

MESSENGER

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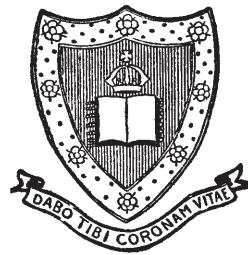
Page 3	Dr. Rodgers Dies Former President of St. Stephen's Dies at Radnor in His Sixty-fifth Year
Page 4	New Curriculum for St. Stephen's Faculty Substitute new Courses for Old Civic Federation's Bubble "Look Before You Leap" Apparently Not Their Motto
Page 5	Christmas Party Campus Notes
Page 6	[Editorial] Chapel Notes
Page 7	The Messenger William A. M. Parker S. A. E. Notes
Page 8	Moans from the Lyre Tree

THE MESSENGER

ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE

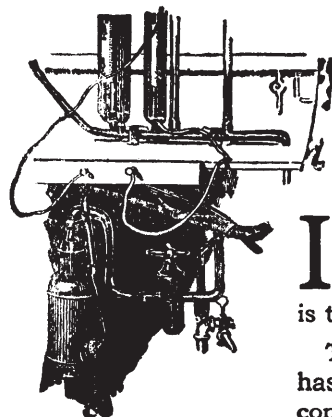
VOL. ~~XXVIII~~

No. 2



Annandale-on-Hudson, N. Y.

JANUARY



What Is Vacuum?

IF THE traffic policeman did not hold up his hand and control the automobiles and wagons and people there would be collisions, confusion, and but little progress in any direction. His business is to *direct*.

The physicist who tries to obtain a vacuum that is nearly perfect has a problem somewhat like that of the traffic policeman. Air is composed of molecules—billions and billions of them flying about in all directions and often colliding. The physicist's pump is designed to make the molecules travel in one direction—out through the exhaust. The molecules are much too small to be seen even with a microscope, but the pump jogs them along and at least starts them in the right direction.

A perfect vacuum would be one in which there is not a single free molecule.

For over forty years scientists have been trying to pump and jog and herd more molecules out of vessels. There are still in the best vacuum obtainable more molecules per cubic centimeter than there are people in the world, in other words, about two billion. Whenever a new jogging device is invented, it becomes possible to eject a few million more molecules.

The Research Laboratories of the General Electric Company have spent years in trying to drive more and more molecules of air from containers. The chief purpose has been to study the effects obtained, as, for example, the boiling away of metals in a vacuum.

This investigation of high vacua had unexpected results. It became possible to make better X-ray tubes—better because the X-rays could be controlled; to make the electron tubes now so essential in long-range wireless communication more efficient and trustworthy; and to develop an entirely new type of incandescent lamp, one which is filled with a gas and which gives more light than any of the older lamps.

No one can foretell what will be the outcome of research in pure science. New knowledge, new ideas inevitably are gained. And sooner or later this new knowledge, these new ideas find a practical application. For this reason the primary purpose of the Research Laboratories of the General Electric Company is the broadening of human knowledge.

General Electric
General Office Company Schenectady, N. Y.

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THE MESSENGER

VOL. XXVIII.

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DR. RODGERS DIES

Former President of St. Stephen's Dies at
Radnor in His Sixty-fifth Year.

The Reverend Dr. William Cunningham Rodgers, formerly President of St. Stephen's College, died at his home on January 5th, from a stroke of apoplexy. He was sixty-four years old. Dr. Rodgers had been ill for several weeks. His condition became serious about 4:30 o'clock in the afternoon and he passed away at 10:30 on that evening. Dr. Rodgers was editor-in-chief of the Church News of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. In the diocese he was one of the best known writers on religious subjects.

He was born at Lowestoft, England, and received his B. A. and M. A. degrees at Christ College, Cambridge, England. He was ordained to the Diaconate in 1884, and to the priesthood in 1885.

Dr. Rodgers came to this country in 1889 to become rector of St. Stephen's Church, Wilkinsburg, Pa. He was canon of the Cathedral at Davenport, Ia., for four years, and in 1895 became rector of Christ Church, Gloversville, N. Y. He also served as rector of St. Mark's Church, Hoosick Falls, N. Y., and was headmaster of St. John's School, Montreal, in 1900. In that year he went to Grace Church, Millbrook, N. Y. He was assistant at St. Agnes' Chapel, Trinity Parish, New York, 1905-1909.

