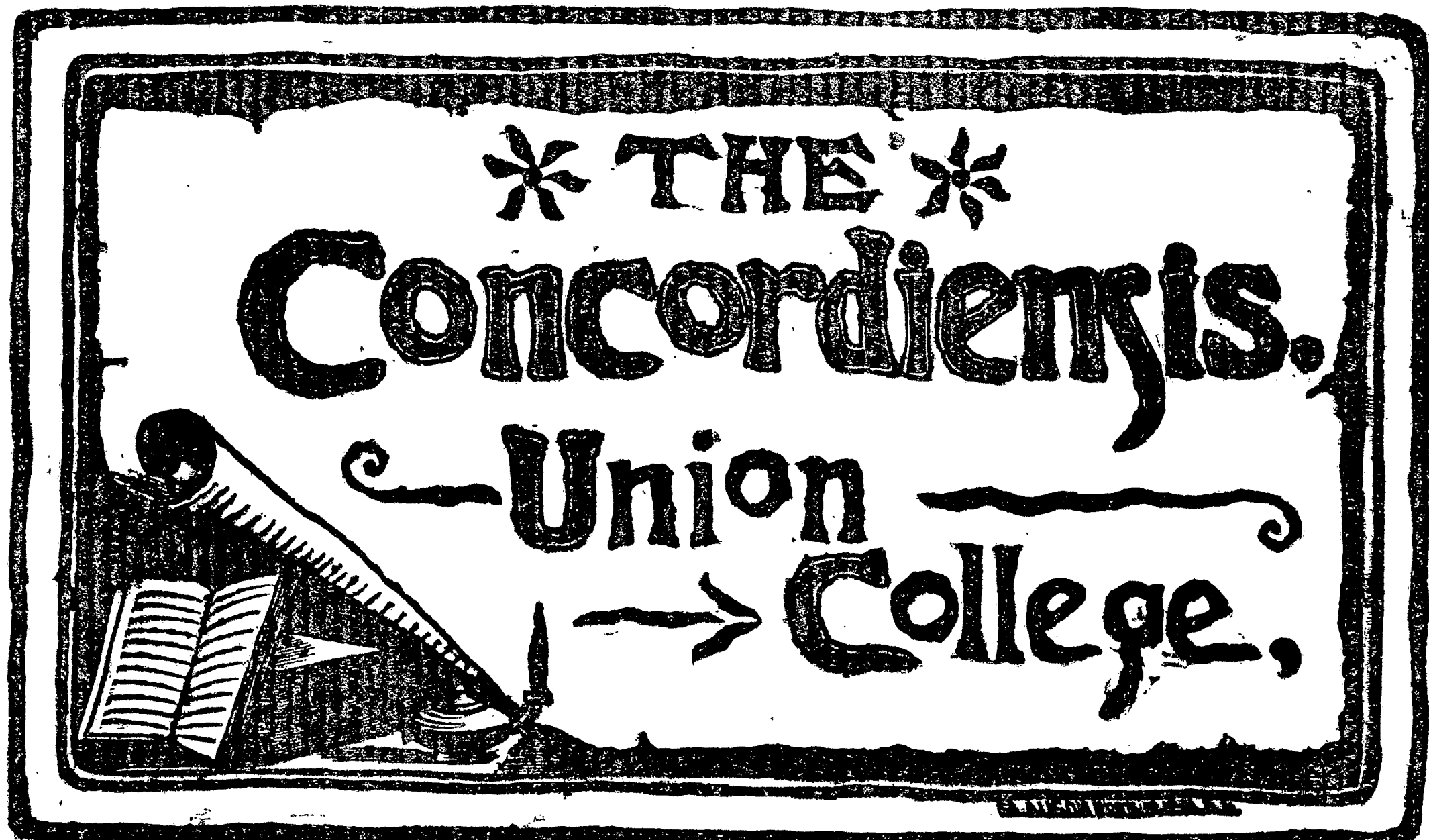


Volume XV.

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NOVEMBER 21, 1891.



SCHEENECTADY, N. Y.

