Reform, Ye Debaters, or, By the Giggles of a Co-Ed, Ye Shall Perish.

Most students who read this article on reform will be terically incensed and will probably rush to their tenement windows, poke their heads out, and, with guttural voices punctuate the innumerable "Idiot," "Liar!" "Crank!" and other epithets used in society novels. But that's all right. I am a Reformer, and history does not reflect the shortcomings of a single grand reform without the reformer having been the object of criticism, ridicule and brickbats. So, in unmasking the leadership in this sub-human realm of debate, I feel perfectly at home.-able as it is indescribable." As Mr. Geoffrey Chaucer said of Mr. Shakespeare, or ought to have said, if he didn't, I will slime over these charges in precisely the same manner as a skifflet skims over the sad sea waves, or words to that effect. And when someone may lie light on my crown and pluck it from my head, you will all call me benefactor, and wonder how you ever existed under the conditions that now prevail.

First, I must be content with your indulgence while I explain the evil influences of the condition I am endeavoring to reform, the same time mentioning, as I had probably better do, that the condition I am endeavoring to reform is College Debating.

Debating, as now practiced in the leading institutions of learning in our country, is a slap on the wrist to such venerable gentlemen as Edmund Burke, John C. Calhoun, and Henry Clay. These gentlemen were debaters! And when I make this statement with the exclamation mark at the finish, I do not mean to intimate that all debaters of today are not debaters. Certainly not! Some of our present-day college youths could make Burke or Calhoun quiver in their laces, and Calhoun would probably stand tall when it comes to handling magic speech. And this fact brings forth the point I am desirous of dragging out—that the superiority of Burke, Clay, and that bunch, did not lie in their linguistic dexterity or gymnastic agility, but in their selection of such grand, human-interest subjects. The debaters of today are debaters as good as the debater of any other old day. He does not, like Burke, etc., etc., have to rely on table pounding, checking, cussing, etc., of oratory, but debates almost wholly from the mouth. But he loses out where the debaters of the old school won out—in proper selection of subjects.

The subjects upon which the college debaters of today debate, are, in the first place, too deep. They are of such a nature that it is necessary to read the classics, modern works, leading treatises, etc., for data, and this requires time that could be more profitably devoted to football practice, afternoon strolls, pool, poker, and other diversions that are such a part of the seventh century college education. A debater should be able to call upon his previously-acquired store of knowledge for wagers or as it is called. If he isn't able to do this, then the subject of the debate, by this fact, is proven to be too deep to be debated upon. Furthermore, the audience should be interested, and a subject that is too profound for the debaters is also too profound for the people comprising the audience. For example, I don't understand why debaters are arguing about anything more than do the debaters themselves. Take, for example, a subject recently debated by a group of students: "Resolved, That the Declaration of Independence should be offered to the King of France, as the base of Peace between the United States and France." It is good to know that it was disapproved of, but it is not good to fully understand. I doubt whether the noise of the question would be eclipsed by the result of the season just ahead.

Secondly speaking, it is a "citch" that the bench is able to get off with the scalp of Carolina during the coming season will be "going through only many of last year's pleasant winning aggregations are back in college, but many of the new men look good, several having made experience at other colleges in battes on the debate field.

This is a season of hopes and fears by the students and one looked to with much anxiety by every college boy. Now is the time to lose any anxiety or fear. The season is too important, too parliamentary. Of course it is.

Furthermore, it's of no importance whether the ratification was constitutional or not. Suppose it was. Does this fact make the mass hall coffee any stronger? or butter any weaker? Suppose it wasn't constitutional? Do they make better cakes cheaper or pool less than the mass hall coffee a cue? Of course it doesn't. Then, what's the use of ranting before the public about a question that doesn't concern me to sit here and not pass up this line of antique war and debate upon more modern, more intelligible, and more interesting subjects, especially the subject of the following query: "Resolved, That the fellow should kiss a girl during his first call and not defer this graciousness until some subsequent call. Here's a subject that would interest all. The professors would actually enjoy this debate instead of, as ordinarily, considering such an evening wasted. Even the Co-eds would not remain entirely apathetic. Besides, any student would be able to enter such a debate without preliminary readings, merely relying upon his or her wit and abilities to furnish the necessary material for his argument. Plenty of able debaters could be secured for both sides. Mr. Rogers and Mr. Greig could make an excellent team for the negative. Their arguments would start a leak in the eye water-works of many a pretty girl in the audience as they would graphically describe the physiologic work of that little microbe that takes a transfer when we engage in osculation. But a team like Mr. Lee and Mr. White would probably be the most powerful. This would offer some powerfully strong arguments, based upon their own personal experiences, to prove the non-existence of the facial microbe, and it is not improbable that they would make the negative debaters seem like nature-fakirs. It is a question, however, as to which side would win. The positive side must have the advantage, it is obvious that, in order to render the decision absolutely impartial, judges should be selected as follows: One judge for a student from each side, and one Co-Ed. (preferably a Senior). A small admission fee of 25 cents could be charged to hear these debates as packed houses would surely be the result. The Societies could form stock companies, the officers could be paid fat salaries, and we will have accomplished one of the grandest reforms of the twentieth century.

