

The Illini.

VOLUME XX.

CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS, MARCH 21, 1891.

NUMBER 13.

TROUBLE SETTLED

COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE AFFAIR. THE PETITION TO THE TRUSTEES. THE POINTS AT ISSUE. THE FINDING OF THE TRUSTEES. RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS.

At the recent meeting of the trustees the difficulty between the military classes and faculty was taken up and carefully investigated. The entire day of March 11 was occupied in hearing both sides of the case and the decision was rendered the following morning. The complete history of the matter is about as follows:

At the beginning of the winter term of 1890-91, when the list of those who had failed in the examinations of the fall term came up before the faculty for consideration, it was found that W. G. Miller, captain of company E, had failed in one study and had received low grades in the remainder. He applied for permission to go on with his studies. This was granted except he was not allowed to take military. He then applied for a re-examination. This was allowed, but when the result of the re-examination was known on January 26, 1891, it was found that the average of his grades was still below 85 per cent., the standing required for students taking military. A motion at the faculty meeting to allow Miller to go on with his military study was lost. Miller was dropped from the military class, removed from command and placed in the ranks as a private.

The sophomore and junior military classes, seeing their comrade thus deposed, presented a paper at the faculty meeting of February 2, protesting against his removal, stating as their reason for so doing that he had heretofore been a good student; that he had been to considerable expense for books and officers uniform, and that others in the present military class, who had at one time failed were allowed to continue in military. By his removal all recompense or credit was thus taken away. To this paper the faculty did not see fit to reply and

through its secretary so informed the signers on the morning of February 3.

Upon receiving the notice the resignations of all the members of the military classes who could be found were handed to the Regent. Those who did not resign then did so during the day, except Captain Burrows. As this was done just before chapel time the companies were without officers and were therefore placed in charge of persons appointed by the Regent. Considerable disorder prevailed in the halls and in chapel. During the day the freshman, sophomore and junior classes held meetings and adopted resolutions approving of the action of the military officers and pledging themselves to support them in all their reasonable demands until suitable concessions should be made by the faculty.

At a special meeting of the faculty on the afternoon of the 3rd, the officers were given a hearing—the captains in a body and the sergeants in a body. No agreement was arrived at and matters rested thus for about a week. The military classes then appointed a committee which withdrew the "objectionable clause or condition," which was attached to the resignations. The faculty took no action upon this. Another committee was appointed on February 9 to obtain, if possible, terms upon which a compromise might be effected. This committee was unable to accomplish anything, they being told that no compromise would be agreed to. The authorities suspended action one day longer.

On the 10th the officers were called to the Regent's office, the captains separately and the sergeants in a body, and asked, "What is your stand? Are you willing to withdraw your resignations and resume your commands?" the understanding being that suspension or expulsion would result if these questions were not favorably answered. All withdrew their resignations except captains Steele and Pasfield. On the morning of February 11 these gentlemen received letters of dismissal, suspending them from the University for the remainder of the school year and ordering them not to appear on or about University property. This action caused considerable excitement, the prevalent feeling being

that it was unjust. Since the faculty refused to consider their wishes the students decided to carry their case before the trustees.

THE PETITION.

Accordingly a mass-meeting was called at the Champaign opera house for the evening of the 11th. At this meeting a resolution was adopted endorsing the action of Steele and Pasfield, and a petition to the trustees was formulated and signed by a large majority of the students of the University, the substance of which is given below:

"To the Honorable Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois.

We, the undersigned, members of the University of Illinois, believing that the late trouble at the University has not had a fair and impartial hearing and adjustment, and that the Regent, through power given him by the faculty, has assumed and exercised a harsh, unjust and arbitrary power, thereby doing a great injustice to the parties most deeply concerned:

We desire therefore to present to your honorable body a fair, impartial statement of the matter, and request a full and complete investigation and humbly request your honorable body to remedy the injustice inflicted by the faculty." Then follows a statement to the effect that Miller had been removed under a rule that had been applied with such leniency that it was practically dormant. It proceeds as follows:

"The members of the military classes, believing that a gross impartiality has been shown therein, and knowing Mr. Miller to be a good and efficient officer, petitioned the faculty in the following words to re-instate Mr. Miller in command of his company:

"We, the undersigned members of the military classes of the University of Illinois, do hereby protest against the removal of W. G. Miller from membership in the junior military class and from his position as captain of company E, and request his re-instatement on the following grounds:

First: There are many precedents, several of them being in the present military classes, where failure in examination has not been the cause of removal from class.

Second: That he has incurred considerable expense in securing books and a uniform.

Third: We believe that having satisfactorily fulfilled all the requirements of the military course up to the present time he ought to be allowed to continue for the short time remaining (one term) in the military course.