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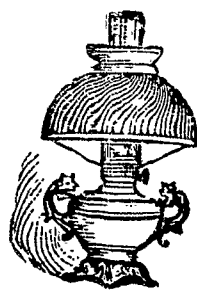
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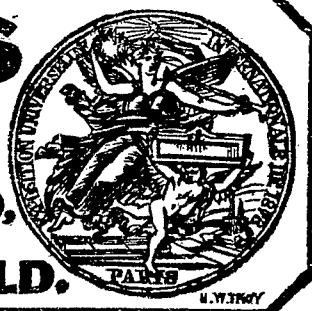
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SOME OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING ORATORS.

(Continued.)

Robert Hall, who for 25 years was without a peer in England as a pulpit orator, was of a remarkably feeble constitution and suffered nearly all his life untold tortures from a disease of the spine.

He had so little self-control that he broke down completely in his first public efforts, and even late in life he says of himself that he never went before an audience without leaving out something that he intended to say and saying something he intended to leave out. "It was ruin for me," he says, "to speak

slow. Force is in proportion to volume and velocity, and so to make up for my feeble voice, I was compelled to speak rapidly."

The most remarkable personal feature about Thomas Guthrie, that eminent Scottish orator so recently deceased, was his nose. Both in form and size this was one of the most extraordinary noses known in history. It was built up in sections and thus afforded the advantage of unusual space for the resonance of his voice, which combined great strength with great tenderness. He spoke everything memoriter, yet so skillfully, that it was impossible to detect it. For the variety and abundance of his illustrations, and the charming manner in which he employed them, he has few equals.

It was a motto with Beaconsfield, who wrote out everything he was going to say, and looked like a bronze-statue while he was saying it, that if you have anything good to say, give your audience the idea that you are stuck. Boggle around for a time and then speak it out as compactly as possible."

I suppose we are all ready to say that the greatest orator in England to-day among its statesmen is Gladstone.

He is capable of standing up and speaking off-hand on almost any subject as well as most men can write on it. He often makes speeches in a single day on a great variety of topics without friend or foe being able to improve the language. Even in questions of finance he only uses a few disconnected figures scribbled on a small slip of paper.

He states himself that he has written nothing for years by way of preparation for his public efforts. His voice is remarkable for its strength and clearness. Some say it is the best voice in England. His bearing is noble, and, what is rare in our age, his speeches abound in classical quotations. He has a few mannerisms, such as jerking up his shoulders, passing his right forefinger frequently over his lips, placing his thumb on a particular spot at the summit of his forehead,—but these are little noticed. For, as another tells us, "it is his face which invites our gaze. Never was such a tell-tale countenance. The thought, pictures itself to you almost before it is uttered; and if your eye by chance meets his, it is a blaze of light which dazzles you."

The first in time at least among the orators of America was Patrick Henry. Having failed in store-keeping and farming, he tried law and politics. When about twenty-five an unpopular tax gave him a chance to plead the cause of the

people and to show his genius. "From that moment to the present day he has been universally regarded," says a somewhat extravagant writer, "as the greatest of American orators."

As soon as he arose to speak, his whole appearance underwent a transformation.

His frame dilated. His tall, spare, form, stood erect. His drooping head was thrown aloft. His dark, sunburnt, homely face, beamed with majesty and grace. He really was another being. He purposely exaggerated his natural rusticity of manner in pronunciation, behavior and dress, in order to make the contrast with his eloquence as great as possible. His usual dress, when he was to make a speech was a pair of greasy leather breeches and a shooting jacket. He often declared that "natural parts is better than all the natural larnin on yearth." His favorite author, it is said, was the Latin historian Livy.

The name of Daniel Webster is a household word to everyone of us. His first efforts as a declaimer in the village academy were far from being a success. By teaching school in winter to pay his expenses and help his brother Ezekiel in school, he made his way through Dartmouth College. His first public position was that of a teacher in an academy at Fryburg, Me., at a salary of \$350 per annum. During all his life he was a most diligent student, and whenever he was to make a speech

he prepared for it with scrupulous care. He would begin by stating to himself the arguments of his opponent in their utmost strength, and then having overthrown them one by one he had nothing to fear.

