

THE CONCORDIENSIS.

VOL. IV.

SCHENECTADY, N. Y., MAY, 1881.

No. 8.

THE CONCORDIENSIS.

PUBLISHED ON THE 15th OF EACH MONTH DURING THE
COLLEGIATE YEAR BY THE STUDENTS OF
UNION UNIVERSITY.

EDITORS:

JOHN J. HENNING, '81. EDITOR IN CHIEF.
ROBERT A. WOOD, '81. G. G. LELAND, '81.
C. TEMPLE, '82. A. S. WRIGHT, '82. E. E. FORD, '82
W. M. GILBERT, '83. W. O. LEWIS, '83.
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CONTENTS.

LITERARY.

A Summer Idyl, (poetry,)	105
"The Light of Asia,"	105
Lady Macbeth,	107

CORRESPONDENCE.

	108
--	-----

EDITORIALS.

Reviving the "Senate,"	109
Meeting of the Class of '54,	109
Improvements,	109
The Long-expected Pennant,	110
Foot-ball,	110
The Terrace,	110

IN MEMORIAM,

	111
--	-----

A WORD TO THE WISE,

	112
--	-----

LOCAL,

The Endowment Building,	115
-------------------------	-----

PERSONAL,

Obituary,	116
-----------	-----

EXCHANGES,

	117
--	-----

EXTRANEAE,

	118
--	-----

COLLEGENSIA,

	118
--	-----

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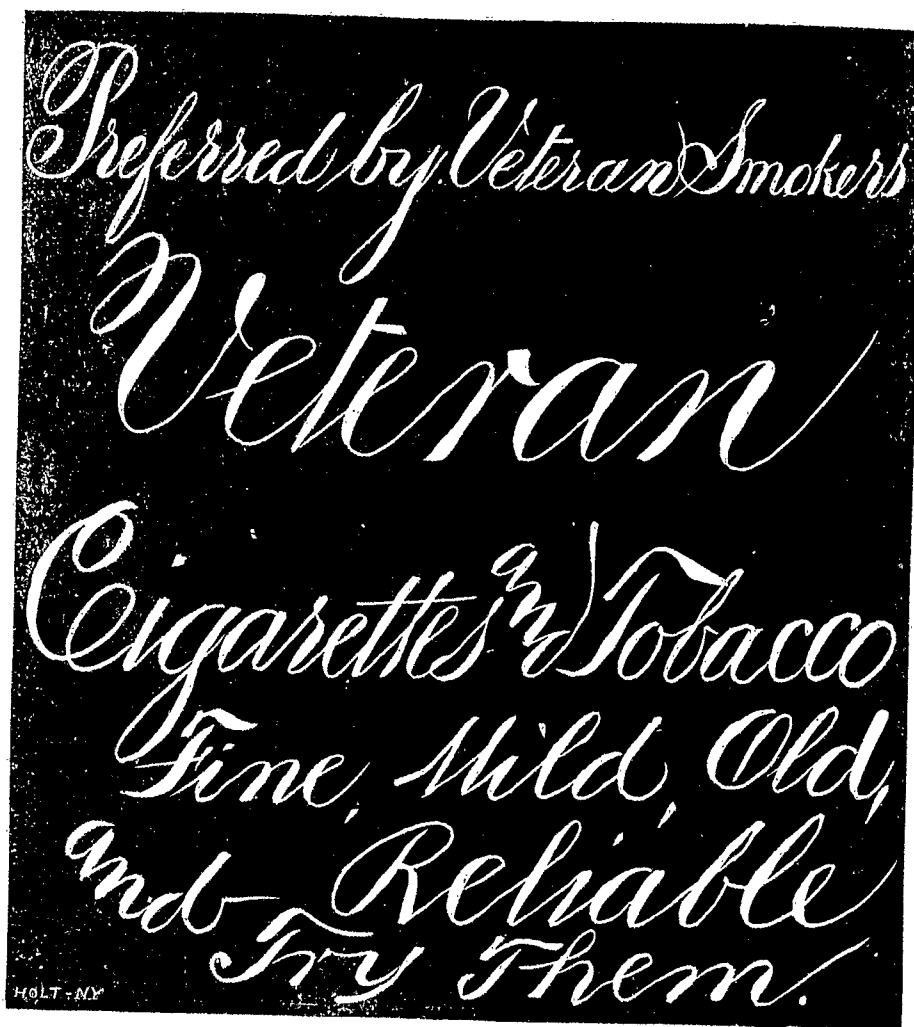
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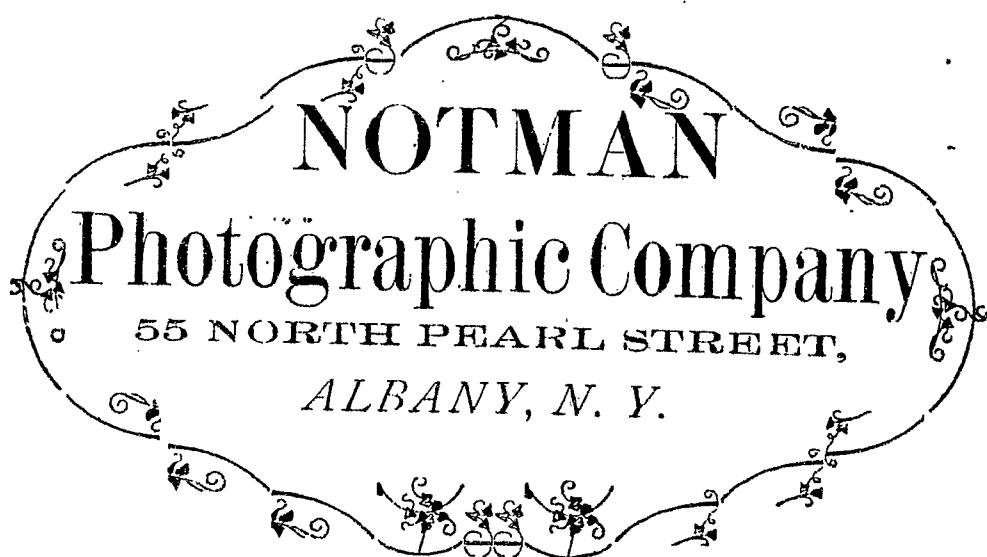


