BROWN UNIVERSITY BROADSIDES

BY

GEORGE PARKER WINSHIP

Librarian of the John Carter Brown Library

Providence
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THE UNIVERSITY BROADSIDES

At Brown's first Commencement, the audience, "consisting of most of the principal Gentlemen and Ladies of this Colony, and many from the neighbouring Governments," were provided with the equivalent of a Programme of Exercises in the shape of a full sized sheet of paper measuring 18 1-2 by 15 inches. The printed matter on this broadside was prepared in the style at that time commonly used by Harvard and the other American colleges, which in turn had copied the usage of the English Cambridge, where the traditions of the mediaeval universities still survived. At the head was the name of the Chancellor of the College in the largest type, preceded by the doubtless well-deserved characterization "Benevolentissimo ac eximia virtute, doctrinaque utilissima praedito, Viro." Below this were the names of the faculty, consisting of the President, James Manning, and a single tutor, David Howell, and then the famous seven of the first graduating class, with the careful note revealing the democratic tendencies of the time which were doing away with distinctions of birth and official position, "N. B. Nomina alphabetice disposita sunt." Below these, in three columns, were the titles of subjects which the graduates were prepared to discuss. The whole was a product of the printing press of Solomon Southwick of Newport.

Southwick was the printer of "The Newport Mercury," which contained a very satisfactory report of the first graduating exercises. This report was reprinted on a small broadside, and a copy of this which was carefully filed away among his business papers by the elder Nicholas Brown, from whom it has descended to the John Carter Brown Library, is the only one now known to be in existence. It tells how the seven "young Gentlemen commenced Bachelors in the Arts," with a salutatory oration in Latin, pronounced with much Spirit, and forensic disputes on two of the one hundred and fourteen subjects which were listed on the programme. The first of these, which occupied most of the morning, was happily in English, on the timely subject, "The Americans, in their present Circumstances, cannot, consistent with good Policy, affect to become an independent State." This was followed by an oration on Benevolence, in which Mr. Rogers "particularly noticed how greatly that infant Seminary stands in Need of the salutary Effects of that truly christian Virtue." At three in the afternoon the audience again convened for a syllogistic dispute on the Thesis, listed as number 8, under the head of "Pneumatologia," "Materia cogitare non potest." The reporter warily records that "the principal Arguments on both Sides were produced, towards settling that critical Point." After the distribution of various degrees, which included the honorary Degree of Masters of Arts, "at their own Request," to ten worthy clergymen, the Valedictorian "took a most affectionate Leave of his Class-

mates.—The Scene was tender—The Subject felt—and the Audience affected.'' Throughout, we are told, the audience, ''tho' large and crouded, behaved with the utmost Decorum.''