Fourth: The University owes it to the military students not to make the requirements so difficult as to prevent a sufficient number from taking the military course in connection with their regular work." The faculty refused to grant the petition or to grant any concessions."

The resignation is then given: "We, the undersigned, do hereby resign our positions as officers of the military department. The resignation to take effect at once. This resignation is final unless W. G. Miller is re-instated in his former position." The last clause is the objectionable condition which the officers afterward withdrew. The petition then makes a statement of what took place between the time of the resigning until February 11, essentially as given in the first part of this article, concluding as follows:

"While the faculty has reduced to writing the reasons as claimed by it for the suspension of Pasfield and Steele, which are in substance the signing purporting to be the resignations, and the action thereon by them, the true reason as shown by the Regent in his last conference with the captains was because they would not acknowledge a wrong they could not see, and withdraw a resignation they claimed a right, as men, to present, and in fact disclaim any right to protest against anything they believed to be unjust and partial.

"We, therefore earnestly request your honorable body to fully investigate the above matter at once and restore Captains Pasfield and Steele to their positions in the University."

THE POINTS AT ISSUE.

A copy of the resolutions, with the signatures, was sent to Alexander McLean, president of the board of trustees. The remaining members of the board were each furnished with a copy. The president then notified the faculty and the students managing the affair that it would be considered at the next meeting of the board, and set March 11 as a date for the hearing. The board met with the following members present: Alexander McLean, Hon. Lafayette Funk, Emory Cobb, George R. Shawhan, Francis M. McKay, Samuel Bullard, J. W. Bonn, Hon. Henry Raub, R. P. Morgan, N. W. Graham.

When the time arrived the case was presented on the part of the faculty by Dr. Peabody, supported by the vice-president Professor Burrill, Professor Shattuck, and the deans of the colleges, namely; Professors Morrow, Forbes, Ricker and Snyder, in a voluminous paper, and on the part of

students by a committee, namely; C. H. Shamel, A. Kiler, Charles Crawford and M. J. Morehouse. A. Shamel and Charles Gibson were appointed to examine records while the case was proceeding. James Steele and George Pasfield, the suspended students, were present. The points made by the committee were

First: *That other officers had been allowed to go on with their military studies whose standing fell below the required average.*

This was admitted by the Regent, who stated that fifty such cases could be found on record. The committee claimed that it was unjust to prevent Miller's continuance when others who had fallen below were allowed to go on.

Second: *That Pasfield and Steele offered to resign in any form that might be approved by the Regent or faculty.*

The Regent denied that any such offer had been made.

Third: The committee also denied the following allegations in the letters of suspension:

- a: *That Steele and Pasfield had deserted.*
- b: *That an attempt was made to coerce the faculty by their resignations.*
- c: *That they made no effort to place themselves on proper terms or in proper relations with the faculty.*

The trustees occupied all the time from 9:30, a. m., to 5, p. m., of March 11 hearing the case. Their decision was presented to the students committee the following morning. We give below the decision exactly as it was received by the committee.

FINDING OF THE TRUSTEES.

Gentlemen:

I am instructed to transmit to you the following from the records of the meeting of the Trustees of the University, held March 10-12, 1891:

"In the matter of petition, or protest, filed by a committee appointed by a number of students of the University, setting forth certain grievances and asking relief therefrom, the papers were taken up by the Board in response to said request, and due notice having been previously given to said committee of students and they being then present, the matters of difference were thereupon formally presented and considered.

Whereupon said committee of students presented their case in regular form as to the issues joined therein.

The Regent, together with the Vice-president of the Faculty, the deans of the faculties of the several colleges of the University, and Professor Shattuck, made a statement touching the matters in controversy.

And thereupon the Board of Trustees, after careful investigation, and being fully advised in the premises, found as follows:

- "1. That the joint resignations, as set forth in the com-

plaint, were presented to the Regent, but that time being limited the matter could not be immediately considered in a proper manner by the Regent and faculty.

That the students acting immediately upon said resignations, thereby caused, unintentionally, the confusion which ensued thereafter.

In view of these facts, we find that it was impossible to adjust properly or to consider the same; and we therefore deem that the resignations were not submitted in proper form or time for official action.

"2. We also find that students Steele and Pasfield were suspended in proper form and at a regular meeting of the Faculty, and that due notice of this action was given to said students; and that said action of said Faculty is still unrepealed by them and stands upon their records.

"Now in view of the circumstances surrounding the matter in dispute, and after a full investigation of the facts as presented, we find that the 'rules for the government of students of the University' have been enforced with reasonable uniformity and impartiality by the Faculty.

"We also find that the rules aforesaid were not generally known or understood by the students.

"We therefore consider their action more the result of ignorance of said rules than of a vicious desire to violate any law of the University; and that this is, in a great measure, a mitigation of the offense. We feel it our duty to state that the Faculty, so far as we can ascertain from an examination of their records, acted in good faith and in accordance with the rules and regulations issued by authority of the Trustees.