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L I T E R A R Y .

For the Concordiensis,

A SUMMER IDYL.

I.

One summer eve,—the moon shone bright
Between the trees,
Flooding her lovely face with light,—
We sat at ease.
Mary and I, flirting were we;
My arm was, where it ought to be,
Around her waist; my other paw
Clasped one of hers—I say no more;
Imagine, please.

II.

We talked of love, the moon, and such
Trifles like air.
I told her that I liked her much
And thought her fair.
I said all other pretty maids
Compared with her were sorry jades.
She said she always thought before
That beardless boys were such a bore,
Till I came there.

III.

Her crimson lips so tempting were,
"T were sweet," I thought,
"To win a fragrant kiss from her
She'll think it naught."
"My color's garnet, your lips red,
I'll kiss the colors now," I said.
She sighed, "She knew not how to kiss."
"What shameful ignorance is this!
You must be taught."

IV.

What would you do if such a case
Occurred to you?
I think you'd raise that pretty face
To yours, and do
As I did, teach that girl the way

To give a kiss. But I must say,
She told a small cream-colored lie,—
She'd kissed as many times as I,
And that's not few. '83.

"THE LIGHT OF ASIA."

The numerous magazines, periodicals and newspapers of the present day present a wide field for writers of all descriptions and merits.

Each week bears on to oblivion an unlimited mass of literature, essays by would-be thinkers, weak poems, old biographies rewritten, and various dissertations on all subjects. The production which survives this avalanche is worthy of consideration. Many an article, even by authors of merit, now occupies the attention of the public for only a day and is dismissed from all thought and remembrance.

The literary world abounds in "bores," the mere "makers of phrases;" and the man who produces anything which has a just claim to interest and attention is hailed by the people with a cry of approbation and thankfulness. The shout which welcomed Edwin Arnold's "Light of Asia," has not yet died away, but will for a long time be echoed through the halls of fame. As a poem it baffles criticism. Never will the reader's interest wax inconstant.

It now meanders quietly and peacefully through the shining vale of poetry, now bounds amid scenes of splendor and grandeur, and anon thunders over cataracts of astounding mystery, awakening echoes of the supernatural and the sublime. The entire scene is one of continuous change, but of enchanting harmony.

