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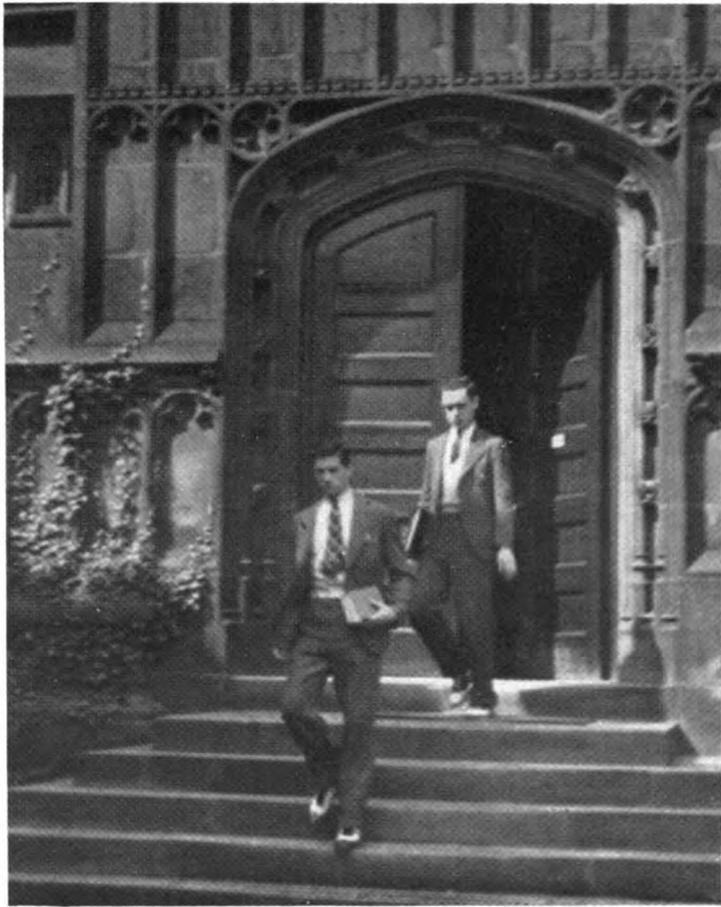
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# ALUMNI WEEKLY

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FREEDOM IN EDUCATION, by Grenville Clark, Harvard '03

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FACULTY VIEW • LETTERS • HARVARD FOOTBALL

# PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY

Vol. XXXVII, No. 7

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## Freedom in Education

*The Obligation of Universities to Defend the First Amendment—Not Merely to Approve the Theory, but to Put It into Practice, Against the Opposition of Alumni if Necessary*

By Grenville Clark, Harvard '03

**M**R. CHAIRMAN, President Dodds, and gentlemen of the Graduate Council: When your chairman so kindly asked me to speak this evening, I accepted with pleasure not only because of my respect and admiration for Princeton but because I have a profound belief in the wisdom of close collaboration between our universities. They have not only a common mission but also common problems. The essence of that mission has perhaps never been better stated than in that moving passage from *New England's First Fruits*, written in 1643 and describing the purposes of the founders of Harvard College. May I read it to you?

After God had carried us safe to New England and we had builded our houses, provided necessaries for our livelihood, reared convenient places for God's worship and settled the civil governments, one of the next things we longed for was to advance learning and perpetuate it to posterity. . . .

The founders of Harvard were largely university men. They well knew the value of learning and perhaps they had a vision that they were the pioneers of a great civilization which could realize its possibilities only if informed and inspired by the university spirit. In that one phrase, "to advance learning and perpetuate it to posterity," is set forth, I believe, the true common purpose of all our universities.

### COMMON MISSION AND PROBLEMS

**I**N FULFILLING that mission, we have also common problems. The future of the universities will depend in the long run upon whether they deserve the confidence of the public by being worthy of their trust. The strength of one is the strength of all; the weakness of one tends to discredit all. We should, therefore, wish each other success in every form. We can have and ought to have a healthy rivalry; but surely there is no necessity, as the strategy of football seems to require, for secret practice. On the contrary, we had better compare information and views and place at each other's disposal the results of our successes and our failures. Such a relation, I am happy to say, already exists between Princeton and Harvard. A striking example has occurred within the past year when President Dodds, at President Conant's request, generously placed his experience at the disposal of Harvard in advising us as to the scope and organization

of the new School of Public Administration which is to be established through the fine gift of Lucius N. Littauer. When that gift was made, Mr. Conant wished to have the most authoritative advice on the best method of starting this school, and turned to your president as the best authority in that field. For this aid Harvard is under a debt of gratitude to him and to Princeton, which I hope we may sometime have an opportunity to repay. These are some of the reasons, gentlemen, why I am happy to be here.

