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11-14-1902

UT's Response to Hazing Article

University of Tennessee

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OKLAHOMA.

GUTHRIE, O. T., Nov. 5.—To-night both the Democrats and Republicans are claiming the election of delegate to Congress from Oklahoma by 1,000. The returns are coming in slowly and an official count may be necessary to decide the election. The Republicans claim the Legislature by one majority in the Senate and six in the House.

PENNSYLVANIA.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Nov. 5.—Practically complete returns from the State indicate a plurality for Samuel W. Pennypacker, R., for Governor, of about 135,000.

Of the thirty-two Congressmen elected twenty-eight are Republican. The incoming House of Representatives will be made up of 157 Republicans and 47

STUDENT'S FALL

Forty Foot Drop and Dislocated His Collar Bone.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 5.—(Special.) J. L. Williford, of Memphis, a student at the University of Tennessee, accidentally fell from a window of his room in Hume Hall this morning. The fall was forty feet and the only explanation why he was not killed is that the ground had been softened by rain. A dislocated collar-bone seems to be his worst injury. Williford was leaning out of the window trying to throw water into the window of an adjoining room, when he lost his balance.

Doctors' Incomes in England.

A University of Tennessee freshman, in the effort to play a boyish trick upon the fellow in the next room, leans out of his window too far, and falls to the lawn below. He is unhurt. It was high noon, and the writer was within one hundred feet of the place. These were the simple facts.

Out of this small casualty, a penny-a-liner in Knoxville made a terrible story of midnight hazing, which has been published extensively throughout the country to the injury of the reputation of the student body and of the University of Tennessee: The terrified freshman is hunted by the hazers as the dogs do a hare, and finally chased to his room. His door is broken down and the boy is caught by his brutal pursuers and thrown from a window fifty feet above the ground. Fortunately he falls in a large pool of water which saves him from instant death. These were the features of the story as sent out, omitting the trimmings.

It was an absurd and a wilful lie. The matter was stated correctly in the local papers. No person in Knoxville would have believed the story sent out. There is no hazing here; the boy fell accidentally, at midday; the building mentioned stands on a steep hillside where there could be no pool of water; etc. But the lie would sell for a few dollars and so it was written, telegraphed, and printed under display headlines in newspapers in Washington, New York, Cincinnati, Chicago, Atlanta, Nashville, etc. This story is not the first offence of this scribbler.

A refutation was telegraphed to the papers the next day. The majority of them did not notice it; some published it in an out-of-the-way corner.

And that is not all. The story furnishes a good text for editorial writers, who take it up and moralize on the brutality

of college students to the further injury of the good name of the institution and its students. Sanctums in Washington, Atlanta, and Nashville issue serious editorials on the subject, and the story is doubtless being discussed in thousands of homes all over the country. The lie travels so fast that the truth can never overtake it.

The public may not care much about the reputation of one body of students at one institution, but attention is called to this occurrence for the purpose of reminding people once again of what is happening in many places every day to the great injury of hundreds of individuals, institutions, business concerns, and cities. I cite the case to point this question: Has the public no defence against the ravages of these mercenary scribblers of sensational stories? Can not the managers of our press devise some way to put a stop to this miserable traffic in lies?

Charles W. Dabney.

University of Tennessee,

Knoxville, 14 November, 1902.