

The Glee and Mandolin Clubs

Days were when Armourites crowded each other to make the Tech Glee and Mandolin Clubs, for the material was plentiful, concert engagements were made, and enjoyable trips taken. The merry cadences of our musical organizations were known far and near, bringing fame to the clubs and honor to the name of the school. Referring to "our peerless musical clubs" the 1901 Integral stated, "Without doubt this is the most powerful organization in the whole institute."

Oh! Happy Days! long since fled. When will you return? The next Integral said, "This year on account of lack of material for the mandolin club the clubs have been given up." The 1904 Integral explained their absence in 1903-1904. Then came the bright ray amongst the clouds. We had good clubs in 1904-1905 and they gave good concerts. But only one out-of-town trip was taken. We did not prove a drawing card. At the end of the season each member was out of pocket his deposit and an additional assessment of the same amount, and the clubs had borrowed half as much more which they were unable to repay. The enthusiasm dropped the next year. Strong and continued efforts were made to organize the clubs in the fall but to no avail. Rehearsals were dropped. In March a personal canvas of the school was made by the manager and forty men pledged to come out. Twenty responded to the call for practice and some fifteen more were drawn in later. A very successful concert was given on May 25th, followed by an informal dance, and the debt of the previous year was paid off.

This year the glee club prospects were good. Dr. Gunsaulus arranged for Mr. Protheroe to direct the club and aroused considerable enthusiasm for it. Material for the mandolin club was very hard to find however, and considerable trouble was caused by desertions, two of which were particularly aggravating, one occurring the week of the home concert. This concert was set for April 25th, as the clubs could not be prepared earlier, since but one practice a week could be held by the glee club and the mandolin club encountered varying vicissitudes. A very good program was given, but the support given the clubs by the students was very disappointing.

Another concert, followed by an informal dance, is to be given Friday, June 7th.

The men whose names are given here worked hard for the success of the clubs and there is considerable good material there. Only a few men will be lost to next year's organization and "Here's Hoping" that material and enthusiasm will display themselves early enough to justify the booking of a number of concerts, both in and out of town, and that the clubs will again become "Without doubt — the most powerful organization in the whole institute."