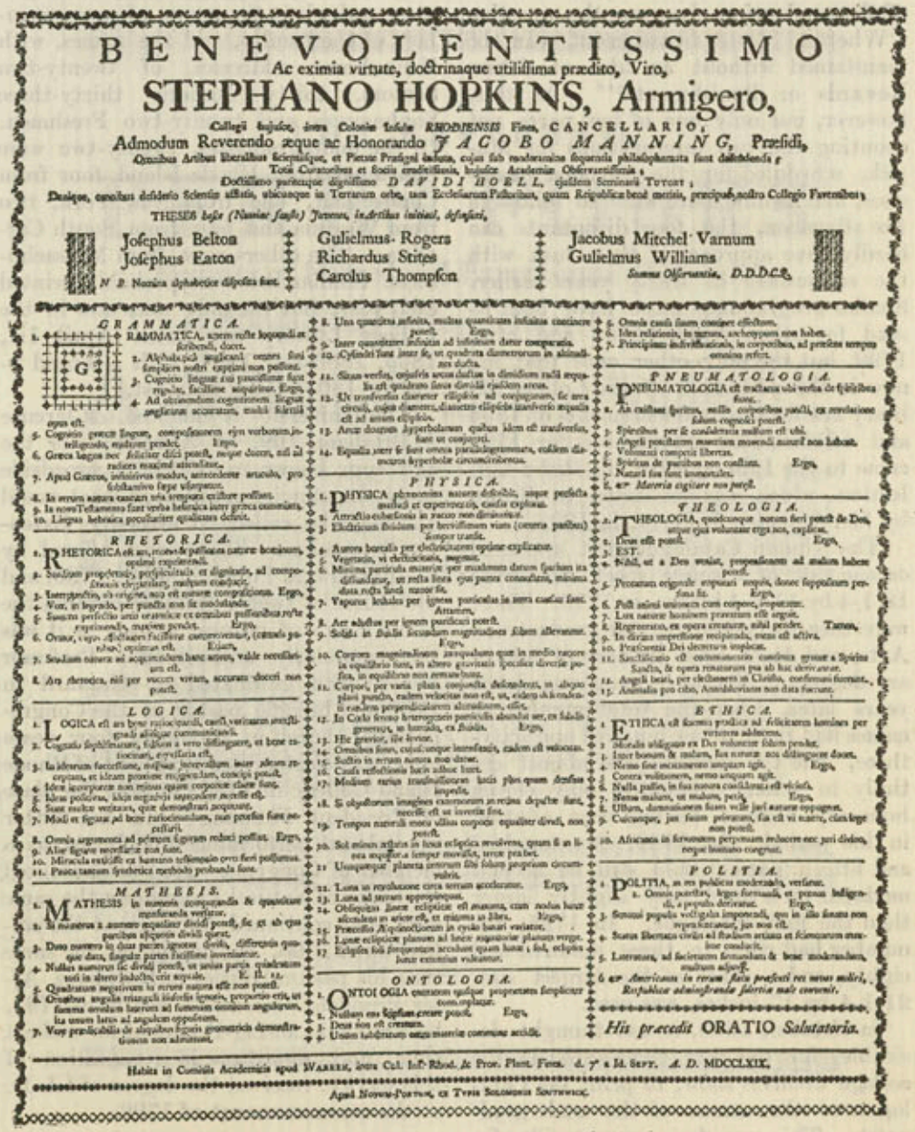
The College Library possesses an incomplete set of the old broadside ''Theses'' which were issued for each Commencement day, from the first in 1769 until 1811. After this, the Commencement programmes were printed in the more convenient size of the ordinary pamphlet.

The second and third ''Theses,'' for 1770 and 1771, have at the bottom the interesting statement, ''Typis Johannis Carter, in Papyrum Providentiae confectam.'' The first paper mill in Providence had been established five years before this. In ''A Providence Gazette Extraordinary,'' dated August 24, 1765, William Goddard wrote that ''a large and very complete PAPER MILL is just finished, about a Mile and an Half from this Town, and in a few Days will be set to work. By the Fabric of Paper here, a vast saving will accrue, and will stop just so much Money in the Country as the Quantity made will amount to.'' This mill was located at Olneyville. The statement that the programme was printed on paper of local manufacture suggests the paragraph in the report of the previous Commencement which records the fact that ''The President and all the Candidates were dressed in American Manufactures,'' a practice still fashionable with the families of Presidents on Inauguration Day.

The set of ''Theses'' belonging to the College is complete from 1769 to 1774, and then there is a break until 1786. During this war time interval, classes were graduated in 1775, 1776 and 1777, in 1782 and 1783. This was the period when the ''college edifice,'' University Hall, was occupied as barracks and hospital for the Continental and French soldiers engaged in the Revolutionary struggle. The college exercises continued intermittently, in temporary quarters. It is, however, probable that these five Commencements were held with all the usual formalities, including the distribution of the printed ''Theses'' or programmes. Somewhere, among the treasured papers of the descendants of the graduates and students of those years, there must be copies of these old broadsides, which the college itself does not possess.

Besides the five ''Theses'' of the Revolutionary years, which are lacking from the College collection, there are five others, for 1787, 1793, 1801, 1806 and 1807, of which no copies are now known to exist. Two others, for 1792 and 1799, have been badly torn, so that parts of the text is missing. If any alumnus of Brown can secure these for the College Library, he will make a contribution of considerable interest, toward completing the University archives.