Dr. Rodgers was elected President of St. Stephen's College in June, 1909, succeeding the Reverend Thomas R. Harris, D. D., after an interregnum of two years, during which time the late Dr. Hopson was Acting Warden. He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity

from his college in 1911. During his term of office he was the means of bringing about many improvements in buildings and grounds, and he launched campaigns for endowment and maintenance. The installation of electricity throughout the buildings and of a central heating plant, the remodelling of the College Chapel, the complete renovation of Aspinwall Hall and the building of a President's house were all made possible through the efforts of Dr. Rodgers. To him should go the credit of making the chapel unique—in the beauty of its services, among the chapels of our American colleges.

Of late years, the continued ill-health of Mrs. Rodgers had been the cause of much anxiety to him, and in June, 1918, the Board of Trustees granted him a year's leave of absence. In November of that year he resigned and became Priest-in-charge of St. David's Church, Radnor, Pa., to which parish he was soon after called as rector, succeeding the Reverend J. H. Lamb.

On December 22 of last year Dr. Rodgers celebrated his fortieth year in the ministry. He is survived by his widow, one daughter, Mrs. Edward S. Hale, Devon, and five grandchildren. The funeral took place on the morning of January 8th, at 10:30 o'clock, from St. David's Church, with a requiem celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

At the College a memorial service was held for him on Friday, January 7th, at six in the evening; President Bell officiated. A requiem was said for him on January 8.

New Curriculum for St. Stephens

Faculty Substitute New Courses for Old.

THE present curriculum of St. Stephen's College was changed and added to at a faculty meeting held on December 20th, 1920. The new curriculum which was adopted by the Faculty and which is effective at once, is as follows:

One degree will be given by the college—the B. A. degree—for any one of three courses, literary, classical, or scientific. Each course has a humanistic and cultural background. The first two years of study are almost the same as under the older curriculum, but in the last two years of study men may specialize in the classes; in literature; history; sociology; or in laboratory science. The new classical course is designed primarily for those who want a strictly humanistic training and for those intending to enter the ministry. The scientific course is to provide a man with the necessary preparation for his entry into any post-graduate school of medicine, engineering or mining. The literary course is to insure a sound preparation for any more technical training in law, business or similar pursuit.

A man may easily change from course to course until the end of his sophomore year, after which he will find it difficult to do so.

The new curriculum was adopted only after the most careful investigation and deliberation. The leading scientists have been consulted in regard to the scientific course. Further particulars will be printed in the catalogue to be issued in February.

SOCIAL CLIPPINGS

Mrs. G. H. Kaltenbach is spending a few weeks with her son in Evanston, Ill.

Mrs. Upton was among those who spent Christmas on the campus.

The whole class of History (7) was very kindly entertained on the afternoon of January 5th by Dr. and Mrs. C. R. Williams.

Mrs. Martha Turney-High, of Kansas City, visited her son, Turney-High '22, the week-end of December 18th.

Miss Mary Fowler was the guest of her brother, the Reverend Cuthbert Fowler, for the week-end of December 18th.

Civic Federation's Bubble

"Look Before You Leap" Apparently Not Their Motto

A premature report of the National Civic Federation in regard to Socialism in the Episcopal Church was "picked up and handed" to the "World", in time to appear in that newspaper on the morning of December 13th.

The report, which chiefly concerned us and for which everyone was extraordinarily anxious to read the "dailies", had to do with charges against President Bell. The National Civic Federation, after "careful" investigation, was ready to present to Bishop Burch a petition that he discipline the Reverend B. I. Bell. The report, however, was never presented to the bishop, who was very silent in regard to the whole matter.

Mr. Easley, who is Chairman of the federation's Executive Committee, said that the charges against Mr. Bell were made by members of his own denomination and as a direct result of the federation's inquiry. He denied, however, that he had any knowledge of the report to be submitted to the Bishop of the Diocese.

