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WHY STUDY FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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Everybody knows the ancient jest about the best judge of an egg. In this paper we are to consider especially French and Spanish, the two Romance languages offered at the Normal, and incidentally Latin itself; and, despite the hen and egg theory, we shall take very lightly the complacent boasts of those who have got along all right without studying any foreign language. If you were preparing to pass a winter in Alaska, you would scarcely invite a Fiji Islander to assist in selecting your wardrobe and larder. There is another old saying that what you don't know doesn't hurt you; unfortunately, it does.

It is often said that one need not study a foreign language in order to make a good living. Certainly, one need not. Many people who can not use their native tongue with an ordinary degree of correctness occupy important political and professional positions and have as assistants those who know several languages. No course of study can be considered absolutely necessary for securing a good income when it is possible to become rich without being able to write one's own name or to make millions and still believe that history is bunk. However, ignorance is not thus proved to be an asset. Some people can see better with one eye than you can with two; do you think, therefore, that you could improve your sight by wearing a patch-or, if you are a young lady, your hat-over one eye?

But granted that you are going to study at all, what reasons can be found for electing a foreign language rather than some other course, even a comfortable one that requires no more effort than that needed to register attendance at class? French was long recognized as the only language of diplomacy; even at present it has no rival except English. But there are not many future diplomats among students at the Normal. French has one of the richest of modern literatures. It is evident, nevertheless, that few will have the time and the inclination to read extensively in this literature. Many French phrases are common in our own language. However, you can find most of these phrases in an English dictionary though you may not be able to pronounce them after you have found them. If you learn French, you will probably not be guilty of saying "Louis the Fourteenth when you mean Louis the Fourteenth. It is conceivable that your instructor in English may be able to correct that pedantic fault without foreign assistance. Those, in spite of the objections noted, are really advantages that may come with a knowledge of French. There are others. If you know the speech of the Parisians, you can buy your perfume without having to mumble the name or spell it for the drug clerk; you will no longer

call your salad dressing "myonaze"; you can speak freely of a certain Belgian town, calling it "Wipers" without being abashed to think that some may believe you should rather be making a sound similar to the plaint of a newly hatched chick; you can put the ordinary waiter to confusion, and almost surely receive what you do not order, by pronouncing correctly the plates on the bill of fare; and, if the worst befall, you will be able even to pronounce the French word for bill of fare.

Spanish is increasing in importance as a language of commerce because of the rapid industrial development in South America. The United States is making an effort to attract some of the trade which was lost through failure to offer proper credit arrangements and to employ salesmen familiar with the language. Most of the South American states use Spanish, and a knowledge of this language is an essential qualification for one desiring to represent commercial houses doing business with these states. The government work in the Panama Canal Zone and the oil development in Mexico afford positions for those who know Spanish, and these positions are often lucrative. If one is not interested in financial affairs, there is still the appeal of the great literature of Spain. The ballads of the Iberian Peninsula are unsurpassed in beauty. The universally famous "Don Quixote" in its original form is far different work from the usual patched and mutilated translation. Furthermore, there are many consular and commercial positions closed to those who do not know Spanish and French. Finally, it is well worth knowing that the famous gentlemen Don Quixote and Don Juan are enough at home with us to permit our pronouncing them in the English manner.

It is patent that some of the advantages mentioned are trivial. Others are applicable only to a limited number of students. However, there are still other advantages which are important to every student, no matter what his profession. In the study of French and Spanish one learns much of geography and history, of the industries and governmental plans of the people who speak these languages, and, if one has not already discovered that foreigners are not necessarily on a plane of intelligence and integrity different from our own he may catch a glimpse of the truth as he goes on with his work.

Finally, there are two advantages of a similar importance to be derived from the study of the Romance languages. These advantages may be had just as readily from a course in Latin, a fact which, once grasped, makes apparent the ludicrousness of the twaddle about dead and living languages. The study of an isolated foreign tongue, by affording comparisons, makes one more skilful in the use of his own; and an

(Continued to page 3)

NATIONAL WEEK OF SONG

FEBRUARY 1-21

This week has been set aside as the National Week of Song.