"We therefore deem it proper to state that, so far as we can ascertain, the complications alluded to in said petition were the result, in large measure, of an imperfect knowledge of the rules aforesaid and not of a desire to violate any known laws of the University.

"We understand that student Miller is now prosecuting his studies with a view to be restored to the military class, in accordance with the advice of the Faculty; therefore we do not consider it necessary to report further on his case.

"We recommend to the Faculty that students Steele and Pasfield be restored to their former positions at the end of the present term.

"We further recommend that a committee be appointed by this Board to revise the rules and regulations for the government of the students of the University and to report the same at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees; and that said rules, when duly adopted by the Board, be printed in large type and put upon suitable bulletin boards in conspicuous places in the several halls of the main building of the University, for the inspection and the government of all concerned."

I am, Respectfully Yours,

W. L. PILLSBURY.

Recording Secretary of Board of Trustees.

Urbana, Illinois, March 12, 1891.

THE RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS.

The following resolutions were drawn up and sent to the trustees:

To the Honorable board of Trustees of the University of Illinois.

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees, in answer to

the request, by petition, of the students, did patiently and carefully listen to evidence and arguments made by the students committee to secure the reinstatement of students Pasfield and Steele, and

WHEREAS, The trustees, after consideration of the evidence and arguments, have given, as we believe, a fair and impartial decision, and

WHEREAS, We firmly believe that the trustees have the best interests of the students and the University at heart, and are faithfully endeavoring to make the standing and importance of the University commensurate with that of the great state supporting it, regardless of the policy that has existed at any time in the past, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the undersigned, the students' committee and presidents acting for their various classes, do hereby tender our hearty thanks to the trustees for the care and impartiality they have shown in adjusting the case of Captains Pasfield and Steele. Be it further

RESOLVED, That we hereby express our sincere confidence in the future action of the Board, and that these actions will tend toward the end for which we are all striving, namely; the elevation of our University among educational institutions that Illinois holds in the sisterhood of states, be it further

RESOLVED, That these resolutions be forwarded to the president of the Board of Trustees and copies be sent to each member of the Board, and to the ILLINI for publication.

These resolutions were signed and forwarded to the trustees.



ROBERT BROWNING.

W. J. GRAHAM.

A great deal of criticism, some good, some bad, has been published concerning Browning. Some have said that he is the world's greatest poet, while others avow that his writings are a jumble of incomprehensible odds and ends. Let us judge him from the standpoint of one who has never heard of the Browning craze—the standpoint of one who measures his writings by their poetical worth.

There are three points of pre-eminence to be found in Browning, namely: His insight into human nature, his love of nature, and his lofty station

as a Christian poet. Let us see in what respect he deserves this first claim. Browning always speaks through the mouth of a character, and it might be well to notice here, that these characters are always good ones. And we find that whatever may be the character, whether the poor sailor, Herve Riel, the philosophic Rabbi Ben Ezra, or the innocent little girl, Pippa, he shows an insight into their feelings, their emotions and their hearts, which few possess. It is a God-given power to be able to put one's self into any character and play our part well. Could one of us, sitting calmly in his study, so transform his mind as to portray in living colors the highest pitch of mental excitement, the finest grades of sentimentality? On the contrary, if one could but depict the mental pictures of his own sensibilities, he is a true poet and will be regarded as a deep student of human nature.

Yet, while his characters speak their own thoughts so truly, can we not see Browning in each one of them? When Herve Riel speaks, we see plainly Browning's cheerful, optimistic spirit controlling the hand which steers the "Formidable" and ever throb in the honest sailor's heart finds its echo in Browning's soul. When little Pippa, "gay silk-winding girl," speaks those words of deepest wisdom, the dullest reader can hear Robert Browning soliloquizing. So we see, crafty student of human nature though he be, yet his own individuality is too strong to be hid entirely. We miss that strong personality which appears in each one of Shakespeare's characters, or even of Goethe or Schiller.

In "Pippa Passes," a very good example of his dramatic works, his transitions are too abrupt, and his emotional changes too sudden. But, granting then, these faults, where will we find his equal to-day? We judge the station of a man, as everything else, by comparison; perhaps if this were an age of Miltons and Shakespeares, Browning would never have been the subject of a craze which swept from ocean to ocean, and still rages with undiminished vigor; but such is not the case. Comparatively speaking, then, he is great in his insight into human nature, and we may rank him high, the loftiest of his age.

"To him, who in the love of nature holds communion with her visible forms, she speaks a various language." And this language she has spoken to Browning: He "finds sermons in stones, books in the running brooks, and good in everything." No man is a poet who has not learned his lessons at the feet of Mother Nature, that alone the towering