Among the many charges against President Bell were the following: That he advocated that interests from investments and profits is immoral; that rent collecting is wrong; that man's activities are determined by the hunger and sex urge; that the social revolution is coming; that those who couldn't see that the social revolution is coming were stupid and ignorant. It was also charged that he believed the sociology of Saint Paul was bosh. He was accused of writing socialistic articles in "The Social Preparation," of being the founder of the Church Socialist League, and of supporting the Rand School. A report mentioned his last Whitsunday sermon at the Cathedral in New York, and referred to his close association with Dr. Lyford P. Edwards, professor of sociology in this college, and formerly a Socialist.

In his defence against these charges President Bell stated that he was no longer a Socialist, but a Democrat; that he had resigned from the Socialist party at the time of the outbreak of the war, because he was convinced that the policy of the party was a treasonable policy; that during the war he was a chaplain in the navy. He explained that the charges had been brought to the notice of the

presidents of the colleges where he was to preach, and that after investigation he had been permitted to carry out his entire schedule and make addresses in the college chapels. He referred especially to Princeton, where President Hibben had him preach there quite recently in the college chapel, after Dr. Hibben had been urged that he was a "dangerous character."

In addition, President Bell told the New York World: "The Articles in 'The Social Preparation' were written years ago. I was not the founder of the Church Socialist League—it was founded in England and I have never been in England. I was never in the Rand School and never had anything to do with it. Bishop Burch publicly congratulated me on the Whitsunday sermon, and Haley Fiske and William J. Tully had it printed."

"Mr. Edwards is professor of sociology at St. Stephen's. He used to be a member of the Socialist Party, but is not now. It is not true that I advocate that interest from investments and profits are immoral, and that rent collecting is wrong. I did say that man's activities are largely determined by the sex and the hunger urge. Any sociologist knows that. I don't know what they mean by the Social Revolution. What I did say was that those who could not see that social readjustments were coming were stupid. It is true that I said the sociology of St. Paul was largely bosh. I think it was." * * "The whole thing is foolishness."

A professor in any department in this college is appointed by the Trustees of the college only after thorough investigation in regard to his ability to conduct himself efficiently and properly in that department. When he is appointed as head of a department he is given absolute freedom in this department, and the Trustees in no way interfere as long as he remains entirely satisfactory to them in the discharge of his duties.

In regard to the charges against Mr. Bell, Mr. Haley Fiske said: "It is all poppycock. I cannot understand what they are doing. It looks like an attack on Christianity in my opinion. Bell's no more a Socialist than I am. Bell is an extremely able man, and his Americanism is perfectly sound. The Board of Trustees has absolute confidence in him."

Last September the Trustees passed a resolution in regard to the Americanism of this college which we can at this time print. It was as follows:

RESOLVED, That the Trustees of St. Stephen's College express to the President and

Faculty of the college their appreciation of the efficient work that has been done during the past year in the various departments of instruction; and they especially commend the work done in these various departments in the development of sane Americanism. An Americanism which so firmly believes in our institutions that it is able fearlessly to examine and adequately to gauge the importance of all of the various social, economic and political movements of our day. The Trustees believe this to be, at this time, the greatest service which may be rendered by our College to our nation, and they wish the President and Faculty to understand how glad they are that this work is being recognized in the development of the life and thought of the men who are on the campus.

Christmas Party

On the evening of December 21st, the annual Christmas celebration took place. As is customary, the first half of the celebration took place in the chapel, and the second in Preston Hall.

From the chapel, the members of the faculty and the students, led by the marshall and his assistants, marched to the refectory, where all had dinner, accompanied by all the traditional Christmas customs of Old England. There was the procession of the boar's head, when Professor MacDonald, accompanied by pages, marched in singing the "Boar's Head Song". Then there followed the procession of the plum pudding, and later on, the entrance of the wassail bowl, which no longer has the measure of importance it had in olden days, thanks to the Eighteenth Amendment.

Much merriment was caused by the gifts which had been placed at the plates of the members of the faculty. As each gift was announced, its hidden meaning was at once perceived by all, the professors, however, professing ignorance. The affair closed by speeches from Dr. Shero, Dr. Whiting, Major Prince, Colwell, and the President.

CAMPUS NOTES

Mr. J. Mitchell, of Salt Lake City, at present attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, spent several days on the campus as the guest of Lewis '24.