The poem both amuses and instructs, breathes forth an atmosphere for the soaring imagination and leads the mind in the deepest channels of thought.

It is rich in the vivid imagery of the east and boldly expresses the doctrines of one of the old religions of the earth.

Poetry is the most pleasing medium of imparting information, and this method has

Arnold employed to convey a just conception of Buddha and the doctrines which he promulgated. It is an astonishing but undeniable fact that very few people know anything of Buddhism, the creed to which a third of all mankind owe allegiance. Much of this ignorance will be dispelled by the "Light of Asia," which is a lamp of knowledge to every one who reads it.

The theme is one of awe and sublimity, wonder and mystery, hearing the mind backward over ages long gone by, and to realms enveloped in the mist of distance and uncertainty. We read of the hour when Buddha once the prince and ruler of a mighty kingdom is sitting alone and silent beneath the shade of the Bodhi tree where all things divine are to be revealed to him. The eventful night has come and creation stands aghast, the moon is stopped in her course, the innumerable worlds seem conscious of the presence of the divine teacher, the voices of the air proclaim,

"Thine hour is come ;

This the night the ages waited for."

The atmosphere is filled with sounds terrible, and spectacles awful; and the Prince of Darkness knowing that there Buddha is to receive the light and truth, therefore, "Gave unto his evil powers command." Tempter after tempter, and terrifier after terrifier, comes, but Buddha is invincible, even as Christ upon the pinnacle of the temple.

Arnold displays the utmost felicity of expression and strength of diction in tracing the great Buddha from his birth "under the Palsa tree in the palace grounds," through his boyhood full of the wonderful development of his being, amid his wanderings in the search for the truth which was to be revealed to him at the appointed time, and finally when he returns and teaches the "Eight-fold Path" to the people of his realm.

The beauty of the poem is much enhanced by its being put in the mouth of a Buddhist, and clothed in the luxuriant phraseology of the Orient. The religious writings of the Buddhists, as well as the Holy Scriptures and the mythology of the Greeks and Romans, have a peculiar style which is also retained in the translation. The Buddhistic belief can by no means be said to be blind, dark, and gloomy, for it embraces laws which will lead to the most pure and upright life, presenting a reward for good and a retribution for evil. Of course, for their *form* of worship we of this age entertain no deep reverence.

The doctrine of the transmigration of

souls is the corner stone of their religion. The soul of Buddha has inhabited many bodies both of beasts, birds and men, and when having reaped wisdom and experience in each stage of existence, he has learned all and overcome the evils "flesh is heir to," he is born of the queen of king Siddhodana—

"And a wind blew

With unknown freshness over lands and seas."

When he is a youth, teachers are procured for him; but he proves the instructor and they the taught. His father wishes to find for him a wife and commands a festival at which the fair maids shall compete for the love of the prince. He selects from the throng one of nameless beauty, Yasodhara, who had been his paramour when he, a hunter's son, played with the forest girls. When he is once again with his love he moralizes thus:—

"Lo ! as hid seed shoots after rainless years,
So good and evil, pains and pleasures, hates
And loves and all dead deeds come forth again
Bearing bright leaves or dark, sweet fruit or sour."

But soon the time of the culmination of his divinity is revealed to him in a vision, and he leaves his bride to fulfill his mission to the world and to seek the revered Bodhi-tree, saying:—

"Now I will depart
Never to come again till what I seek
Be found,—if fervent search and strife avail."

His earthly kingdom is abandoned, his life of ease is forsaken and his career as a divine teacher to the people begins.

"So he spake of what the holy books
Do surely teach, how that at death some sink
To bird and beast and these rise up to man
In wanderings of the spark which grows purged flame."

The transmigration of souls or metempsychosis has been taught by many illustrious philosophers aside from those of India. From that country Pythagoras is supposed to have taken the doctrine with some alterations. He considered the soul individually and not as being a *part* of the divine being and as returning to it. The Pythagoreans would not kill certain animals lest the soul of some departed ancestor might be its inhabitant. Plato also held the belief and reckons the soul as occupying numberless stages in the vegetable and animal world and finally returning to the Godhead after 10,000 years.

