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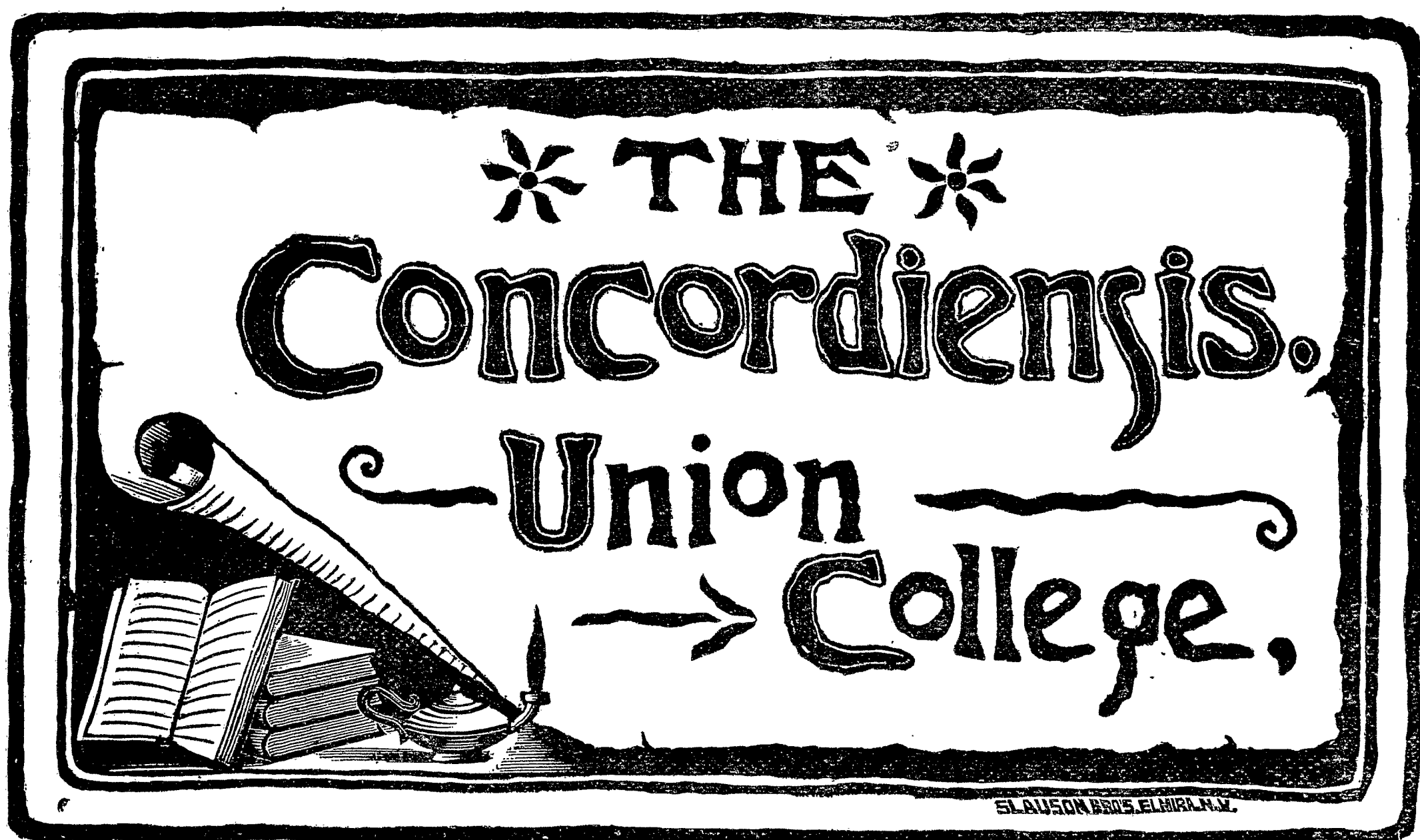


Volume XV.

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Number 7.

JANUARY 23, 1892.



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VOL. XV.

UNION COLLEGE, JANUARY 23, 1892.