Dr. Lyford P. Edwards, Professor of Sociology, was taken to the Thompson House Hospital, Rhinebeck, with a severe attack of grippe on January 7. President Bell is taking charge of Dr. Edwards' classes while the latter is ill.

THE MESSENGER

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WE feel at an absolute loss to express our grief and sorrow over the death of our bishop and leader, the Right Reverend Charles Sumner Burch.

In the death of Bishop Burch St. Stephen's College has been deprived of one of the greatest friends the institution ever had. This college, like the diocese, has lost its great guiding head, and received one of the most severe shocks in its history. There was a certain feeling of emptiness, as though something had knocked away the foundations on which we were building, when the news of the prelate's death first reached us.

Bishop Burch believed in us, he supported us, he worked for us as no other bishop had or could work for us. He had only just begun his great work for this institution when he died.

It matters not so much to us, however, what a person gives or what a person does in a material way for St. Stephen's as it is the way a person feels toward the institution. Bishop Burch wished to do more for us than he ever found himself able to do. He put into practice in his own life those ideals for which this college was founded, and longed to help

through his support of St. Stephen's to implant in others and to promulgate to the world those ideals which had become a part of him.

He was a true bishop, and a faithful shepherd of Christ's flock. He gave his life to the Church, and, by putting himself last and others first, worked loyally for the Christian Faith until his physical frame collapsed. He loved the Church in which he was a leader and loved and was loved by all to whom he ministered. We may rightly say of him, "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

Bishop Burch had taken an active part in many of our commencements here, and had received a doctor's degree from this institution. He was re-elected last October as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and last June he laid the cornerstone of the Memorial Gymnasium.

BE it far from us to dig up the hatchet or to relate ancient history, but it seems that we have to admit that if it is not one thing it is another.

We have just succeeded (or at least we hope we have succeeded), in making the world outside of Annandale believe that we are not a lot of premature seminarians or holy originators of blue Laws, or any other sort of religious maniacs, when we are confronted with another thing. Our "friends" in New York have now swung over to the other extreme, and instead of making us the supporters of time-worn liturgies and ancient usages among American "catholics", they have told the "World" that we are upholders of Bolshevism, especially in the Church. They would apparently have us now as the holders of a Soviet fort in Dutchess County, promulgating to the world, through our President, socialistic teachings "contrary to His Word". We can safely affirm, however, that we are in no way interested in spreading the doctrines of Trotsky or Lenine over this continent, and, while we are quite willing to be accused of something really worth while, we must admit that we are innocent in this latest charge of Messrs. Wheeler and Easley.

The National Civic Federation—a long name for such a trifling organization—has apparently misconstrued its vocation. If it is to deal with political problems in regard to the teachings of Christ, we believe it has a hard nut to crack, for our ideal Leader did not grapple with political problems—even of His day. On the contrary He said: (and please forgive us for quoting from scripture) "Render

unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's." The "reporters" of the Civic Federation evidently expect to find in St. Stephen's College the means of the promulgation of God's Word, and simultaneously the solver of all national problems. Of course, there can be found in religion certain solutions of every-day problems. We are far from denying that. But a man's views in regard to politics do not in any way invalidate his preaching the Word of God, or hinder his work for Christ's Kingdom. Least of all do they brand him as a heretic.

We could print indefinitely what the Civic Federation is and what we are not, but for one thing. Mr. Easley, Chairman of the Federation's Executive Committee, now disavows in the public press his authorization of the attack on us and our President. Brother Wheeler does the same thing. If the idea of the report was "not to hurt the college" or "President Bell personally", we fail to see what the true function and purpose of the report was. Without any argument at all the supporters of our opposing party have "backed down." If they had stayed around long enough to put their signatures to the report prepared for the bishop of the Diocese, perhaps we could have added to our endowment fund by the reapings from a libel suit. Mr. Haley Fiske said it was all "poppycock", and it was. It was a pretty bubble while it lasted, but it did not last long.

However, to Messrs. Easley, Wheeler, and Thompson, we owe a vote of thanks. Through their efforts St. Stephen's College has become known to many who never knew her before. She has through this fine system of free advertising been brought to the attention of those who will help her and support her from now on. We are now looking for some other bright thing which will give us another fine boost, such as this charge of Mr. Easley and Company has given us.

CHAPEL NOTES.