The printed ''Theses'' contained the titles of all the subjects, in every branch of learning, upon which the candidates for the Bachelor's degree were supposed to be prepared to hold opinions which they could maintain in public argument. The regular exercises, in the earlier years, consisted largely of a carefully prepared debate upon one or two of these subjects. This gave place before long to exercises more in the modern style. The first Commencement for which a regular printed programme has been preserved is 1799. One ''Dispute''



BENEVOLENTISSIMO

Ac eximia virtute, doctrinaque utilissima prædito, Viro,

STEPHANO HOPKINS, Armigero,

Collegii hujusce, inter Coloniae Insulae RHODIENSIS Fines, CANCELLARIO;

Admodum Reverendo æque ac Honorando JACOBO MANNING, Præsidi,

Omnibus Artibus liberalibus scientiisque, et Pietate Prudentiaque ornato, cujus sub moderamine sequentia philosophemata sunt defendenda;

Toti Curatoribus et Sociis eruditissimis, hujusce Academiae Observantissimis;

Doctissimo parisque dignissimo DAVIDI HOELL, ejusdem Seminarii TUTORI;

Denique, omnibus desiderio Scientiae affatis, ubicunque in Terrarum orbe, tam Ecclesiarum Pastoribus, quam Reipublicae bene mentis, præcipuè, nostro Collegio Faventibus;

THESES hosce (Numine faustè) Juvenes, in Artibus initiandi, defendent,

Josephus Belton
Josephus Eaton
Gulielmus Rogers
Richardus Stites
Carolus Thompson
Jacobus Mitchel Varnum
Gulielmus Williams

N. B. Nomina alphabetice disposita sunt.

Summa Observantia, D.D.D.C.B.

GRAMMATICA.

1. GRAMMATICA, rectè scribendi et legendi ac scribendi, docet.
2. Alphabetum sigillatim omnes soni simplices nostri expressi non possunt.
3. Cognito linguae cujusvis sonorum simplicium, facillime acquirunt. Ergo,
4. Ad obtinendam cognitionem linguae anglicanae accuratam, multùm faciunt ejus est.
5. Cognito graecae linguae, compositorum ejus verborum intelligendo, multum prodest. Ergo,
6. Graeca lingua nec solitaria dici potest, neque docet, nisi ad radices nominal attendatur.
7. Apud Graecos, infinitivus modus, antecedente articulo, pro substantivo sæpe usurpatur.
8. In textu sacra canonica tota scripturae exhibet possunt.
9. In novo Testamento sunt verba hebraica inter graeca commixta.
10. Linguae hebraica peculiariter qualitates debent.

RHETORICA.

1. RHETORICA est ars, rationes persuasionis naturae hominum optimè explicandi.
2. Studium propriètatis, perspicuitatis et dignitatis, ad compositionis ornatum, multum conducit.
3. Interpretatio, ab origine, non est naturae compositionis. Ergo,
4. Vox, in hypothesi, per puncta non sit modulanda.
5. Summa perfectio artis oratoriae ex omnibus partibus rectè exercitandis, maximè pendet. Ergo,
6. Orator, cujus dictionem facilitate comprehendunt, (contra partem) optimus est. Ergo,
7. Secundum naturam et acquirendam hanc artem, valde necessarium est.
8. Ars rhetorica, nisi per vocem vivam, accurate docari non potest.

LOGICA.

1. LOGICA est ars bene ratiocinandi, cujus variarum artificiorum usus adhuc communissimus.
2. Cognitio syllogismorum, falsum a vero distinguere, et bene ratiocinari, equivalia est.
3. In idiomata facientium, nullum intervallum inter idem et oppositum, et totam propositionem negantem, concipi potest.
4. Idea incorporea non minus quam corporea clare sunt.
5. Ideae positivae, aliqui negativi antecedere necesse est.
6. Sunt multae veritates, quae demonstrari possunt.
7. Modi et figurae ad hanc ratiocinandum, non proxima sunt perfectiori.
8. Omnia argumenta ad primam figuram reduci possunt. Ergo,
9. Alae figurae imperfectae non sunt.
10. Miracula revelatio ex hominum testimonio vero fieri possunt.
11. Praxis tantum syntheticae methodo probanda sunt.