His usual position while speaking was to stand with his left arm behind his back, his right hand alone being free for gesture, but he seldom used it for that purpose. It is said that in his two days speech in the Senate against Hayne of South Carolina, on the right of nullification he never made a gesture.

Few men have ever lived who equalled Webster for an imposing presence. When he was in London, Sydney Smith on seeing him enquired of a friend, "Who is that man yonder?" "Daniel Webster" was the reply. "Is it? he looks like a cathedral."

Theodore Parker said of him: "Since Charlemagne I think there has not been such a grand figure in all christendom."

On ordinary occasions Webster was dull, tedious and rambling. As one has said, "at a dinner party, or on a parade day, he would flounder like a whale in a frog pond."

On all occasions he hated personalities and bombast, and always sought for solidity and strength. When complimented once very highly for a particularly fine passage in an apparently extempore speech in the Senate, he replied that he composed the passage several years before while walking about the for-

tifications of Quebec. This was the first opportunity that had since occurred to use it.

In marked contrast with Webster among the orators of our American Senate stands Henry Clay, who was just a little older than Webster, was his rival in debate, and died in the same year, 1852.

Both, to be sure, were men of commanding presence and powerful voice. But while Webster was calm and argumentative, Clay was nervous and rhetorical, while Webster rarely indulged in humor or pathos, Clay abounded in wit and anecdote. It was said of Clay's voice that it was so melodious and strong that he could impart to the most commonplace statements an irresistible fascination. Probably no orator ever spoke who more completely forgot himself in his subject than Clay. In describing his own experiences to a friend he said:

"I do not know how it may be with others, but on such occasions I seem to be unconscious of the external world. I lose all sense of personal identity, of time or surrounding objects."

In still greater contrast to Webster and in marked opposition to Clay as well, we must mention their great rival (in the Senate), John C. Calhoun, the man who carried through the legislature of South Carolina in 1829, the notorious resolution, that any state in the

union might annul an act of the Federal Government, and who remained to the day of his death in 1850 the ardent apostle of slavery and disunion.

Brought up in the sunny south—that land of perpetual summer, the congenial soil of passion, he was as coldly intellectual and severe as though he had been reared in the arctic.

He had none of the graces of oratory. Every hair on his head was the quill of a porcupine. His face had the look of a ghost. It is said that his voice was as unmelodious as a donkey's, and his gestures as stiff as the motions of a pump handle. Still, in spite of all this, he was a great orator, and won a high place in the regards of the people by his sincerity and earnestness.

Nearly all critics, I believe, unite in placing at the head of the American bar, as a forensic advocate, Rufus Choate. He was unique in everything—looks, actions, language and manner of argument. He reminded you of nobody that you had ever seen or heard of. His dress was thrown on his tall, robust figure rather than put on with intent, and when he walked he had a rolling, swaying gait that was inimitable. When addressing a jury he would almost at the beginning get into a dripping perspiration by shaking his clenched fists high in air or in the face of his opponent with such violence as to

make every bone in his body tremble in its socket. Sometimes he was so exhausted at the close that he could hardly walk to his carriage. Before a judge he was as calm as any man.

He always scanned with piercing eye every juryman as soon as he began speaking, and then concentrated all his energies on the two or three doubtful ones, and he almost infallibly read them rightly.

Those who have heard him declare that Abraham Lincoln was in some respects by no means inferior as an effective public speaker to Clay or Webster.

Though his figure was ungainly and his manner awkward, his frank, honest face and benevolent heart made his listeners believe at the outset that if they could see the matter as he saw it they would believe as he believed.

As a model of grace and dignity few men can compare with Edward Everett. Nature gave him almost everything, a fine figure, an attractive, thoughtful countenance, a strong, melodious voice and a graceful manner. But many are of the opinion that he was over-polished, that he possessed the mechanism of eloquence but not its genius.

(To be Continued.)

Prof. T. W. Wright has an interesting article on "The Nomenclature of Mechanics" in a recent scientific magazine—*Φ*. 40.

Editorial.