The Reverend Charles Lathrop, D.D., some time Dean of the Cathedral in Milwaukee, and now Secretary of the Social Service Department of the Episcopal Church, preached in the college chapel on the morning of December 19th.

We have received from the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, in New York, a beautiful set of festal altar hangings for the chapel. The work on the frontal, especially, is very well done, and they improve very much the general appearance of the chancel.

The Messenger

THE Messenger is published once a month as a publication of the Student Body of St. Stephen's College. If there is one group of persons who are disinterested in the Messenger, it is the Student Body. The whole function of the students in regard to the college paper seems solely to criticize it in an unfavorable way. When the Messenger was not published during the months of October and November, 1920, everyone was asking, "Where is the Messenger?" When it is published, it is the published work of only the editors. From a community boasting of seventy-five heads, regardless of the Faculty and others, this college paper has not received one contribution this college year. The material in this issue was written by only three men, three men from a Student Body of over seventy, and yet we call this the official organ of the Undergraduates.

Such a state of affairs seems clearly to show that the Messenger is not wanted by the present students here. The Messenger has always been, to a certain extent, a source for "crabbing" and idle talk among those who were not overworked in studies; but certainly not to such a large extent as it seems to be now. If it is the way the Messenger is managed, surely there are some people on the campus who have the ability to publish a paper more acceptable to the Student Body, and who have enough interest in the paper to come forward and take over the thankless task themselves. The editor does not intend to call personally on each student asking for contributions. Everyone knows that the paper goes to press some time during the month; and, if he does not, the place is not so large but that he can ask one of the editors about it.

If the Messenger is considered an unnecessary expense to the students, let Convocation vote to suspend its activities for a while at least. But if the Messenger is to remain the publication of the Student Body, it is incumbent upon each student to back the paper, if not to the extent of material contribution, surely to the extent of showing a good spirit toward what is published.

W. A. M. Parker, '21.

S. A. E. NOTES

Langdon '22, has been ill in the Thompson House Hospital in Rhinebeck for some time. He is expected to return to the campus some time in January.

Moans from the Lyre Tree

Warned.

Clergyman (who has sat down next to slightly intoxicated man)—“Do you allow a drunk on this car?”

Conductor (low voice)—“It’s all right as long as you don’t get noisy.”—Gargoyle.

Another Ford Joke.

“Why are school-teachers like Ford cars?”
“Because they give the most service for the least money.”—Life.

The Bugamist.

A June bug married an angleworm;
An accident cut her in two.
They charged the bug with bigamy;
Now what could the poor thing do?
—Punch Bowl.

The Nightly Line.

Teacher—“What, Oscar, is the Ancient Order of the Bath?”

Young Oscar (puzzled)—“I dunno; Johnny usually comes first, then Willie, then the baby.”—Life.

Why He Waves His Arms.

Mrs. Sheridan says the Lenine gesticulates when using the telephone. Perhaps, as with us, it arouses feelings that cannot be expressed in words.—London Opinion.

Think It Over.

Highbrow—Time flies.
Lowbrow—I would, but what’s the use?
They won’t go straight.—Tiger.

What He Said.

Professor—“So, sir, you said that I was a learned jackass, did you?”

Freshie—“No, sir, I merely remarked that you were a burro of information.”—Boston Transcript.

You Miss Out.

“Why should girls who sell gloves make good mothers?”

“Well, why?”
“Because they are used to handling kids.”—Jester.

Wrong Sign.

A farmer hitched his team to a telephone-pole.

“Here,” exclaimed a policeman, “you can’t hitch there!”

“Can’t hitch!” shouted the irate farmer.
“Well, why does the sign say, ‘Fine for Hitching’?”—The Catholic News.

Logic at Work.

Teacher—Thomas, will you tell me what a conjunction is, and compose a sentence containing one?”

Thomas (after reflection)—“A conjunction is a word connecting anything, such as ‘The horse is hitched to the fence by his halter.’ ‘Halter’ is a conjunction, because it connects the horse and the fence.”—Harper’s Bazar.

One Difficulty.

“I thought there was a movement in your town for all the churches to merge into one.”

“There is.”

“What’s the delay?”

“They can’t decide which one.”—Life.

“Say It With Flowers.”

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