### ENDOWED UNIVERSITIES

**I**N JUNE last, we held a dinner at the Harvard Club in New York, at which I had the honor to preside, and addresses were made on "The Mission of the Endowed Universities" by Dr. Anson Phelps Stokes of Yale, President Aydelotte of Swarthmore, President Conant of Harvard, and by your distinguished trustee, William Church Osborn. That dinner is perhaps the occasion of your invitation and I wish to develop the theme that I then discussed briefly, namely,

**M**R. CLARK made the accompanying remarks at the fall meeting of the Princeton Graduate Council, his membership in the conservative law firm of Root, Clark, Buckner & Ballantine (Elihu Root, senior partner) giving peculiar force to his opinions on the subject. During the war Mr. Clark received the D.S.M. for his service as lieutenant colonel in the adjutant general's department. He is one of the five members of the Harvard Corporation, the university's governing body. As a Princetonian has suggested, "Princeton has about thirty-five trustees, Harvard only five; therefore Mr. Clark is seven times as important as a Princeton trustee."

the necessity that the universities shall maintain their independence and freedom.

It was of striking interest at the recent Tercentenary Celebration at Harvard to observe that there was hardly a speaker from any part of the world who did not emphasize this theme of freedom of inquiry and expression. Why was this? Simply, I take it,

because throughout a large part of the civilized world freedom in education has been wholly destroyed. It is small wonder, therefore, that educated men everywhere are preoccupied with this great issue.

This country is not immune from the effect of these forces; far from it. Insidious and powerful influences are now at work here to sap the foundations of our free inheritance by undermining freedom in education. These attacks, which have no relation to party politics, come from two sources. They come from the state, in the shape of restrictive legislation or administrative action, and from private sources.

Illustrative of the legislative tendency are the so-called "teachers' oath" laws which have now been enacted in twenty-two states and affect not fewer than 500,000 of our teachers. At first glance, these laws seem harmless enough. They commonly require teachers to swear merely to "support" the Constitution. But what does "support" the Constitution mean? It is the very uncertainty of such a term that makes these laws subject to various interpretations. It is this vagueness which makes such laws liable to abuse in the hands of ignorant or prejudiced men who can employ them to harass and intimidate conscientious teachers because of views expressed not only in the classroom but outside it in the exercise of their rights as citizens. These laws, in my judgment, not only can constrain, but do in practice constrain, thousands of teachers in their freedom of thought and expression. I believe it no exaggeration to say that if the tendencies represented by these laws were to continue, it would not be long before they would sterilize a large part of American education.

### PRESIDENT LOWELL'S REPORT

**I**T WOULD be a splendid thing at this time if all our legislators, our college trustees and indeed all our college graduates could read and ponder the 1917 report of President Lowell of Harvard on "Academic Freedom." This report had great influence at the time, and it stands, I believe, as the most comprehensive and discriminating discussion of the subject to this day. One of its great services was to point out that the teacher has rights as a citizen, as distinguished from academic freedom in the strict sense, and that these rights are not forfeited when he enters the teaching profession, but must be

[ '34 ]

JOSEPH W. LEWIS JR.  
20 Prescott St., Cambridge, Mass.

Our valid columnist (temporarily emeritus), our beloved Quaker-town reactionary, modestly suggested in the last issue that he felt unable to continue with his literature because of some work he must do for the *Harvard Law Review*. Such pleasant understatement is typical. *Law Review* work cannot adequately be described as "some." It requires much time and brains, and it is with great regret that, through Frank's desertion of his '34 duties for things less important, this column must suffer for a while an unwholesome gap. We (editorial) can only say: "If you can bear with us, we can." And find solace in the fact that Frank's absence is only temporary.

This gives us a chance to say something about our secretary. Aside from the honor of his being on the *Law Review*, he went west. Radically breaking Philadelphia tradition, after June reunion he got in a Ford and went sponging south with us (editorial). Then he joined *Bill Eisenhart* and sponged north, south, and far west, covering some 15,000 miles. Congratulation, Duse.