The purposes of this week are:

- To awaken the singing spirit of America.
- To cultivate a taste for the better songs.
- To develop a love for Community singing and develop and strengthen the true American spirit.
- To install in the hearts of the people high ideals by singing of such songs as uplift and inspire.

Songs that have stood the test of time—songs that quicken the heart beat and inspire the soul. These are the songs to be sung to truly represent the spirit of the National Week of Song.

A program of patriotic and other songs will be given at chapel exercises of the Normal School by chorus and Glee Club, Thursday morning at 10:15.

G. N. S. GIRLS LOSE GOOD GAME TO D. & E. GIRLS

On February 8, the local girls lost a good game to the Davis and Elkins College girls. Each team scored but two field goals, and the outcome of the game was doubtful until the whistle blew. The game was featured by the guarding of McQuinn and Roberts for the locals and by the fast work of Tyree for D. & E.

Line-up and Summary
D. & E. S. Forward Tyree
Forward Perry
Center Smith
Guard Von Altman
Guard Frank
Substitutions: M. Wolfe for Ewing
Field goals: Moss 1, Huff 1, Perry 1, Smith 1.
Fouls: Tyree, 4 in 11; Moss, 3 in 12; Ewing, 0 in 4.
Referee: Hardman of the University of Cincinnati.

MR POST'S MOTHER DIES AT BRIDGEPORT

Mrs. George T. Post, who is the mother of Professor Post of the geology department, died last Thursday morning at her home in Bridgeport. Professor and Mrs. Post had been with her several days before her death. The burial was made in the cemetery at Bridgeport.

MES. ARBUCKLE MAKES GOOD ENGLISH TALK

Mrs. Lorena Fries Arbuckle, formerly head of the English department here delivered a very interesting talk during the chapel period last Tuesday morning on the variety of words in the English language.

G. N. S. BOYS HAVE "LOTS" OF FUN ON SOUTHERN TRIP

The Normal boys took another nice trip down through the southern part of the state, and came back with the same results as a team usually brings back when it returns from a basket ball trip. The first stop was at the most renowned city of Clendennin where we met the so called Independent Champions of West Virginia. A real battle resulted in which Clendennin won by one point. Now talk about your football games, this was the best of the season, and it was hard to tell just who was going to come out victor. But the right honorable Jesse James took an active part and won the day as is usual. You can't beat this fellow, for he is hard to get at and he will not give you a chance. Anyway, our boys are going to be in first class condition for football training, and that means a whole lot. Any of our neighbors that want some good spring workouts should just get together with Clendennin.

Our next stop was at Montgomery where we played New River State a game that was about as thrilling as anyone could ask for. To make it more exciting some one of the "Bugs" took a nice healthy wallop at one of our men and the natural result was a gentle free for all which lasted for a few minutes. After the "Jack Dempsey" we proceeded with the game, and until the last five minutes of the game there was not more than two points difference in the score; but Taylor got away and made six field goals before our men knew what was going on. Outside of these little troubles, everything was lovely. The school gave us a dance after the game, and the boys treated us fine, but it is the fine sporting spirit of Montgomery fans that impressed us most. If they welcome all their visitors as they did us, I am sure that their home schedule will be crowded in the future. This, I believe, however, is not a fault of the school, but for some reason the referee failed to call the game. He was either laboring under the restraint of the spectators, or he had a serious attack of rheumatism, for he did not move thirty yards during the whole game. His policy would have been a good one at the home for the infirm, but it was hardly suitable for controlling a basket ball game.

Our next game was at Marshall College, and here we were treated like princes, and surely we did not fail to appreciate it after the "heavy shower" at Montgomery. We lost this game, and we lost it in a clean game on the part of both teams. We offer nothing but praise in speaking of the policy and spirit of the winners. We of course were very tired after two such contests as we participated in on the Clendennin and on the Montgomery "glorious". Had it not been for this handicap, we would have played a much better game on the Marshall College floor.

