

27 North St., Binghamton, N. Y.

December 21st. 1912

President Alexander Humphreys,

165 Broadway, New York City.

My dear sir:-

Having learned to-day, that Wilder G. Penfield has been named as candidate for a Rhodes scholarship, I consider it an obligation, as well as a great privilege, to write you stating what I sincerely believe to be, not only my personal opinion of the man, but fairly representative of the consensus of opinion of his Class (1913) and the entire undergraduate body of Princeton University.

I have been associated with him since Freshman year, and very closely and intimately during Senior year, therefore, feel competent to speak with full assurance as to his character and qualifications. Permit me, in recommending him as urgently as within my power, to give what I trust you will consider good and substantial reasons.

First - as to the man physically. As a member of the 1910 and 1911 Varsity team, and particularly as Undergraduate Coach of the 1912 Varsity Foot-Ball team (of which Mr. Penfield was a member), I had daily and continuous opportunities of studying and knowing him. After playing on the Scrub and second team, year after year, he made good as a member of 1912 Varsity, winning his letter in his Senior year - a long, up-hill, hard struggle which showed

not only physical fitness, but pluck and determination to overcome handicaps. Always hard-working, intelligent and dependable, his success was merited - he did his best.

As to the man mentally, and his general standing, it would be difficult to overestimate his influence and the respect and esteem in which he ~~was~~^{is} held by the entire student body. As President of the Senior Council (of which body he was a member), I depended on him more than on any other individual. In making up Committees, and carrying on the work of the Council, his assistance was most valuable. His acquaintance was large, his judgment good, and his influence always for the best. Probably he knew more students than any member of his Class. As to Scholarship, I only knew that he stood well - even high - from students' viewpoint, and believe that the records of his work and standing, to be furnished by the University authorities, will fully substantiate this statement.

With reference to his moral and religious character; his whole college life is the best answer. A member of various religious Associations, always consistent and clean in his habits and living, he measures up to a high standard.

I most sincerely and enthusiastically urge his appointment. As a Class-mate, I believe his selection would be most fitting and representative of Princeton University, and that he would do honor to himself, his friends, and Alma Mater. Obligated to work his way, this great opportunity would be most fully appreciated and made use of.

If time permits, it will be my pleasure to secure, from other Class-mates and Undergraduates, strong expressions of approval and recommendation.

Not having seen, or heard from Mr. Penfield, since learning of his application, this letter is written without his knowledge or consent.

Very sincerely yours,

Thomas A. Wilson

Copy