Talking about distances, *Joe Hunsicker* is in the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Greece. Guten Tag, Joe.

Motherhood has again overcome one of us (not editorial) in the form of *Bill Rea*. An as yet unnamed female trapper born October 22.

*Johnny Hersey* has been "seismographing" with the Phillips Petroleum Co. in the West. This is not as dirty as it sounds, but means, I think, that Johnny has been dynamiting the earth and recording the sound waves through the ground to see if there is oil thereabouts. I guess it's all right.

[ '35 ]

DONALD C. STUART JR., Secretary  
Box 207, Princeton, N.J.

To *John Montgomery* goes the honor of paying his Class dues before all others. In addition to Jack, the following have also sent checks to Bob Etherington, 35 in all: Adams, Bretall, Campagna, Cook, Delaney, Devereux, Dulles, Bob Etherington, Faber, Gold, Garrett, Gorman, Herpers, Hand, Harris, Kephart, Lockhart, Matthews, S. M. Morgan, Moore, Motter, Owen, Patton, Reiman, Sayen, Scott, H. L. Smith, Stauffer, Stevenson, Stout, Don Stuart, Van Norden, Weisman, Willock, and W. L. Wright.

Above are practically twenty-four-hour returns, and are thoroughly appreciated. The Graduate Council office has figured out that of each class charging \$5 dues an average of 52 per cent pays up. It is the sincere hope of the 1935 officers that the Class will equal or better this mark.

From several places last week people took careful aim at our desk with a letter full of news and hit the target squarely. *Joe Bright* reports his engagement to Margaret Crozer Martin of Elkins Park, Pa. *Tom Moore* writes from Chicago, where he is working for the Republic Steel Corp. to furnish news of several surrounding citizens. He says:

"I see *Nellie Thomasson* when his social life permits a reunion, and *Navarre Macomb*, who is leading the life of *Reilley*, working for Inland Steel in Gary during the week and escorting Chicago debts to parties on week-ends. *Jack Patterson* is continuing med school at Virginia. *Wally Kemp* is doing likewise at Harvard, and *Frank Rollins* is working for Technicolor in Hollywood."

*Bill Lisle* also writes from Chicago to say that he has been advanced to the sales de-

partment of Stewart-Warner and is now on the road crying his wares.

A big displacement in the atmosphere around Princeton occurred when *Ed Prichard* arrived, deciding he couldn't let an election year pass without mixing it up again in local politics. Prich left Harvard Law for an extended week-end and spent the time conferring here with his Democratic friends. As would be expected, he predicted an undefeated season for his candidates.

[ '36 ]

RICHARD D. WATERS, Secretary  
38 Poplar St., Douglaston, L.I., N.Y.

*Dave Greene* is our correspondent this week from the Harvard Medical School. The Class started off in great style up there with *Hugh MacMillan* being elected president of the first-year class. Others busy cutting up corpses and cats are *Jack Morris*, *Wister Meigs*, *Ad Brenizer*, *Tom Gephart*, *Sam Wells*, *Phil Pillsbury*, and *Charlie Goodsell*. According to Dave they were put right to work up there in anatomy and are now "well into the subject, both figuratively and literally."

Letters like this keep Class secretaries from becoming drug addicts:

"*Jake Jaquillard* sailed October 21 for Bombay, where he will be an employee of the National City Bank for at least three years. *Ed Glassmeyer* saw to it that his last week here was colorful, to put it mildly. As a final gesture, *Metcalfe*, *Hull*, and *Hampton* gave him a send-off party in their palatial residence at 412 W. 47th St., New York. [George, Bob, and Ed are the authors of this epistle in case you haven't already guessed it.] Eight members of 1936 were conspicuous by their presence, as well as through other means. Besides the five already mentioned, *Ed Whitney*, *Bill Breese*, and *Ted Donaldson* participated in the farewell.

"Others who have previously dropped in to enjoy the hospitality of our dorm are *Ro Schuerhoff*, *Rick Carson*, *Bill White*, *Bob Adams*, *Jim Peirce*, *Herk Powers*, *Henry Barkhorn*, and *Bob Hall*."