(Continued to page 3)

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THE SOCIAL VALUE OF GOOD ENGLISH

People are, perhaps, judged more by what they say than by any other one thing. This is probably because we do not always know what people do and what they are, and we must, therefore, rate them as they reveal themselves by their speech. The judging of persons by their speech takes place all the time. Especially is it important in the first impression one gets of strangers. Then, indeed, people must be judged by their appearance, manners, and speech, especially by their speech. Almost any one may wear good clothes and possess fairly good manners, but if he speaks slang and incorrect English these other things cannot stamp him as a cultured person. Only the use of correct English proclaims one to have attained a high rank in culture. We know when a person uses good English that he has a very good education, and has used care to attain a command of his own language.

We unconsciously think people to be like the speech they use. If they are slovenly in speech we would perhaps expect them to be slovenly in their habits of thinking and in their morals. If we hear some one using the smartest slang phrases of the day we are likely to think that he has only insignificant, common, or vulgar ideas to express. But when we hear a person using correct English, we form a good opinion of his education and culture.

On our spoken English then, rests to a large extent what people are to think of us. If we are to have worth while friends and to be with worth while people we must be ready to meet them on an even footing. The use of good English is the way to attain the standard set by cultured people. Every one can use correct English. Why not do it?

LITTLE SONGS OF SAFETY FIRST

Lies Slumbering here
 One William Lake;
 He heard the bell
 But had no brake.
 Detroit News.

At fifty miles
 Drove Ollie Pidd,
 He thought he wouldn't
 Skid, but did.
 Rome (N. Y.) Times

At ninety miles
 Drove Edward Shawn;
 The motor stopped
 But Ed kept on.
 Little Falls (N. Y.) Times

Under the sod
 Lies Deacon Hale;
 He winked and drank
 Some "ginger ale."
 Utica (N. Y.) Press

Here he sleeps
 One Johnny Founker;
 He rounded a turn
 Without a honker.
 Johnson City Record

This monument's
 For Jackson Druck;
 His Lizzie was lighter
 Than the truck.
 Scrantonian

COURTESY

Courtesy is "that best portion of a good man's life." Although the acts themselves may be forgotten, the spirit that prompts them can never be forgotten. It costs nothing in money to be courteous or to be kind, for true courtesy is kindness. It takes little time to be courteous; a kind word is as soon spoken as an irritable one and has a deeper effect always. Courteous speeches are not a hindrance to truth. It is not necessary always to point out defects that are obvious, but it is always a good idea to call attention to good and the beautiful whenever it is found. But kindness which costs nothing whatever has about as much value as other things that cost nothing. It costs a constant effort to be agreeable and sympathetic to every one, and the persistent effort to be smiling and kind at all times does not come as the mere wish of the person desiring it. It has to be worked for, and it develops gradually. One can not be truly courteous without feeling courteous, for courtesy and kindness do not come from the mind, but from the heart.

BETTER SPEECH

This year for the first time, we are observing Better Speech Week twice, and it is, right and proper that we should do this, for there is nothing more important to good citizenship than a command of the English language.

Better Speech Week will not of itself alone give us a command of our speech. It is merely a period when we stress the improvement of our written and spoken language by attempting to discover and correct our errors and mistakes. But if we are to derive any benefit from Better Speech Week we must practice, during every day in the year, the things which we have learned and we must strive to correct the errors which we have discovered in our

Good English is one of the greatest of all attributes to success, no matter what one's future calling in life is to be, and no student can afford to miss the opportunities presented by Better Speech Week to improve his speech in every way possible.

Class Caps!

Black & Maroon for the Freshmen
 Black & Orange for the Sophomores
 Maroon & White for the Juniors
 Navy & Gold for the Seniors.

We have them all.

Be sure to get one before the class games are over and show your colors.

Class Caps!

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ARRIVE SOON

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SPRING HATS

—And—

Watch for the announcement of their arrival.

MRS. C. T. WHITING, & CO.

**Lets Back
 The Boys**

Go To The
 Basket Ball Games.

RAY THOMPSON, Photographer.
 Glenville, W. Va.

But the inside touch of moonshine
 Was a little bit too much.

Tower

Down in the creek
 Sleeps Jerry Bass;
 The bridge was narrow,
 He tried to pass.
 Wilkes-Barre Times Leader

In a shady dell
 Lies Billy Patch
 Leaking gas he found
 With a lighted match.
 Public Service

He loved to sit in the pale moonshine,
 And gloried to feel its touch.