It is the duty of every college man to support every college enterprise, whether it be athletic or social. This is written with special reference to the Junior hops. While these hops are given by the junior class they are nevertheless college dances and ought to be attended by college men. The committee do all in their power to make these dances a success and should receive hearty support. But when there are only a half dozen college men present at these dances it is no wonder that the committee begin to be discouraged and to talk of discontinuing them. The attempts whether willful or otherwise on the part of anybody of the students to interfere with these dances should be discountenanced. There are plenty of times when they may hold their meeting so as not to interfere with these dances.

* *

THE system of having marshals to lead in the college cheering, which was tried at the last foot ball game proved a great improvement on the old system of indiscriminate cheering.

Locals.

Two new arc lights are to be placed on the college grounds.

The third Junior Hop was given last night in the Gymnasium.

The Freshman Society, *T. A. T.* held its initiation Friday night, Nov. 6th.

Prof. James R. Truax filled the pulpit of the First Reformed church on Sunday, Nov. 8th.

Freshmen should take notice that the fire alarm boxes are not intended to be used as mail boxes.

The last league game was played with Hamilton, Friday, Nov. 20. An account of the game will be given in our next issue.

Mosher '92, and Fields '93, were appointed at a recent college meeting as marshals to lead in the college cheering.

The full *K. A.* delegation is as follows: Albert S. Cox, Geo. E. Cook, Henry L. Dwight, Harold Harder, J. Henry Seburger, all of '95.

The scores in the league games already played are as follows: Colgate 22, Syracuse 16. Colgate 22, Hamilton 4. Hamilton 26, Rochester 4. Hamilton 24, Syracuse 4. Union 75, Syracuse 0. Union 9, Rochester 0. The Union, Colgate game is contested.

The attractions at the Centre Street Opera House are as follows: Saturday, Nov. 21st, "Niobe;" Thanksgiving, Nov. 26, "The New England Home;" Saturday, Nov. 28, "Grime's Cellar Door." This is the last attraction until after the holidays.

Foot Ball.

UNION 75--SYRACUSE 0.

The first league game of the season was played on the campus, Wednesday, Oct. 11, with Syracuse. Owing to the bad state of the weather the number of spectators was not as large as usual. The teams lined up as follows:

UNION.	SYRACUSE.
Yanney.....right end.....	Benedict
Allen.....right tackle.....	Shepard
Miller.....right guard.....	Douglass
Coons.....centre.....	Wood
Van Voast.....left guard.....	Smith
Van Valkenburg (Capt) left tackle.....	Caswell
Smith.....left end.....	Watkins
Daley.....quarter back.....	Meahan
Gregory.....right half.....	Fanton (Capt.)
Lavery.....left half.....	Purdy
McCowatt.....full.....	Miller

Referee, Prof. Rogers, Albany; umpire, Rev. A. B. Chapin.

The game began at 3:30 P. M. with Union in possession of the ball. They started with the V and gained ten yards. Ten yards more were gained by a rush through Syracuse's centre. Then Lavery took the ball and made a touch down one minute and a half after the game began. McCowatt kicked a goal. Score 6-0.

Then Syracuse took the ball at the centre of the field, and tried to force it through Union's line. But they made no decided gain and lost the ball in four downs. By good runs Gregory and Lavery carried the ball nearly up to the Syracuse goal. But for ten minutes Syracuse held them back from the goal line. But they could not hold out and a touch down

by Gregory and goal by McCowatt gave Union 12-0.

This was but the beginning and during the remainder of the first half the score was brought up to 49 by Union while Syracuse failed to score.

During this part of the game the halves, Gregory and Lavery did good work for Union both by runs around the ends and going through the line. McCowatt played a splendid game as full back and one of the features of the game was a drop kick for goal made by him.

Van Valkenburg repeatedly made gains of several yards through the centre, and his tackling was remarkably good.

Allen, the right tackle played a great game and always succeeded in making an opening through the Syracuse line. Miller right guard, and Yanney right end, also played a strong game.

Just before the close of the first half Watkins of the Syracuse team was disabled and Wright substituted.

After the ten minutes interval the teams lined up again and in just 30 seconds Lavery made a touch down for Union. This was followed by others and when at the end of twenty minutes the referee called time the score was 75 to 0 in favor of Union. During this half Purdy got the ball within 25 yards of Union's goal. The rest of the game was played in Syracuse's territory.

UNION 9--ROCHESTER 0.