MATHESIS.

1. MATHESIS in numeris comparandis & quantitatem mensurandis versatur.
2. Si numerus a numero aequaliter dividi potest, sic et ab ejus partibus ejusdem dividi queat.
3. Duo numeri in duas partes aequales divisi, differentia quoque data, singulae partes facilime inveniuntur.
4. Nullus numerus sic dividi potest, ut unius partis quadratum toti in altero indulto, sit aequale. E. G. 12.
5. Quadratum aequivalens in eorum natura esse non potest.
6. Omnibus angulis triangulis inductis ignotis, proportio est, ut summa omnium laterum ad summam omnium angulorum, ita unum latus ad angulum oppositum.
7. Vera praelicabilia de aliquibus figuris geometricis demonstrationem non admittunt.
8. Una quantitas infinita, multas quantitates infinitas continere potest. Ergo,
9. Inter quantitates infinitas ad infinitum datur comparatio.
10. Cylindri fiant inter se, ut quadrata diametrorum in altitudines ducta.
11. Situs verba, cujusvis areae ductae in directum radii equalis est quadrato linea directa ejusdem areae.
12. Ut transversus diameter ellipsis ad conjugatum, sic area circuli, cujus diameter, diametro ellipsis transverso aequalis est ad aream ellipsis.
13. Arcus duorum hyperbolarum quibus idem est transversus, inter se conjuncti.
14. Aequalis area et fieri omnes parallelogrammata, eadem diametro hyperbolae circumscriptorum.

PHYSICA.

1. PHYSICA phenomena naturae debitis, atque perfectis studiis et experimentis, causas explicat.
2. Attractio cohaesionis in vacuo non dimittitur.
3. Electricum fluidum per brevissimum viam (omnia partibus) semper tendit.
4. Aurora borealis per electricitatem optime explicatur.
5. Vegetatio, vi electricitatis, augetur.
6. Maxima particula materiae per microscopium datum spectari ita diffundatur, ut nulla linea ejus parva conspicitur, minima dura nulla lineae nunquam fit.
7. Vapores nebulae per ignem particulas in aera caelum fieri. Attamen,
8. Aer adhuc per ignem particulas potest.
9. Solidi in fluidis secundum magnitudines libem alternatur. Ergo,
10. Corpora magnitudinem aequalium quae in medio vapore in aequilibrio sunt, in aliquo gravitatis specifice diversae perfecta, in aequilibrio non permanebunt.
11. Corpori, per varia plana conjuncta delineatori, in aliquo plani puncto, eadem velocitas non est, ut, eidem delineatori eadem perpendicularem alterationem, affit.
12. In Caelo firmo heterogenea particulae abundant aer, et fluidis generaliter, in humidis, et fluidis. Ergo,
13. Hic gravior, ille levior.
14. Omnibus locis, quicunque interfuerit, eadem est velocitas.
15. Sudor in aerem aurora non datur.
16. Causa refractionis hacin adhuc latet.
17. Medium rarius transmittentem lucis plus quam densius impedit.
18. Si objectorum imagines examinentur in retina depictae fiant, necesse est ut inverte fiat.
19. Tempus naturali motu alicujus corporis aequaliter divisi, non potest.
20. Sol minus affatur in locis ecliptica revolvens, quam si in linea aequatoria semper moveatur, tempe praebet.
21. Unusquisque planeta proprium sibi solum proprium circumvolvit.
22. Luna in revolutione corpa terram accelerantur. Ergo,
23. Luna ad terram appropinquat.
24. Obliquitas lineae ecliptiae est mutata, cum nodus hunc alicubi in arice est, et maxima in libra. Ergo,
25. Praecessio Aequinoctiorum in cyclo bonari variatur.
26. Lunae ecliptica planum ad lineae aequatoriae planum vergit.
27. Eclipsis sol frequentius accidunt quam luna; sed, eclipsis lunae centralis videntur.

ONTOLOGIA.