*Gordon Keppel* is another of the Class who thinks greener pastures can be found on the other side of the big pond. Gordie is studying at Cambridge and we wouldn't be surprised if he also did a bit of paddling. *Alba Warren* and *Gordon Craig* are Rhodes-Scholarshiping at Oxford, and *Duncan MacDougald*, the swing addict, is studying at Berlin. We might as well make this a real foreign column and report that *Dick Adair* and *Fritz Whitman* should be somewhere near Indo-China now on their leisurely trot around the world. Those lads, using only the regular commercial means of travel, are attempting to set a new record for elapsed time. They hope to be able to beat the time of one *Ferdinando Magellan*. *Jack Kelly* and *Tony Conway* are their rivals in this not-so-mad dash.

O B I T U A R Y

THOMAS SPROULL '89

TOM SPROULL passed away quietly on August 25. Since an attack of pneumonia several years ago he had been below par physically, although he was able to go to his office once or twice a week until a short time before his death.

Tom was born September 10, 1867, prepared for college at the preparatory school of Brown University; and was with the Class all four years. He was genial, unassuming, steady, reliable, and popular. He broke no records, but made no breaks.

After graduation he entered a law office and studied for two years in Columbia Law. He was admitted to the bar in 1891 and soon after joined

his brother in the law firm of Sproull, Harmer & Sproull, 1 Madison Ave., New York, where he practised for more than forty years. He had a good knowledge of the law, doing his main work in gathering material for cases.

Tom never married. He was fond of fishing, but his principal hobby was gardening. He was present at every reunion until the Forty-Fifth. The Class has lost a worthy member and extends to his brother and partner its deep sympathy.

For the Class of 1889  
JOHN R. TODD, President  
T. H. P. SAILER, Secretary

VARNUM LANSING COLLINS '92

WILKIE COLLINS died on October 9 of a cerebral hemorrhage. Those who knew him, loved him. He loved Princeton, and to her, next after his wife and son, his thoughts and his constant labors were chiefly devoted. He did not seek his own reputation or advantage, he did not spare himself; but unremittingly he gave his life to this University.

He was born in Hong Kong, December 1, 1870. His mother had married a Mr. French, an American missionary; but after the death of her first husband, and the deaths of all the children of that union, she married Dr. Varnum Daniel Collins who at that time was practising in China. Of this later marriage Lansing was the second child.

As a boy he was at school in England and in France. He came to Princeton in 1888, finished his preparation for college here, and entered as a freshman with the Class of '92. Soon afterwards his family moved to Princeton, and all through his college course he lived in town. But he was well known on the campus. He belonged to various



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undergraduate organizations and to certain intimate undergraduate groups. He had a natural talent for drawing, wrote most charmingly, was chairman of the *Bric-a-Brac* committee, an editor of the *Nassau Lit*, a member of the Glee Club and in his senior year its leader, a member of the Dramatic Association.

After graduation he taught classics for a year at Moores Hill College, Indiana. He then returned to Princeton, was employed in the college library, gave private lessons, and studied early French literature with a view to a career as a productive scholar in that subject. That was the time when he lived at "The Shanty" on Edwards Place, with several other '92 men. From 1896 to 1906 he was reference librarian in the University library, then for six years assistant professor of modern languages; from 1912 he was professor of the French language and literature, clerk of the faculty, and, until shortly before his death, secretary of the University. He was a successful teacher, for he had a natural taste for literature, a sympathetic understanding of his pupils, and he read and spoke French fluently.

As an executive officer he maintained most friendly relations with many alumni, and endeared himself to his colleagues and to many students, especially such as needed help to continue their studies. He was secretary and later, from 1911 to 1913, president of the Nassau Club. For more than twenty years he was a member of the Graduate Council, and from 1917 to 1927 its secretary. He was awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of St. Sava, in recognition of the assistance which he gave to Serbian refugee students at Princeton during the World War. He was a vestryman, a member of the choir, and a lay reader at Trinity Church. A partial list of his published works is given in *Who's Who in America*; the most important of his books are his *Princeton*, published in 1914, and his biography of *President Witherspoon*, in two volumes, published in 1925.

In 1901 he married Princetta Lee Hanger of Washington, D.C. They had two children, Princetta Lansing, who died in infancy, and Varnum Lansing Jr. '33. His widow and son survive him.