The second league game was played at Culver Park, Rochester, Saturday, Nov. 14. The Union team was weakened by the loss of Allen, but in spite of this and other adverse circumstances put up a good game. The men lined up as follows:

ROCHESTER.	UNION.
Menzie.....left end.....	Smith
Lewis.....left tackle.....	VanValkenburg
Mulligan.....left guard.....	Van Voast
Kinzie.....centre.....	Coons
Glyce.....right guard.....	Miller
Slaight.....right tackle.....	Briggs
Barrett.....right end.....	Yanney
Bostwick....quarter back.....	Daley
Wynne.....left half back.....	Lavery
Knight.....right half back.....	Gregory
Comfort.....full back.....	McCowatt

R. L. Warner, Cornell '92, was referee, and C. A. Edgerton, Williams '91, umpire.

Rochester won the toss and started with a V but made no gain. Knight then started around the right end but was quickly downed. On the third down the ball was passed to Comfort who gained ten yards by a kick. Coons made a good gain through Rochester's line, and McCowatt made ten yards around the left end when he was tackled by Wynne. Rochester then got the ball on a fumble and made twenty yards through Union's line. After the teams lined up for the second half Union made slight gains through the Rochester line. Gregory loses the ball on being tackled by Wynne. After a number of fumbles Knight gets a good start but is poorly guarded, and soon downed. The ball was then rushed near

Rochester's goal when Bostwick obtains it on a fumble. The ball was then punted out into the field by Comfort. Lavery gets the ball makes a run of ten yards. When the Rochester men again get the ball they try the V and rush it down to Union's 45 yard line. The ball then goes to Union and Gregory makes a run of 25 yards. The ball is then punted across the side line and landed beyond Rochester's goal line. A touch down claimed but not allowed. It is touched in on the twenty-five yard line. It goes to Union on a fresh tackle by Slaight. Van Valkenburg takes the ball across the line, but it is knocked out of his hands when he is tackled. It is however seized by Yanney who makes a touch down. McCowatt tries for a goal but the ball strikes the goal post. Score 4 to 0. During the rest of this half both sides struggled hard, but nothing was gained.

On the last down Bostwick made a fumble in passing the ball to Knight who was immediately downed and the ball went to Union. Gregory and Lavery by dashes around the end, brought the ball up to the 15 yard line. The ball was then snapped back to McCowatt who kicked a goal from the field. Score 5 to 0. Union then tried to force the Rochester line with a wedge for two downs. Then Lavery made a good run and was tackled by Knight. Union lost five yards on an off side play. Rochester got the ball but was successfully

blocked by Union. Nothing further was made during this half and when time was called the score stood 9 to 0 in favor of Union.

COLGATE 20--UNION 12.

With only part of the regular team and with that part in bad shape after last Saturday's game with Rochester, the 'Varsity lined up last Monday against the team that is *supposed* to represent Colgate University. From the first it was a contest of skilled playing against brute force. The teams lined up as follows:

UNION.	COLGATE.
Yanney.....right end.....	Taylor
Van Valkenburg....right tackle.....	S. F. Ford
Miller.....right guard.....	Newell
Coons.....centre.....	Stannard
Van Vorst.....left guard.....	Smith
Briggs.....left tackle.....	Harmon
Smith.....left end.....	W. S. Ford
Thatcher.....quarter back.....	Bryan
Gregory.....right half.....	Risley
Lavery.....left half.....	Fay Monroe
Daley.....full.....	Bustard

The referee was R. I. Warner, Cornell, '92, and the umpire was Prof. George S. Mills of Colgate Academy. The score at the end of the first half was 10 to 9 in favor of Colgate. During the second half Union made two touch downs from which goals were kicked and Colgate another touch down for which a goal was kicked and one from which there was no goal. Thus giving a score of 20 to 12 in favor of Colgate. The game has been protested on the ground that at least three of the players were not students in Colgate University.

UNION 72--ALBANY ACADEMY 0.