1. ONTOLOGIA quatenus quidque proprietates simpliciter contemplatur.
2. Nullum ens sibiplus esse potest. Ergo,
3. Deus non est creatura.
4. Unum substratum omnia materiae communis accidit.
5. Omnis causa finem contingit effectum.
6. Idea relationis, in mente, archetypum non habet.
7. Principium individuationis, in corporibus, ad praesens tempus omnino refert.

PNEUMATOLOGIA.

1. PNEUMATOLOGIA est mutatio ubi verba et spiritibus sunt.
2. An caelibes spiritus, nullis corporibus junctis, ex revelatione solum cognosci potest.
3. Spiritibus per se cogitatio melior est ubi.
4. Angeli peculiarem mentem movendi naturae non habent.
5. Voluntati omnipotis libertas.
6. Spiritus de partibus non conflatus. Ergo,
7. Natura sua sunt immortales.
8. ☞ Materia cogitare non potest.

THEOLOGIA.

1. THEOLOGIA, quodcunque notum fieri potest de Deo, atque ejus voluntate ergo nos, explicat.
2. Deus est potest. Ergo,
3. EST.
4. Nihil, et a Deo venit, propendentem ad malum habere potest.
5. Peccatum originale expiatari corpis, donec supplicium persona sit. Ergo,
6. Poli mini universi cum corpore, aeternae.
7. Lex naturae hominem praesium esse argue.
8. Regeneratio, ex opera creatorum, nihil pendet. Tamen,
9. In divina superfluere reciprocda, mens ell activa.
10. Praeterita Dei decretum implicat.
11. Sanctificatio est commutatio continua gratiae a Spiritu Sancto, et opera renatorum pro ab hac derivantur.
12. Angeli beati, per obedientiam in Caelo, confirmati fuerunt.
13. Animalia pro cibo, homoblorum non data fuerunt.

ETHICA.

1. ETHICA est facultas practica ad felicitatem hominis per virtutem adhaerens.
2. Moralis obligatio ex Dei voluntate solum pendet.
3. Inter bonum & malum, sua natura non distinguere dicunt.
4. Nemo sine mentemno aequum agit. Ergo,
5. Contra voluntatem, nemo aequum agit.
6. Nulla pallas, in sua natura considerata est vitiosa.
7. Nemo malum, ut malum, petit. Ergo,
8. Ulterius, dimensionem sunt velle juri naturae oppugnat.
9. Cuicunque, jus suum privatum, sic est vi naturae, clam lege non potest.
10. Africanus in ferunatem perpetuam reducere nec juri divino, neque humano congruit.

POLITIA.

1. POLITIA, ut res publicae moderandae, versatur.
2. Omnis potestas, leges formandi, et poenas indigendi, a populo derivatur. Ergo,
3. Summi populo vel gubernatoribus imperandi, quo in illo donata non repudiandae, jus non est.
4. Status libertatis civilis ad finitum artium et scientiarum exercitatio conducit.
5. Laetitiam, ad facilitatem formandam & bene moderandam, multum adjuvat.
6. ☞ Americanis in rerum facta praestiti res novae moliri, Reipublicae administrandae faciliter male convenit.

His praecedit ORATIO Salutatoria.

Habita in Comitiis Academicis apud WARREN, inter Cal. Inf. Rhod. & Prov. Plant. Fines. d. 7° a Id. Sept. A. D. MDCCLXIX.

Apud NOVUM-PORTUM, ex Typis SOLOMONIS SOUTHWICK.

was still retained, between four members of the graduating class, on the question "Whether Civil Government can be maintained without an Idea of future Rewards or Punishments?" As this, however, was only one of ten parts, not counting the two intermissions for Musick, scheduled for the forenoon's exercises, and as nine more were to follow in the afternoon, the four disputants can hardly have approached their task with the seriousness of thirty years earlier. Similar programmes must have been issued for other years, before and after 1799, but the only other ones that are now in the possession of the College Library are for the commencements of 1803 and 1813. The programme for 1799 came to the Library with the Rider Collection, which was presented to Brown by Mr. Marsden J. Perry, in 1903.

