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WITH WHICH HAS BEEN UNITED

The Mystic Messenger.

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The BETA THETA PI is published by the Beta Publishing Company, a corporation organized under the Laws of the State of New York and the principal office of which is at Geneva, N. Y. The officers are: President and Editor, Wm. Raimond Baird, 63 West 84d Street, New York, N. Y.; Vice-President, Lucius L. Van Slyke, Geneva, N. Y.; Treasurer and Business Manager, James T. Brown, 303 West 20th Street, New York, N. Y.; Secretary and Publisher, Wm. F. Humphrey, 30 Linden Street, Geneva, N. Y.

A Hero of the Navy

IN 1860 the Epsilon chapter at Centre College, initiated two young men of the class of '63. Hugh W. McKee of Lexington, Ky., and John G. Talbot of Dansville, Ky., both shortly afterwards secured appointments to the United States Naval Academy and assisted in establishing our Omega chapter which did not last long in its peculiar environment but gave us men like Admiral Franklin Hanford whom we would not willingly do without.

Talbot graduated in due time and after serving in subordinate grades found himself in 1870 a lieutenant on the U. S. Fourth rate steamer Saginaw, cruising in the Pacific Ocean. On October 29, she sailed from the Midway Islands for San Francisco. It was the intention of the ship's commander to sight Ocean Island and verify its location while on this voyage. That evening the ship was wrecked on this Island, a mere speck in the ocean, and was soon a total loss. The crew was landed and shelters erected and after some few days it was determined to send a boat to the Sandwich Islands for help. These islands were 1400 miles away. But this was the only thing to be done, as Ocean Island was out of the pathway of vessels and there was little likelihood of rescue by a passing vessel.

Lieutenant Talbot volunteered to command the boat party. On Nov. 18 the boat was launched and the voyage commenced. On Dec. 19, having reached the Island of Kawai just as the shore

Rev. Samuel Hall Young

REV. Samuel Hall Young, Wooster, 1875, was born Sept. 12, 1847 at Butler, Pa. He went to Michigan in 1867 and to French Creek in West Virginia in 1868. He taught school in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Michigan until 1871 when he went to Wooster University. After his graduation in 1875 he attended two theological seminaries, first the one at Princeton, N. J., and then the one at Allegheny, Pa., and graduated from the latter in 1878. He was ordained a minister in the Presbyterian church and almost immediately went to Ft. Wrangel, Alaska, as a missionary and explorer, and ever since that time he has been actively interested in or engaged in this same work. In 1879 he organized the first protestant church in Alaska. In 1898 he organized the first Presbyterian church at Dawson, and from then until 1901 he was engaged in organizing missions at Rampart and Nome. In 1901 he was appointed superintendent of all the Presbyterian Missions in Alaska, and since that time he has been earnestly prosecuting his work. He has written many articles about Alaska in various journals and is considered an authority on the subject.

During the winter of 1911, he was in New York and was a frequent visitor at the Club, and recently sent the club a letter which we reproduce below together with some views of the good pastor and his Alaska surroundings.

IDITAROD, ALASKA, Feb. 20, 1912.

THE BETA THETA PI CLUB,

No. 1 Gramercy Park, New York.

My dear Fellows:

I send you fraternal greetings from the best and most comfortable land under the blue sky. My thoughts have often harked back to last winter and to the genial and sympathetic crowd of Beta boys in the old club. Nothing could give me greater pleasure, right now, than to drop in upon you in your new quarters and spend another evening spinning Alaska yarns and hearing the news of the fraternity far and near, or playing a game of chess with Brother Lockwood.

I am spending the winter in almost the remotest and least accessible part of Alaska. I send you a few photographs which will tell more eloquently than I can, the story of this region. The picture of the old "Mushing Parson" you will recognize, and I hope



REV. SAMUEL H. YOUNG, WITH HIS DOG TEAM

you will not commit the common mistake of pitying him, but rather envy him the health and pleasures of this splendid country and climate. We have passed a most delightful winter—weather absolutely ideal. It was only thirty-five degrees below zero when the picture of myself and dog team was taken and a lovely sunny day. You poor, smothered, blizzard-swept, canon-confined, New Yorkers, how I commiserate you! I wish you could accept an invitation to a dog “mush” with me across these airy, ice-locked hills. I expect to start on March fifth to a meeting of our Presbytery of Yukon. It convenes at Cordova, 670 miles from this place. Five hundred twenty miles of this is over the snowy trail and across the mountains and down the rivers. I shall have my dog team with me and expect to accomplish that part of the journey inside of twenty days. If there are no storms, I may make it in fifteen. After the meeting of our Presbytery I shall mush back to Fairbanks before the ice breaks in the rivers. I will return to this place by steamboat down the Tanana and Yukon and up the Innoko and Iditarod next July, completing a journey of 2,000 miles.

I am in exuberant health and my 65 years sits upon me very lightly. I am expecting to leave the missionary work a year from this spring, and perhaps I may ask the assistance of the Beta Theta Pi brothers to obtain the position of Governor of Alaska. Just keep that in mind, please, and boost for the election of Woodrow Wilson.

Remembering with keen delight our feast of Koodoo, Dik Dik, and Bustard, enjoyed with you just before my departure last spring I may be able to feast the club on Polar bear, walrus and Alaska moose when I return.

I have established a reading room here which is the principal source of supply of reading matter for a population of some five thousand, within a radius of two or three hundred miles. It strikes me that if your periodicals and books become burdensome to you by their bulk, you might get rid of them in a satisfactory way by mailing them to me here for circulation among the Alaska miners.

With warm regards to all the boys, I remain,

Very warmly yours in—kai—

S. HALL YOUNG.



WATER FRONT, IDITAROD, ALASKA, SUMMER 1911