No. 7

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*Subscriptions are now due. All subscribers who have not yet paid their subscriptions will confer a favor upon the Management by doing so promptly.*

## ENGLISH LITERATURE NOT LITERARY BIOGRAPHY.

**An Answer to the Question, Shall Examinations in English Literature be More on Works of Authors and Less on Facts About Authors?**

BY PROF. JAMES R. TRUAX.

[Reprinted from the Official Report of the 28th University Convocation of the State of New York.]

If I could determine the matter by my own fiat I would formulate a principle in substance as follows "That no questions be asked except such as would require for their answer a direct investigation of the very words of the author."

It seems absurd to call a subject literature and yet in practice to make it biography. In the division of studies literature has a distinct place because it is a distinct branch—and it is unscientific to convert it into something other than it really

is. Facts about authors' lives are interesting and profitable but not more so than facts about lives of mathematicians, scientists, artists, musicians. If place can be found for such studies we should call the department LIVES OF EXEMPLARY CHARACTERS.

The chief outcome of literary studies is the communication to the pupil of the author's elevated mood of thinking, and the grace and force of his phraseology—so that the student may think in the measure of the master's thought, and speak in the rhythm of the master's utterances. The meager space allowed in the combined *curricula* of school and college is sadly inadequate for even a good beginning of this work, and to lessen the time by throwing away any part of this limited opportunity is culpable waste.

The results obtained by our methods of classical study should indicate the true course in the teaching of our own literature. The classical student does not read *about* Cæsar, and Vigil and Horace, Xenophon, and Homer and Plato—he reads the *very words* penned by the Roman and the Grecian masters. He knows them because they have spoken to him. They—the very concentrated and refined and potent essence of themselves—are in their works, as they are and can be nowhere else, and there they wait to receive and inspire him. It is only when we seek for the treasures of our own commanding literature that we blind our eyes and stray

from direct paths, misled by pleasing fancies.

Biographical matter is mere information, easily found in manual and encyclopedia and easily forgotten after it has once been translated to the mind of the student—but the critical study of the literature itself is training of judgment, kindling of imagination, quickening of all mental processes, enlargement of the whole spiritual horizon, often the awakener of such creative force that even the young brain must have deliverance, and the hitherto dumb tongue is loosened in speech to which there are glad listeners. Such influence can never be eradicated, so completely does it possess and control the entire man. Hence it should be eagerly coveted as the best gift in all our literary heritage.

Even the college makes but a beginning of this course, but if the introduction is wise, the appreciation of good literature lasts, the stimulus continues to act, throughout life, and the right method is applied in all reading. Test questions, even the most wisely constructed, will not exhaust the pupil's knowledge, but they will show that he is proceeding on the right path.

Difficulty will be found in securing good text-books. Most include too many authors. They deaden and discourage the spirit of research by their rapid changes of subject. They give as unsatisfactory an acquaintance with any one writer as would be gained of cities if the traveler proceeding by railway merely paused for a few minutes at stations and made inquiries of officials instead of lingering in the town and feeling the pulse of the people for himself. Literature ought to be cultivated

like land, the margin of cultivation ought to descend from the richest to the poorer only as the best became exhausted, and surplusage of time or pressure of necessity required. In lieu of good text-books, the writings of the best authors can however always be used. The order of study can be determined by the dominant qualities of style exemplified. The preparatory schools can study the writings that exhibit the intellectual qualities of simplicity and clearness most strikingly, while to the college can be left the examination of writings that are characterized by the emotional qualities of strength, pathos, the ludicrous, and the elegancies of melody, harmony, and taste.

There is a species of biography, that ought not to be neglected. The genesis of the author's skill, the special exciting cause, that awakened his genius, the substance on which it fed, the particular environment that shaped its development, and determined its limitations, and that is essential to its just interpretation,—this—whenever it can be known, is valuable—but maturity is an essential condition to its appreciation. The time for such study is certainly not at the beginning of the course.