The first foot ball game on the campus was played Monday, Nov. 11, with the Albany Academy team. Prof. Rogers, of Albany, was referee, and Howard Conant, Union '92, umpire. The team lined up as follows:

UNION.	ACADEMY.
Yanney.....right end.....	TenEyck
Allen.....right tackle.....	Cluett, G. A.
Miller.....right guard.....	Fitzsimmons
Coons.....centre.....	Tilley
Van Voast.....left guard.....	Cluett, E. H.
Van Valkenburg (Capt.) left tackle.....	Martin
Smith.....left end.....	Warren
Daley.....quarter back.....	Mellus
Gregory.....right half.....	Miller, M. N. (Capt.)
Lavery.....left half.....	Miller, E. L.
McCowatt.....full.....	Horton

The Academy team won the toss and took the ball. They soon lost it and in two minutes Lavery made a touch down. McCowatt kicked a goal thus giving Union six points. The ball was taken to the centre of the field and for a short time the Academy boys succeeded in forcing the ball through Union's line. The 'Varsity soon regained the lost ground and Lavery made another touch down from which McCowatt failed to kick a goal. Other touch downs were made during this half by McCowatt, Gregory and Van Valkenburg. At the end of the first half the score stood 36 to 0 in favor of Union.

During the second half 36 more points were scored, although it lasted for only 25 minutes. The playing on both sides was excellent. The 'Varsity has never been in better condition at the beginning of the season and there is every reason to expect that they will win the pennant.

A UNION STUDENT'S FATE.

The present students of Old Union are probably ignorant of the tragic story of a former student whose fate at the time attracted widespread attention. Philip Spencer, the son of Secretary of War Spencer, under Tyler's administration, was once a student at our college, and one of the founders of the X. Ψ. Fraternity. After leaving college he entered the Navy, and in 1842 was serving as midshipman on the U. S. Brig Somers then cruising in West India waters. In November of that year Spencer was overheard making some remarks to a companion, who reported them to the captain. These words, which have since been considered to be but the substance of an innocent joke, or of a plan to form some harmless organization among his companions, were construed by the captain to indicate the formation of a plan to seize the brig, convert it into a pirate ship, and murder all the officers. Captain Mackenzie caused Spencer and two companions to be cast into irons and then with his officers held a trial at which the accused were given the right neither of defense nor of explanation. The result was that upon exceedingly meagre evidence Spencer and his companions were condemned to death.

The captain donned his best uniform, called all hands, and with a brutal directness announced to the condemned that they must die at

the yard arm in ten minutes. Without the slightest sign of weakening, this youth of nineteen demanded time to write to his mother, but this request was denied. He was, however, allowed to dictate a letter—a letter which, by the way, was never delivered. After a brief moment for prayer, these three souls were hurled into eternity, less than one short hour after a sentence as unjust as it was unexpected.

Such was the untimely end of a youth whose future up to almost the moment of an infamous death, seemed one of the brightest. His was a noble spirit, and even in that most trying hour of all, gave no sign but that of strength. Conscious of his innocence he died like a hero. Popular opinion as to his innocence was at the time divided, but the masterly words of J. Fennimore Cooper turned the tide in his favor. Though Captain Mackenzie was acquitted of the charge of murder before a court of Naval officers, who were naturally very jealous of a captain's powers, it is now held that the evidence on which he condemned young Spencer to death was insufficient to justify a civil magistrate for holding a prisoner for trial.

The union game is lost. It was lost by no unfair decisions or playing, but simply because the opposing team played a better game.—*Rochester Campus.*

Necrology.

'34. James Fuller, K. A., died Nov. 5, at his residence, 405 Lafayette street, in this city, aged 77 years. He was born in Schenectady in 1814. At the age of twenty he graduated from Union, and began the study of the law. In 1851 he was appointed district attorney to fill a vacancy. This office he filled for a little over a year. For several years Mr. Fuller's health had been failing on account of his advanced age.

'44. James F. Rawson, X. Ψ., died at Bangor, Me., May 8, 1891.

'47. Prof. W. H. Carrol, committed suicide in New York, Oct. 14, 1891. He was born in Albany in 1827, and graduated

from Union in the class of '47. He then studied theology in a western college, and entered the Unitarian University. He was for a time professor of literature in a seminary at Vernon, N. Y. He also started the college of Archeology and Aesthetics, of which he was dean. He was a consumptive, and had been told by his physician that he could not live over a month. This probably was the cause of his committing suicide.