A. R.

Come Out For Baseball.

The stand which the University has taken in the past and especially within the past few years, along athletic lines, has been very interesting indeed. The student body as well as to the friends of the institution throughout the State, and, if we may count on signs and omens of the immediate future, it would seem that her past achievements would be eclipsed by the result of the season just ahead.

The "Grandly" speaking, it is a "citch" that the bench is able to get off with the scalp of Carolina during the coming season will be "going through only many of last year's pleasant winning aggregations are back in college, but many of the new men look good, several having made experience at other colleges in battes on the debate field."

Death Claims Two of Carolina's Oldest Alumni.

During the last three weeks two of Carolina's oldest alumni have passed from the roll of the living. They were Maj. Samuel Tompkins, of Columbia, and Mr. Frank M. Rogers, of Florence.

Mr. Rogers was one of the most prominent planters of the Pee Dee section. His death occurred on Feb. 13th, at the age of 67.

Major Tompkins was a native of Edgefield and was graduated at the old South Carolina College in 1840. His four years at college were rich to the college in a large number of men of men have contributed to our history, among them Preston S. Brooks, George McDuffie, and Wm. C. Preston. A recent number of the Carolinaian is worth a read with a few of his reminiscences.

Major Tompkins was a gallant Confederate soldier and in his death the State as well as the University loses a brave, gentle and loyal friend.

Mr. John Bacon, of Edgfield, the founder of The Collegian—now The Carolinaian—was in the city the early part of the week.

Evergreen's Letter to His Mother.

Recorded by Brian Belt.
University of Suddum.
Varsiton, September 6th.

Dear Mother: Am all right in spots, but not so good in other spots. I got here all right and was met at the train by a Committee from the Y. M. C. A., showed me up to the University. I was shown whom I heard fellow students call many very respectful names, such as Humpsey, Dicky, Wooly, Plug Ugly, and some others that were so bad that I won't even write them to you. I have made a resolute that I will never no, never, speak of a professor in any way at all disrespectful. Will close now as I must fix up my rooms. One young fellow told me a few minutes ago that I would probably have some visitors. I don't know any at the University, and can't imagine who the visitors can be. Your about right.

Yours sincerely,

Evergreen.

Varsiton, September 13th.

Dear Mother: I can only spare a minute, but I must tell you about another very funny professor; in fact, one of them. One of them to catch everybody back. If I don't come right up in front of you and ask you a great long question, and when you are just about to tell him you don't know he will stop you and say: "No, let Mr. Smith answer that. I see him over in the corner, reading the Saturday Evening Post," or, "Mr. Preston would like to have "Home, Sweet Home," back on the rear seat. Suppose we let him answer it." Another professor whiskes between every two or three words. I am sure that if I were not a freshman I would laugh at him. He was called on to pray in chapel the other morning, and as everybody else laughed, I had to do likewise. Like things better now, and think if I don't prove too popular with the fellows after bedtime, I will get along "all to the mustard," as I heard a fellow tell you.

Yours sincerely,

Evergreen.

The Universal Answer.

"Logic?"

"Naw, H—l You?"

Subscribe to The Gamecock.

CLARISOMATIC SOCIETY.

Next Saturday night the society will take up its work after a recent recess on account of examinations. It is customary for the societies to suspend examinations, or to meet on the day before and during the examinations. These few hours thus gained are very valuable to many of the boys. The society will have its first meeting Jun 6th without interruption, and as there are several important contests to come off, there will doubtless be some hard work done by the members.

At the next meeting the new officers will take up their terms of office. We wish them for a successful administration.