It will be gratifying proof of the soundness of the main method outlined above, to learn, that, when a single and brief work of a master writer has been assigned as the student's task, he, of his own volition, becoming intensely interested, has gone beyond the most rigid requirement, and has read succeeding works, even during the period of an exacting course of studies, and has formed an attachment that will never be outworn.

**FOOT-BALL.**

According to the Constitution of the N. Y. State Intercollegiate Foot-Ball League, a meeting of the Board of Managers was held at Syracuse the second Saturday in December, for the purpose of considering protests, awarding the pennant and such other business as might be deemed necessary.

The meeting was called to order with all of the managers present. The first thing which was brought before the meeting was the subject of league expenses occasioned by the new system of referees and umpires, which were equally proportioned and paid by the several managers.

The next subject for discussion was the amendment of the Constitution. A clause was inserted, restricting the meaning of University, "to mean Collegiate or Past graduate courses."

Article seven was amended as follows:

SEC. 1. There shall be an advisory committee consisting of one Alumni from each of the Colleges or Universities in the Association, whose duties it shall be to appoint all referees and umpires, and to make arrangements for their presence at each and every game.

SEC. 2. The Advisory Committee shall hold a meeting the second Saturday in December, in Syracuse, and shall settle all protests, and such other necessary business.

SEC. 3. Each College or University, shall elect its member of the Advisory Committee.

SEC. 4. The members of the Advisory Committee shall determine when they shall have meetings, and who shall have power to call such meetings.

The most displeasing part of the business was the usual wordy controversy about the protest. Hamilton's protest against Colgate was first considered, and disallowed. Union's protest against Colgate was withdrawn.

The League still remains, consisting of the five Colleges, Union, Hamilton, Syracuse, Colgate and Rochester.

**Necrology.**

'30. Charles H. Dougherty died at his home, 933 Bedford Avenue, Jan. 9. He was descended from an historic American family. His father was an ocean navigator and it was in one of his clipper ships that the declaration of war of the United States against Great Britain was carried to England in 1811.

Charles H. Dougherty was born on the 21st of May, 1811, at 89 Roosevelt St., New York. He graduated from Union in the class of 1830. After this he studied law. Mr. Dougherty was a Justice of a District Court for six years during which time he never had a decision reversed. He was also at different times a member of the board of aldermen and of assistant aldermen. About the close of the war he retired from active business and settled in Brooklyn, where he continued to live a quiet life until the time of his death.

**A PHILOSOPHER.**

A man had a very bald head

Which exposed him to all sorts of weathers.

"I want an Egg Shampoo," he said,

"If I cannot grow hair I'll grow feathers."

—Brunonian.



# THE CONCORDIENSIS.

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY BY

STUDENTS OF UNION COLLEGE.

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## Editorial.

REMEMBERING the success attained last year by the rendition of Pinafore for the benefit of Base Ball, the advisability has been for some time considered of giving an entertainment for the same purpose this winter. At the college meeting held Friday, Jan. 9, a committee was appointed to consider the practicability of organizing a minstrel troupe, and this committee reported on the following Monday that it deemed the plan practicable and urged immediate action. Accordingly the services of Mr. Eugene B. Sanger of New York have been secured to train those taking part and to generally direct the undertaking. Mr. Sanger is himself an actor and one well fitted to secure the success of such a

project, having had experience in organizing amateur theatricals in New York.

It is to be hoped for, and the necessity is urged upon the students, that everybody co-operate heartily with the committee in endeavoring to outdo all previous efforts of the undergraduates in this line. That there is talent in College was proven last winter, and with the experience then gained we surely have grounds to expect even greater success. There is not the need of musical ability that there was last, since fewer men are needed for musical parts. The plan of a minstrel troupe was selected partly on this account and it therefore behooves every man in college to show his loyalty both to the college itself and to its athletic interests by doing all in his power to make this enterprise a success. Beside active participation in the performance itself, a part equally necessary is the selling of tickets. Experience showed us last year that nearly all the tickets used were sold before the night of the entertainment. This year we must do the same, and the easiest way to do it is for everyone to take a few tickets with the agreement to turn in the money for them whether sold or not. The plan has been followed at other places to advantage. It renders financial success almost certain and divides the labor better than any other plan. Now that arrangements have been made for Mr. Sanger to come up here and organize the affair, all that is needed is the hearty co-operation of all students. The committee is willing to do all they can, but without this same feeling on the part of everyone we cannot do credit to ourselves and to our "Alma Mater."



