

"Merwick"  
Princeton N.J.  
Dec. 20. 1912

RECEIVED  
DEC 23 1912  
By A. C. H.

Mr. C. H. Conover  
Dec 21/12  
Recd

Dear President Humphreys,

Wilder Perfield, who is trying for the Rhodes Scholarship this year, asked me to write you a note for him in connection with his fitness to hold the scholarship, should he be fortunate enough to obtain it.

It is with the greatest pleasure that I take this opportunity of telling you, with as much emphasis as I can command, of my very high opinion

of "Penny" as an athlete, an executive, a scholar, and above all as a man.

He came here from a small western preparatory school, knowing nobody and not especially well prepared for college, with only himself to depend on.

By his sophomore year he had so won the respect and admiration of his fellow students that he was elected first, vice president of his class, and secondly, manager of the ~~football~~ baseball team, an election in which not only his own classmates but also the two upper classes have a right to vote. It is to be remembered here that this election is usually influenced by

preparatory school lines, and that a man from an unknown school has only his personality to carry him through the election. The following year he was elected president of his class, the highest honor that a class can bestow upon one of its members. Another incident - to enumerate them all would fill more than this letter - which shows the high esteem in which he is held by the college, was his election to the Senior Council. As I myself was a member of that body in 1912, I can testify that "Penny" was one of the two or three men who were unanimously elected to the 1913 Senior Council on the first ballot.

His athletic ability is recognized by everyone here, and his work in the Philadelphian Society, the college Y.M.C.A., has been an inspiration to many a freshman as he was forming his first impressions of the life of a large college. I have been fortunate enough to know him intimately, not only as a fellow worker in the Biological Laboratory, where his active intellect has put him among the highest students, but also in a personal way. His mind is not in any

sense limited to science alone, and he has decided tastes for philosophical thought and a very deep appreciation of music. He is as well balanced as any man whom I know, and it is recognized not only by his personal friends, but by all whom he meets, that he is as fine a man and gentleman, in the highest sense of the word, as we have had here for a good while. He is of the type which would represent the very best ideals of "young America" and could most admirably dispel the illusions which so many Englishmen foster about

our supposedly barbarous country.

One more word, and that concerns his great modesty. He has done many things that have called for the highest courage and valour, which have been entirely unknown until some chance has brought them to light, and even then he would hardly admit them. This quality, so excellent in itself, will work against him in the short examination which the committee gives him, and I hope that you will not take it amiss that I have called it to your attention

very sincerely

Graduate student  
at Princeton →

Randolph West, '12