If, while in one body, wrong is committed and but little good done, the soul transmigrates to a worse habitation where misery is meted out in proportion to the deeds in the former body. The end of all is Nirvana,

where every soul goes when purged from all desires and vices. There,—

"Never shall yearning torture him, nor sins
Stain him, nor ache of earthly joys and woes
Invade his safe eternal peace; nor deaths
And lives recur. He goes unto Nirvana."

The meaning of Nirvana is much disputed. To the theist it signifies absorption of individual life in God; to the atheist, naught; to the original Buddhist, the greatest enfranchisement of the soul or freedom from transmigration.

In the grove of Benares, Buddha gave the exposition of the foundation truths in regard to morality and worship, which corresponds to our "Sermon on the Mount." The lesson consisted of four truths to be the guide for all, Sorrow, Sorrow's Cause, Sorrow's Ceasing, and the way which is divided into the "Eightfold Path which leads to peace."

The whole law teaches what is written in the Buddhist scriptures, "to eschew everything bad, to perform everything good, and to tame one's thoughts." Rob this great and ancient religion of its absurd forms and ceremonies originating in the common errors of benighted civilization, and no purer line of conduct can be written for the guidance of man.

All reverence to Arnold and endurance to his fame, for endeavoring to do justice to the neglected people of the Orient, pouring forth the power of a mind of genius in a theme below which his thought never falls. D. B. '84.

LADY MACBETH.

"What's done cannot be undone."—Act. v, sc. 1.

How intense is the interest which attaches itself to the last words uttered by the dying, ere the soul passes from the world of matter to the world of spirits! With what strained eagerness do we listen to catch the last feeble articulations of the receding breath, as if those faint whispers, breathed on the verge of eternity, could reveal something of the great mystery beyond! Nor is it a mere fancy. They *do* reveal somewhat of the future. If those last words are words of peace and trustfulness, we know that "after life's fitful fever she sleeps well;" but if they are the expression of hopelessness and despair, we recall them with an involuntary shudder.

Viewed in this aspect, how fraught with significance are the words which are quoted above. They are the last recorded words of the ill-fated Lady Macbeth. After uttering them she leaves the stage to return no more.

An awful mystery, which the dramatist does not attempt to explain, lingers around her fate. We only know that the silver cord of life was in some way severed, but whether by the suicidal hand or by the ceaseless gnawings of remorse is left for imagination to conjecture.

"What's done cannot be undone." We return to her last words to find in them a new and deeper meaning. They are the woman unrepentant, spoken from a heart unrelenting. They come to us like the melancholy wail of a lost soul—like the last expiring shriek of a doomed woman ere she sinks beneath the waters of despair. "It is done, it cannot be undone." True, the words are but the ravings of a somnambulist, but they bespeak all the more clearly the state of the mind within, for sleep unbinds the secrets of a guilty soul, and removes the power of will which in wakened moments holds them in subjection. They truthfully exhibit the condition of her mind. Let us examine that character as it is revealed.

In the early stages of the drama, Lady Macbeth appeared as a being almost incapable of remorse, a woman whose insatiable ambition not only predominated over, but almost excluded every human affection, every sympathetic feeling. She feared neither God nor man, ghost nor devil. In words of almost blood-curdling eloquence she invoked the spirits of evil to take possession of her, and it seemed almost as if her prayer had been granted, and she had become a woman-fiend. With bitter taunts she drove the equally wicked, but more hesitating Macbeth to the completion of the bloody plot which she herself had devised. She scouted the possibility of failure. She intended with her own white hand to apply the dagger to the throat of her sleeping guest. She seemed the living embodiment of feminine depravity and masculine resolution.

But Lady Macbeth miscalculated her strength. She implored the spirits of evil to unsex her, but she is a woman still. In the second act we catch a glimpse of a lingering humanity in her bosom. "Had he not resembled my father as he slept, I had done it." She enters the chamber of the sleeping Duncan, full-filled with the spirit of murder. She steals to the bedside, and the treacherous dagger glitters above the throat of her unconscious guest. But his gentle face awakens an image long forgotten, and stays the uplifted arm. Other hands than hers

must accomplish the deed which is to make her Queen of Scotland.