THE Base Ball Management is beginning now to prepare for the coming season. The work done now both by the management and the men will surely tell when the time comes for playing. The most successful college teams almost without exception begin to train the men and to practice the several positions not later than the beginning of the second term. Williams had several men practicing in Boston during the Christmas vacation under the coaching of a professional player. Though we have at present no plan available for practice, except under condition that practically nullify all but a slight advantage, it is hoped that this difficulty will soon be overcome and the base ball men given a good opportunity to get in good condition for their several positions.

\* \*

It is to be deplored that the Glee Club has not kept up its regular practice. The Club can aid very materially in the Minstrels, and it is to be hoped that it will quickly get into shape, so as to be able to give its aid. Also the orchestra lately organized might with practice be able to take charge of the music. This is an end much to be desired, and, if it could be attained would render the college independent of outside aid beside lessening the expenses and to the undergraduates at least, adding greatly to the interest.

At a recent meeting of the faculty of Hamilton College, resolutions were adopted whereby any student upon being found guilty of giving or receiving aid in any examination or written review, will be suspended from the college for such time as the offence may demand.—*Ex.*

This from the *Trinity Tablet* :

PROB. PHIL.

A miss is as good as a mile,  
A kiss twice as good as a smile,  
Not to miss any kiss,  
But to kiss every miss,  
Will turn miles  
Into smiles,  
And smiles into kisses  
From misses.  
For the maiden who'll smile  
Is a miss worth the while  
Of your walking a mile.  
But the damsel you kiss  
Is worth two of the miss  
Who's only as good as a mile.

#### THE SOPHOMORE SOIREE.

The *Soiree* held last Friday evening by the Sophomores was one of the pleasantest ever given at Union College. The "Gymn" was very prettily decorated with bunting and flags, and the balcony at the western end was converted into a pleasant retreat for those not wishing to dance. The musicians—Parlatti's orchestra of Albany—were enclosed by a bank of evergreens, and nearly the unsightly rafters and windows were concealed by the decorations. The programme consisted of twenty numbers which with several extras was completed in the "wee sma' hours. The committee deserve to be congratulated upon the outcome of their endeavors, and also much is due to Prof. Chas. W. Vanderveer who kindly devoted much time and labor in assisting the committee with the decorations.

Wednesday, Jan. 27, is the Day of Prayer for Colleges. The sermon will be delivered by Dr. Dowling of Albany.

**MRS. IRA N. HOLLIS.**

DIED JAN. 14, 1892.

To her many admiring friends the unexpected announcement of the death of Mrs. Hollis was a source of deep sorrow and heartfelt sympathy for the afflicted relatives. Mrs. Hollis was one of those of whom it may be truly said that to know is to love. To an amiable and genial disposition was added the charm of culture and refinement. She was an accomplished musician, and a charming conversationalist. Endowed with high intellectual powers, she was kind-hearted, and ever ready to sympathize with the sufferings of others and to extend a helping hand.

Sad as the event may be to her friends in general, yet, both from the long and intimate connection of her family with the affairs of the college and also from the great interest she always had in the students and their undertakings, it is far more so to the students of Union College.

The connection of her family with the college is four-fold. Her grandfather, Dr. Taylor Lewis, was one of the most eminent men ever on the faculty, her father, Col. Peissner, was professor of German until the beginning of the war, when he felt it his duty to take part and during which he sacrificed his life, her husband, Lieut. Hollis was at one time Professor of Mechanical Drawings, and her mother has for several years been Acting-Registrar of the college.

Her interest in the students was ever lively. Whatever they undertook she watched with kindly concern and was ever ready to encourage and assist.

To the heart-broken mother, to the sorrowing husband who was unable to be present at the last hour, and to all the other afflicted relatives are given the heart-felt sympathy of all.