In 1926, in consequence of a serious operation on his throat, he lost his voice, so that he could not sing any longer and could talk only in a whisper. Two years ago, in consequence of his first stroke, he became partially paralyzed, so that he could walk about only with difficulty, and could not play a musical instrument or write with either pen or typewriter. In spite of all these disabilities, however, his courage, his cheerfulness, and his quick sympathies, were unimpaired until the end. He has been of inestimable service to Princeton. Those who came in contact with him in any way will remember him gratefully. To his classmates and to all who knew him intimately he remains a beloved friend. In his life and in his character he is an inspiring example.

*For the Class of 1892*

EDWARD D. DUFFIELD	GEORGE W. BETTS
ALFRED B. CARLHART	GEORGE W. BURLEIGH
WILLIAM K. PRENTICE	PIERRE F. COOK
ARTHUR W. BUTLER	LEON M. CONWELL

**JOSEPH P. BICKERTON JR. '00**

It is with deep regret that the Class records the passing of Joseph Ponsford Bickerton Jr., who died at Mt. Kisco Hospital in Mt. Kisco, N.Y., on August 20 as the result of a heart attack.

Joe was born July 15, 1878, at Newark, N.J., the son of Joseph P. Bickerton and Emma Pierson Jacques, prepared for college at Harvard School, New York, and entered Princeton with the Class in the fall of 1896. Unfortunately, he was compelled to leave before completing freshman year in order to help support his family, working by day as office boy with a law firm in New York, and at night carrying on a business for a dairy firm.

He was admitted to the New York bar and became a junior partner in the firm of Forbes & Haviland at the age of twenty-six. Along with his early practice of law he entered upon several business enterprises. Later he became personal counsel for William Harris Sr., theatrical manager and producer, and in 1909 made his own first venture into the field of theatrical production. When this proved unsuccessful, leaving him with a full set of scenery and costumes, he wrote a play to fit them, and produced it successfully. He then bought the motion pictures of Paul J. Rainey's African hunt-

ing expedition and presented them with great success all over the United States and Europe.

Thereafter, in addition to writing a number of successful plays, he devoted his life to the theatrical profession in the various phases of legal practice, arbitration, organization, administration, and also production and management, both alone and in association with such men as William Ziegler Jr., A. L. Erlanger, Charles Frohman, and Elmer Rice. It was he who discovered Noel Coward in London, and brought him to New York; he who devised the agreement in 1926 ending the struggle between playwrights and producers over the sale of screen rights in stage plays; and who was chosen and constantly reelected for the past ten years as arbiter under that agreement and supervisor of all such sales.

He had all the qualities essential for success, not least among which were his wholehearted sincerity, honesty, and fairness, his genuine friendliness, and his thoroughly likable personality. It was these which brought him the confidence of all with whom he came in contact and which endeared him to the Class during the comparatively short time he was with us, and which made us regret that the many and varied activities of his busy life kept him from more frequent opportunities for association with the Class.

In 1910 he married Lois Tabor, who survives him together with his father and his sisters, Mrs. Frederick McGibbon of Rutherford, N.J., and Mrs. Helene Kranich of Malbo, L.I. With them we mourn his loss; to them we extend our sincere sympathy.

*For the Class of 1900*

ELROY CURTIS	KARL E. BURR
STEPHEN F. VOORHEES	HENRY R. LATHROP
MALCOLM G. BUCHANAN	

**GEORGE GRAHAM VEST '17**

GEORGE VEST died in St. Luke's Hospital, St. Louis, on August 24 after a short illness brought on by heat prostration and general exhaustion. He had been engaged in a strenuous political campaign for the Democratic nomination for congress from the 11th Missouri District, which he lost by a narrow margin. The effort and strain of this campaign was the direct cause of his death.

At the time of his death he was city judge of the St. Louis Municipal Court, and his fine reputation as a lawyer and judge is voluminously attested in the editorial and newspaper comments on his untimely death. He was only thirty-eight, nearly the youngest man in our Class.

During the war he served as second lieutenant in the field artillery, but did not see service overseas. He studied law at the University of Missouri, and was admitted to the bar in 1920. For many years he was with the law firm of Boyle & Priest of St. Louis. In 1933 he was appointed judge of the municipal court by the mayor of St. Louis. The proceedings of his court were broadcast, a system which he encouraged and did much to popularize. His contention was that the public in general became much more familiar with the administration of justice and was greatly benefited thereby.

George came from a family prominent in Missouri Democratic politics for several generations. He was the grandson and namesake of the late Senator George G. Vest, widely known statesman and orator of his day, whose brilliant wit and ability George inherited in full part. He himself had definitely pointed his career in political paths and it was felt by his many friends that he had a brilliant political future before him at the time he was stricken.