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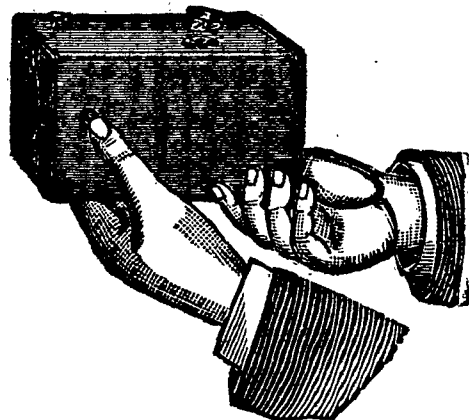
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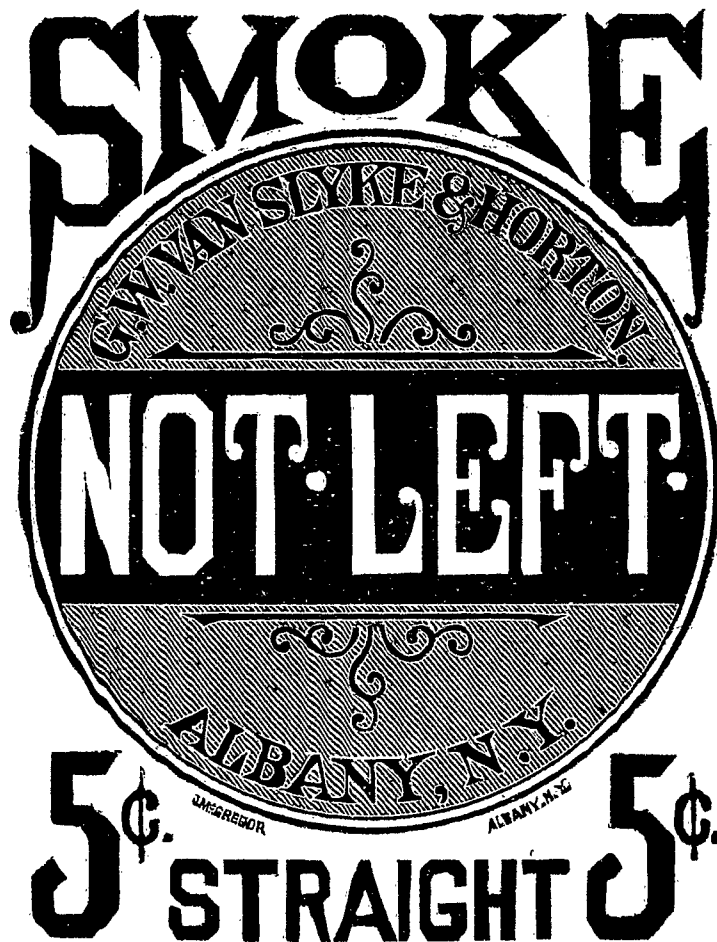
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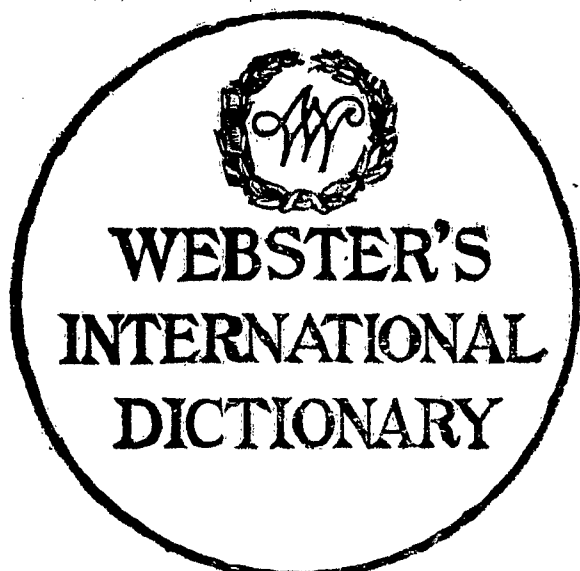