**THE REV. CHARLES A. AIKEN, D. D.**

Dr. Aiken died at his residence on Stockton Street, Princeton, N. J., Jan. 14, 1892. He had taken a slight cold about two weeks before which resulted in the grip, and finally in pneumonia a few days before his death.

Dr. Aiken was born at Manchester, Vt., Oct. 30, 1827. He graduated from Dartmouth in the class of 1846. After this he spent a year in study at Halle in Germany. Then he held the Professorship of Latin, in Phillips Andover Academy, and was principal of the Academy at Groton, Mass. In 1853 he graduated from Andover Theological Seminary. From this time until 1859 he was pastor of a church at Yarmouth, Mass. From 1859 until 1866 he was Professor of Latin in Dartmouth. In 1866 he was called to the same chair in Princeton, where he remained until elected President of Union College in 1869. This position he held until 1871, when much to the regret of the many friends he had made during his efficient management of the affairs of the college, he resigned and returned to Princeton to accept the Archibald Alexander Chair of Christian Ethics and Apologetics in the Theological Seminary and has ever since been a member of the faculty of that institution. At the time of his death he occupied the chair founded by the late Mrs. Robert Stuart of New York, "On the Relations of Philosophy and Science

to the Christian Religion, and of Oriental and Old Testament Literature.

He was a very scholarly man and a prolific writer.

He was at one time connected with Dr. A. A. Hodge and Prof. Briggs and others as editor of the *Presbyterian Review*. He translated and edited an edition of Large's Carmentary on the Book of Proverbs. He leaves a wife but no children. The funeral was held Saturday, Jan. 16, in the Second Presbyterian Church, Princeton.

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### Locals.

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Prof. Stoller has been ill for a few days.

Sophomore orations are due to Prof. Cole on the same date.

Allen '93, has been elected captain of the foot ball team for next year.

The next Junior hop will be held two weeks from last Friday, Jan. 29.

Orations are due to Prof. Truax from the Senior and Junior classes Jan. 19.

The Senior Class in Astronomy will visit Dudley Observatory on Thursday of this week.

Dr. Webster has been confined to his house by a severe illness, but is able to be around again.

The Freshmen had an exercise in extemporaneous essay writing to Prof. Cole Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 12.

During Prof. Ashmore's absence the Sophomore and Freshmen classics will recite to Prof. Ripton in latin.

The students prayer meetings which were so well attended last term will be held in Prof. Hoffman's at 5 o'clock every Monday afternoon.

Attractions at the Centre Street Opera House for the next two weeks are as follows: Wednesday, Jan. 27, Hoyt's "A Soap Bubble." The rest of the time the opera house will be used for fairs.

A special college meeting was held Monday, Jan. 11. The meeting was called to order by Secy. Sebring. A report was made by Mr. Daley on the feasibility of having a minstrel show. Moved by Mr. Prest that the committee be instructed to proceed and make arrangements for a minstrel show. Seconded and carried. The meeting was then adjourned.

The college library has recently been enriched by the acquisition of several important and valuable books such as Lounsbury's "Studies in Chaucer" in three volumes, "The Year Book of the New York State Reformatory," Miller's "Lectures on Constitution," "Lyon's Colonial Furniture of New England," "Walker's Thomas Hooker," Morgan's "Animal Life and Intelligence," Brownlow's "Secession" and others.

The essays subjects for the term are as follows: First, Senior Essay; length, 700 words; due Feb. 8. Subject: "Desirability of National Prohibition of State Sectarian Appropriations." The subject is to be treated argumentatively.

1. Junior Essay; length, 700 words; due Feb. 5. Subject: Defects of the Present Ballot Law (State of New York,) as Made Evident by the Recent Decisions of the Court of Appeals." This subject is to be treated argumentatively. The



writer is referred to recent newspaper and other periodical literature.

2. Sophomore Essay; length, 700 words; due Feb. 5. Subject: "What is Meant by University Extension?" This subject is to be treated as an exercise in exposition. Here also the writer is referred to recent newspaper and magazine articles.

