths or Monarchies are most subject to Seditions and Commotions.

Whether a General Assessment for the support of Religious Establishments is or is not repugnant to the Principles of a Republican Government.

Whether Theatrical Exhibitions are advantageous to States or the Contrary.

Is a Public or Private Education More Advantageous? Had William the Norman a Right to Invade England.

On the Execution of Charles the 1st.

Whether any form of Government is more favorable to public virtue than a Commonwealth.

Whether the rape of the Sabine women was Just.

Whether Religion is necessary in Government.

Whether in a civil war any person is justifiable in remaining Neuter.

Whether Dueling ought to have toleration in this or any other free State.

Whether Polygamy is a dictate of Nature or not.

Whether Avarice or Luxury is more beneficial to a Republic.

Whether Brutus was justifiable in killing Caesar.

Whether a man in extreme want is justifiable in stealing from a Neighbor to relieve his present necessities.

The progress of the arts and sciences.

*When Mr. Jefferson became a member of the Board of Visitors and government, he caused the enactment of a statute, December 4, 1779, which reorganized the College. It did away with the Divinity chairs, and substituted the chairs of Law and Police, and Medicine. The Grammar School was abolished, and Modern Language took the place of the Ancient Languages. It recognized the Elective system by permitting the student to take his choice, within certain limits. The College was now frequently called the University, a title formally assumed in the caption of the faculty minutes, June 3, 1782.

determined to deliver them sealed into the Hands of the College Steward, to remain with him until the desirable Event of the Society's Resurrection. And this Deposit they make in the sure and certain Hope that the Fraternity will one day rise to Life everlasting and Glory immortal."



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