

# M. U. BELL RUNG BY GOAT IN 1880

## Prexy Routed From Res- cue by Lighted Train of Gunpowder

Whenever the old bell in Switzler Hall tolls out the hours, the old timers like to nudge one another, snicker a bit, and ask, "Remember the time Dr. Read tried to save the bell?" (Resulting loud laughter.)

If one shows the slightest inclination to stick out one's ears a bit, this story will be immediately forthcoming.

Student depredations were at their height one cold winter. The center of amusement focused in the near vicinity of the bell in Switzler Hall tower. Doctor Read, then president of the University, made bold to announce that he would stop such childish prattle and pranks. It was getting to be too much of a custom for the bell to be found clapperless in the chill light at 8 o'clock of the morning.

One morning the president became conscious of a continual jangling and banging of the bell. The president was annoyed. The jangling continued. In righteous wrath the worthy doctor rushed out the front door to see an innocent and unobtrusive goat wandering about the campus with the end of a long cord around his neck. The other end of the cord was attached to the bell high in the tower.

The goat became the object of the president's attention at once. Down the walk he went in long strides. Then almost at the end of the walk Dr. Read was startled and considerably astonished to see a hissing blaze running up the walk toward him.

He stepped back a pace in bewilderment. The blaze leaped two steps at him. With a rush it almost reached his feet and discretion became the better part of valor for the president. For keeping just a speedy lap ahead of the burning powder train he beat it to his front door by a foot.

Just as the president had walked down the walk a student had set off the trail of gun powder and Dr. Read was forced to "right-abut" in inglorious retreat.

This happened long ago before college students were considered human beings, but if proof is wanted read the Police Gazette sometime in the winter of 1880. There, with complete illustrations of the hastily retreating doctor, one may find the story.