The regular bi-weekly college meeting was held in the chapel on Friday morning, Jan. 8th. The meeting was called to order by President Coons. A motion was made by Daily, '92, and seconded that a committee of five be appointed to see about the advisability of organizing a college minstrel troupe. The motion was carried and the chair appointed as such committee Messrs. Daily, '92, Hunter, '92, Lines, '93, McFarlin, '94, Ames, '95.

Lippencott, '93, nominated Lines, '93, for foot ball manager for the ensuing year. Nomination seconded

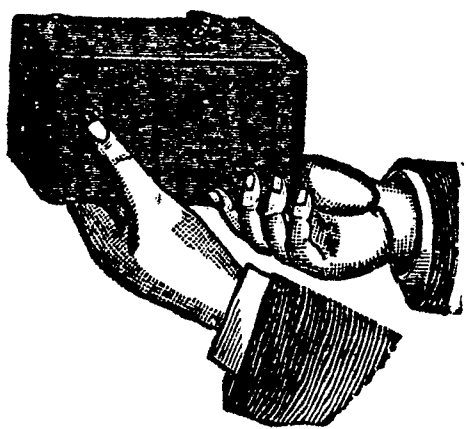
and Mr. Lines elected without opposition.

A motion was made and seconded that a committee of four (one for each class) be appointed, to see the faculty about the base ball men practicing in the gymnasium. Amended to read two from Senior class and one from each of the others. Amendment accepted and motion carried. Committee: Banker, '92, Daley, '92, Tallman, '93, Geo. Smith, '94, Brown, '95.

Moved that a base ball scorer be elected at the next regular meeting. Carried. The meeting was then adjourned.

FROM the list of graduates at Yale in 1891 it is seen that fifty-one are studying law, eight medicine, seven theology, thirty-one are teaching, five are engaged in newspaper work, ten are taking post-graduate courses, and sixty-three are in business.—*Ex.*

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### Personals.

'38. Ex-Judge P. G. Ellsworth is practicing law at Ithaca, N. Y.

'47. Charles Babcock is professor of architecture at Cornell University.

'56. John A. Morris, K. A., is Sibley Professor of Practical Mechanics and Machine Construction at Cornell University.

'80. F. A. Ballart is in business at Ithaca, N. Y.

'85. A. J. McCauley owns the Ithaca Elevator, and is engaged in the grain business at Ithaca, N. Y.

'85. Monroe M. Sweetland is practicing law at Ithaca, N. Y.

THE Garfield brothers will control Williams' foot-ball interests next year. One is to be manager and the other captain of the team for 1892.—*Ex.*

THE result of the efforts of the Harvard and Princeton committees to bring about a friendly settlement of the athletic dispute, which has been carried on with more or less vigor since 1889 between the two universities, was hailed with a great deal of satisfaction by Princeton men. Hereafter Harvard will play Princeton on her own ground, both at base ball and foot ball. This means the abrogation of Harvard's New England rule.—*Ex.*

PROFESSOR WILLIAM GARDNER HALL, of the Department of Latin, and Mr. J. Lawrence Laughlin, of the Department of Economics, have handed to President Adams their resignations from the Cornell faculty. Both are going to Chicago, to be the heads of departments in their specialties in the Chicago University. Each will receive \$7,000 a year as salary.—*Ex.*