He was a skilled horseman and a polo player of distinction, participating actively in the hunting and polo life of St. Louis.

Of a sturdy and individual character, he was possessed of a rare and gifted personality. An incomparable companion, a delightful raconteur, his wit was never-ending. The devotion in which he was held by his friends is to be compared only to their irreparable sense of loss at his passing.

He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Agatha Wheeler Vest; a sister, Mrs. Mason Young of Providence, R.I.; and a brother, Lt. Commander John P. W. Vest of the naval air service. The sympathy of the Class is extended to them.

*For the Class of 1917*

S. WHITNEY LANDON JR.	PERRY E. HALL
EDMUND H. DRIGGS	T. HART ANDERSON JR.
NORRIS D. JACKSON	WILLIAM B. MOORE
CHARLES W. BERL	

**ALFRED GOTTLIEB GENNERT '17**

It is with deep sadness that we record the latest of a series of losses in the death of Alfred Gottlieb Gennert. Red died on October 2 at Overbrook Hospital in Summit, N.J., following a brief illness.

It was inevitable that, from the very day of matriculation, Red should become an outstanding member of the Class. His fame as an athlete has made him well known to all alumni. But to us who were his friends he will be remembered even more for his qualities of mind and heart which made him one of our best-loved members.

Red came to us from Exeter, younger than most in years, but blessed with physical gifts which carried him to fame through four years of football, culminating in his selection as all-America center in senior year. Still, when sports-writers, as they so often do, enlarge on the Princeton tradition of outstanding center play, Red's name always comes close to the top of the list. But football was not enough for Red's vitality and buoyant spirit, for he was also a valuable member of the track team in the weight events and one of the group which in water polo helped to carry Princeton through a period of many years without defeat. Another outlet for Red was the *Tiger* editorial board with which he served for three years.

On the declaration of war Red left college and joined the naval training unit at Newport. He was transferred from there to the short officers course at Annapolis, was commissioned as an ensign and, when finally discharged after the end of hostilities, had reached the rank of lieutenant, senior grade.

Following the war Red studied law at Columbia, passed, as at Princeton, with honors, and was admitted to the bar. While studying law he still had time to serve for several seasons as coach of the Princeton freshmen football team. For several years Red was a partner in the firm of Peaslee, Brigham & Gennert but in recent years had maintained an independent practice in New York.

The affection and respect which Red enjoyed among his own classmates is witnessed by his election to the presidency at our Fifth Reunion.

It would be hard to judge Red Gennert by the old formula "by his enemies" for he had none. It seemed, in fact, that Princeton men of all generations were his friends, responding to the warmth of his own nature and his unquenchable optimism and good spirits. Princeton was probably the foremost interest of his life.

Red has gone from us in the physical sense but tens of years from now, when those of us who are left are members of the Old Guard, he will still be with us in spirit, for he has added something to our memories of Princeton associations that can never be forgotten.

To Red's father and the other members of his immediate family we address this evidence of our affection. To them we also extend our heartfelt sympathy.

*For the Class of 1917*

S. WHITNEY LANDON JR.	PERRY E. HALL
EDMUND H. DRIGGS	T. HART ANDERSON JR.
NORRIS D. JACKSON	WILLIAM B. MOORE

**ALFRED HYDE CLARKE '21**

MEMBERS of the Class will be shocked and grieved to hear of the death of Alfred Hyde Clarke, who passed away suddenly on October 10 at Cooperstown, N.Y.

Alf had been in ill health for several years, but at no time was his condition serious enough to cause anxiety, and his death came as a real shock.

For the past few years he had been living in Cody, Wyo., where he was an outfitter and conductor of camping parties. He lived the life of a rancher and loved the great open spaces. Only recently he decided to return to his home town of Cooperstown, N.Y., where he died shortly after his arrival. Before he left Cody he packed up two fine game heads, a mountain sheep and an antelope, which he had shot, and which he intended to give to the University. These arrived in Cooperstown after his death, and will be forwarded to the University.

Alf had been married for the past year and a half, and the Class extends sympathy to his widow.

*For the Class of 1921*

CHARLES D. HALSEY, President
LORIMER B. SLOCUM, Vice-President
JOHN H. LEH, Secretary
HENRY C. IRONS, Treasurer