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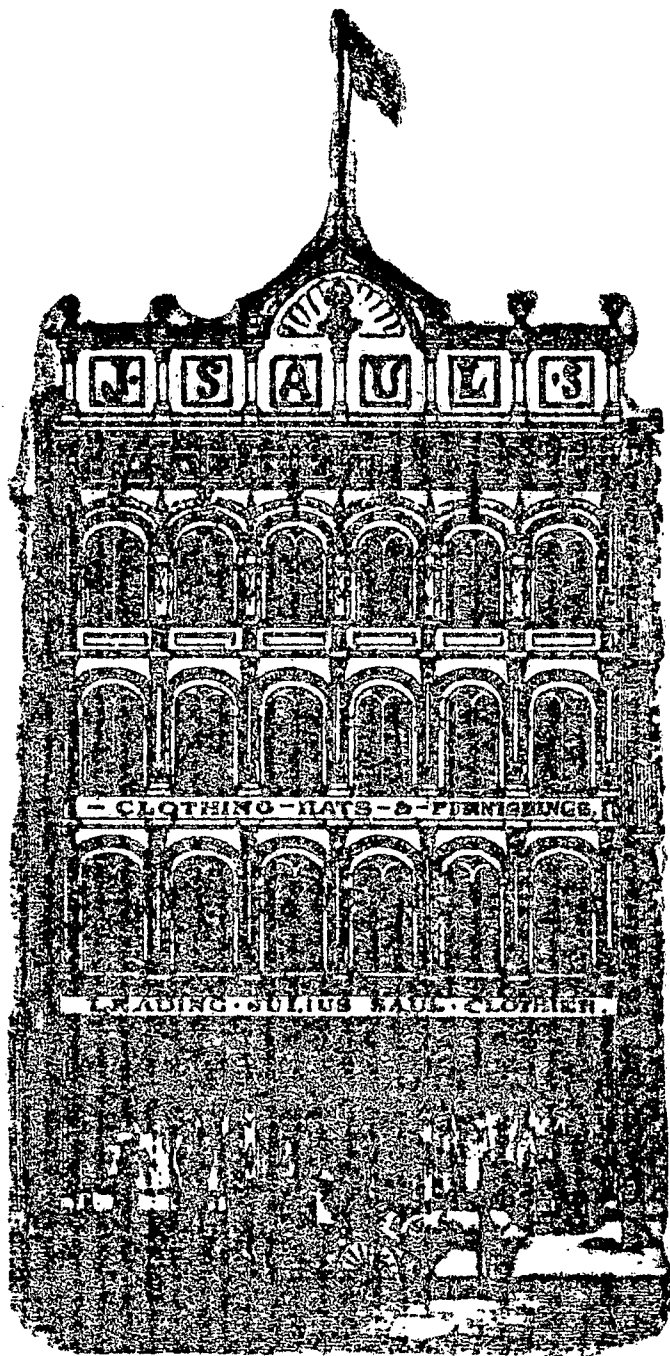
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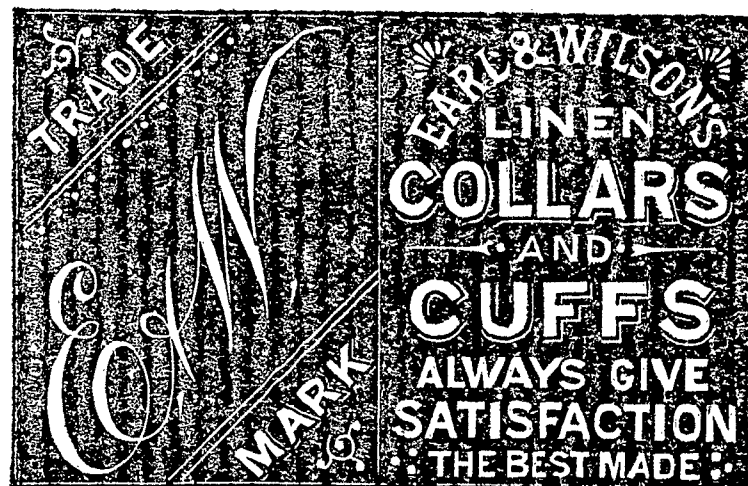
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