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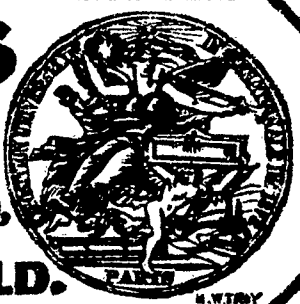
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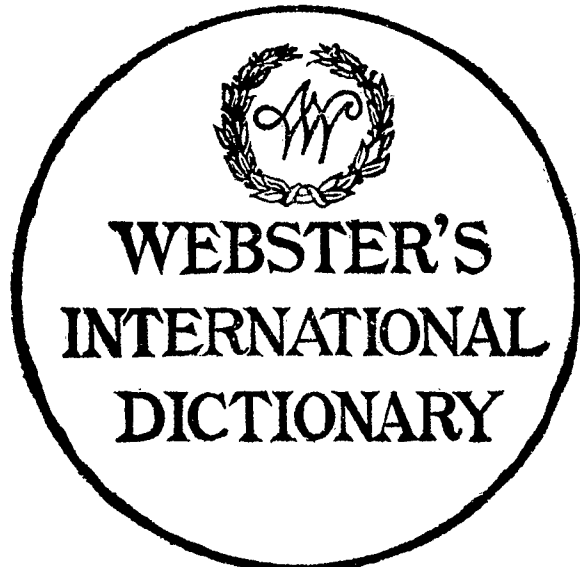
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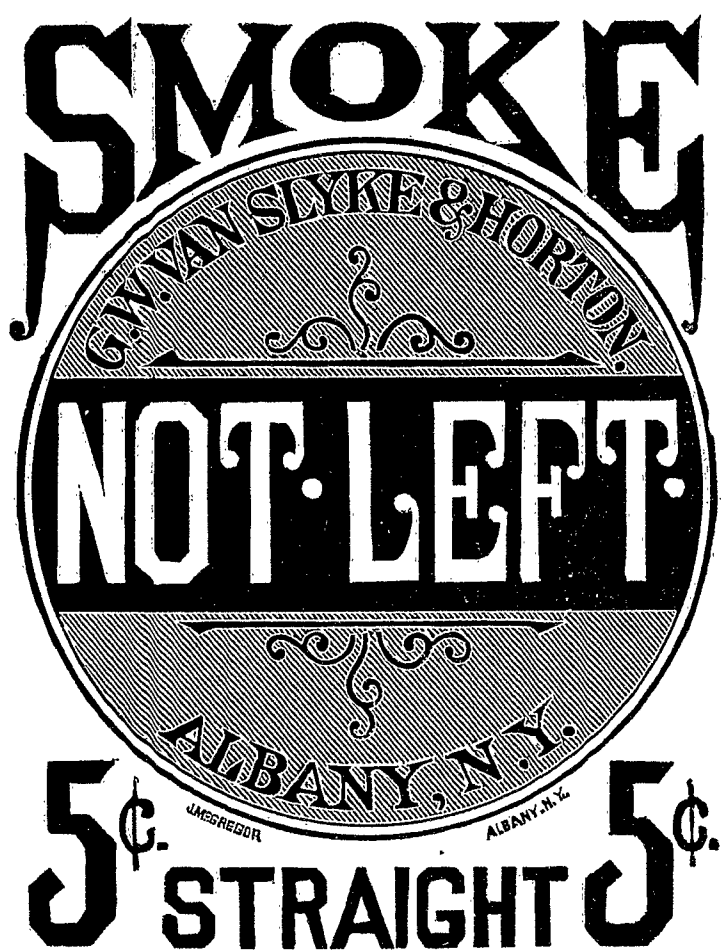