The Alumni Catalogue first appeared on one side of a single sheet, measuring 13 1-4 by 11 1-4 inches, in 1775. There were then forty-four regular graduates in Arts, and sixty-seven holders of honorary degrees. The next issue was eleven years later, when the total number of names had risen to one hundred and sixty-three, but the increase was almost entirely in actual graduates, only eleven honorary degrees having been allotted in this period. In 1789, two hundred and fifteen names could still be accommodated on a sheet only slightly larger than the first catalogue. In 1795, the number had risen to three hundred and eighty, and a sheet of the largest size, 21 1-4 by 17 inches, was used.

In October, 1800, it was thought desirable, for the first time so far as the college archives show, to print the Catalogue of the names of the undergraduates. This was done on one side of a large sheet, like the catalogue of graduates, and gives the names of seven members of the faculty, and the names, with their home addresses, of twenty-two Seniors, thirty Juniors, thirty-three Sophomores, and twenty-two Freshmen. Of the undergraduates, twenty-two were registered from Rhode Island, four from Connecticut, one from New York, two from Virginia and four from South Carolina. The others were from Massachusetts. Similar lists were probably printed each year, but the only ones now in the College Library are dated April 1st, 1805, 1806 and 1807, with a second issue for 1805, dated May 1st.

The University is indebted to Clarence S. Brigham, '99, of Worcester, for the only copy known to exist of a broadside poster announcing a course of what would nowadays be called "University Extension" Lectures. These were offered by the Rev. Peres Fobes, in June, 1790, and the course of twelve lectures covered the whole range of natural science as it was then popularly understood. Professor Fobes, who graduated at Harvard in 1762 and became pastor of the Congregational church in Raynham four years later, was elected Vice-President of Rhode Island College in 1786, to take the place of President Manning while the latter was absent performing his duties as a member of Congress. He was appointed Professor of Natural Philosophy the same year, and continued to teach at the college until 1798, continuing at the same time his pastoral duties in Raynham. After President Manning's death in 1791, he was again acting-President for a short time, and, doubtless in recognition of this service, received the degree of LL.D. at the commencement of 1792.

THE REVEREND

PERES FOBES,

Profeſſor of Natural and Experimental Philoſophy,

in Rhode-Iſland College, propoſes to exhibit

A COURSE of LECTURES upon NATURAL PHILOSOPHY and ASTRONOMY, viz. Upon the Doctrine of Attraction, in which will be explained the firſt Principles of Agriculture and Botany ; upon the Mechanical Powers ; Hydroſtatics and Hydraulics ; Pneumatics ; Optics ; Aſtronomy ; Electricity ; Magnetiſm, and a Sketch of Anatomy. The Whole illuſtrated by a Variety of curious and entertaining Experiments.

The Courſe will conſiſt of Twelve Lectures, two or three to be exhibited per Week, at the Philoſophy-Room in College. The Price TWELVE SHILLINGS, for the whole Courſe, or ONE SHILLING and THREE PENCE for a ſingle Lecture.---To commence on FRIDAY, the 25th Inſtant, at 4 o'Clock, P. M.

TICKETS may be had this Afternoon, by applying to Mr. George Benſon, Mr. Joſeph Jenckes, or to either of the Officers of College.

Providence, June 24, 1790.

THE REVEREND

PERES FOBES,

Professor of Natural and Experimental Philosophy,

in Rhode-Island College, proposes to exhibit

A COURSE of LECTURES upon NATURAL PHILOSOPHY and ASTRONOMY, viz.

Upon the Doctrine of Attraction, in which will be explained the first Principles of Agriculture and Botany; upon the Mechanical Powers; Hydrostatics and Hydraulics; Pneumatics; Optics; Astronomy; Electricity; Magnetism, and a Sketch of Anatomy. The Whole illustrated by a Variety of curious and entertaining Experiments.

The Course will consist of Twelve Lectures, two or three to be exhibited per Week, at the Philosophy-Room in College. The Price Twenty Shillings, for the whole Course, or One Shilling and Three Pence for a Single Lecture.—To commence on FRIDAY, the 25th Instant, at 4 o Clock, P. M.

TICKETS may be had this Afternoon, by applying to Mr. George Benson, Mr. Joseph Packer, or to either of the Officers of College.

Providence, June 22, 1790.