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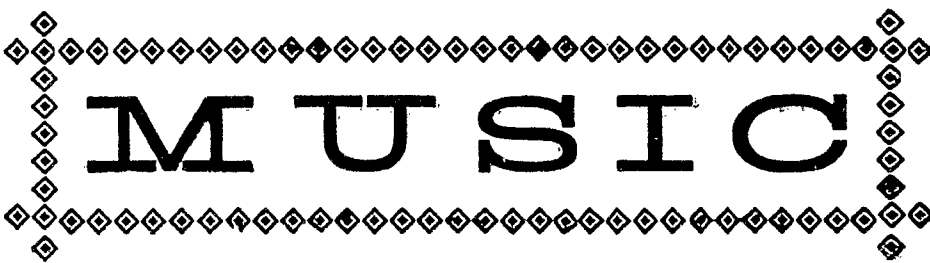
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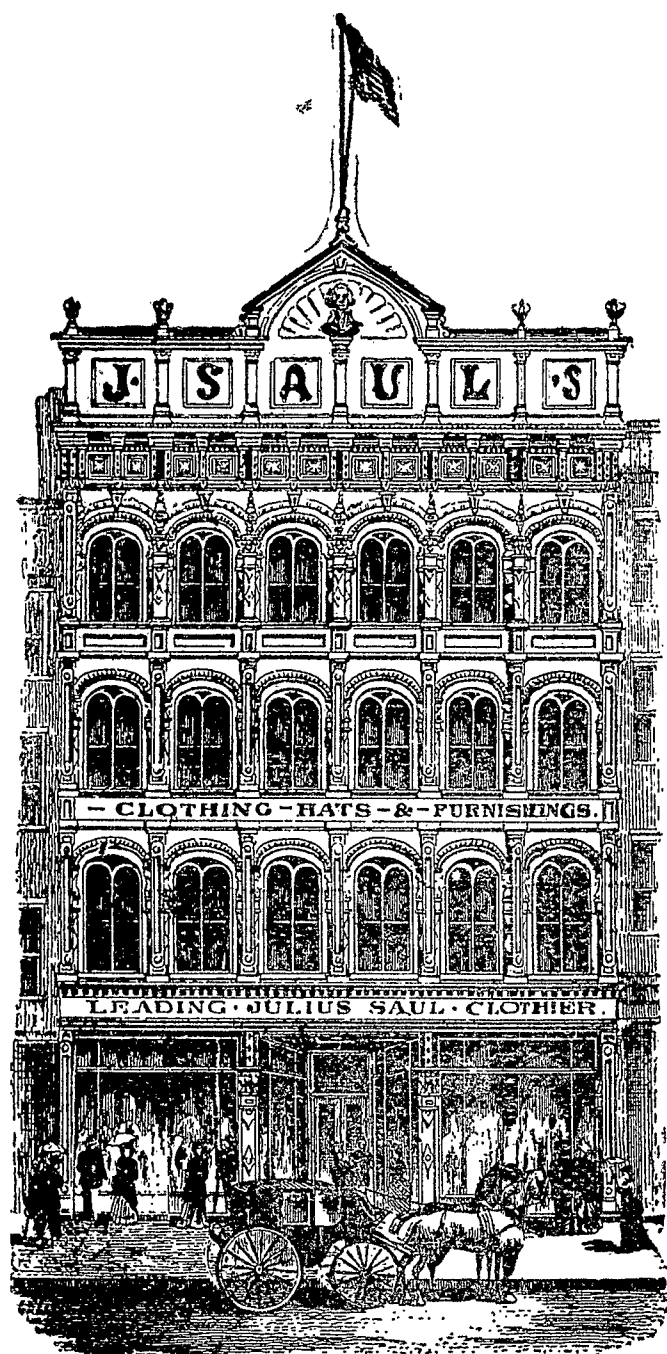


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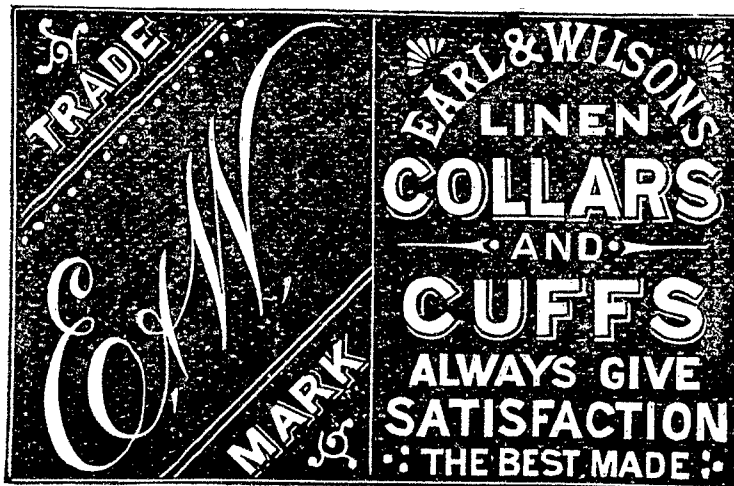
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