Her ambition is attained, but how empty its honors! Lady Macbeth had invoked the murdering ministers to "stop up the access and passage of remorse," but when the burst of passion has spent itself, the "compunctious visitings of nature" return and the passages of remorse are unstoppable. And now we see the fierce, uncompromising struggle between the aroused conscience and the iron will, both preying upon the fragile form which encases them. Conscience is slowly triumphing, but Lady Macbeth is dying. There is an awful pathos in this scene of a strong-willed, majestic woman slowly sinking beneath the anguish of remorse, to which is denied the relief of pardon. Conscious of her ineffaceable guilt and feeling herself responsible for that of her husband as well, she is driven forth, the victim of a silent but dreadful retribution, to live over again in sleep the horrible events of the past, to sigh and groan over the bloody spots which she vainly struggles to erase.

And this is the end. This is her final comment which sums up her estimate of the past and her hope of the future—"What's done cannot be undone." The past irretrievable, the future unavoidable! What can appeal to human pity with stronger potency, than this burst of remorse which reveals nothing but despair? If there be one ingredient in the poisoned chalice of retribution more unspeakably bitter than all the rest, it must be this horrible consciousness of guilt united with the conscious impossibility of repentance. This must be the worm which dieth not and the fire which cannot be quenched.

Lady Macbeth is dying, and alone. The victim of silent remorse, suffering an unbosomed hell within, and seeing nothing but the blackness of despair around. Who can but pity one

"So fallen, so lost, the light withdrawn
Which once she wore,
The glory from those grey hairs gone
Forevermore.

"Reville her not—the tempter hath
A snare for all;
And pitying tears, not scorn or wrath
Befit her fall."

Even in the despair of that last speech, we cannot but admire the stoic resolution of this woman of iron will. She is bold and defiant to the last; neither cringing nor crying out she calmly submits to the inevitable. All through her history Lady Macbeth deserves more of admiration than hatred. In

her we see much for humanity to palliate and charity to forgive. She bears on her brow the impress of nobility. Her greatness of character is shown ever in her crimes. We can almost excuse her ambition in her innate fitness to rule, and overlook the means which were to give her "solely sovereign sway and masterdom." Like Milton's Satan, she is sublime, even in guilt; majestic, even in ruins.

R. C. A., '80.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We take the liberty of inserting the following letter from a prominent alumnus of Union.]—ED. CONCORDIENSIS.

"Your correspondent writing from New York, whose letter signed 'R.' was contained in the last number of your paper, points out the one great fault, as it seems to the Alumni, in the present management of Union College, viz: She neglects the Alumni; the faculty do not seem to appreciate the importance of keeping track of them, of publishing and circulating general catalogues, and keeping alive the old college love. Their attachment is strong, earnest and true; but there is a feeling among them that they are forgotten *at home*. The strength and health of Union College to-day lie in her sons—sent forth to the battle of life inspired by words nobler than Spartan Mother spoke, and now winning victories on every field all over the world. Union College does not belong to a narrow district in and adjacent to the Mohawk Valley, in the State of New York; it is the property of the whole country, and the management should not forget it."

We insert the following circular for the consideration of our readers. The plan seems to us a good one. The offer is certainly liberal. We hope some of the gentlemen in Union will avail themselves of the opportunity. There should be greater interest taken in college periodicals:

AMERICAN COLLEGES AND AMERICAN JOURNALISM.

A test of the capacity and inclination of American College Students and Graduates, for Practical Journalism, is about to be made by the *The American*. That paper offers \$1,500 in prizes for the best editorials, the best special essays, and the best poems, written by College Students and College Graduates. There are two sets of prizes—twenty-one in all,—offered by *The American*. One set

is for College Students only; the second set of prizes is for those who have been graduated from American Colleges. The topics are not limited; and all articles unsuccessful in the competition, but which reach the standard adopted by *The American*, will be accepted by the Editor for publication in *The American*, and be paid at the regular rates; thus, each competitor, if he can do anything at all with his pen, will not lose his labor. The judges of the editorials and essays will be active journalists of national reputation,—Mr. Noah Brooks, of the *N. Y. Times*; Mr. Walter Allen, of the *Boston Advertiser*, and M. P. Handy, of the *Philadelphia Times*. The judges of the poems will be gentlemen competent for that duty. Their names will be hereafter announced. Every American College Student or Graduate should compete for these prizes. To obtain full particulars, write (with stamp) to W. R. BALCH, Managing Editor *The American*, Box 1690, Philadelphia, Pa.

EDITORIALS.

THE Junior Class are agitating the idea of reviving the "Senate." It used to be a fixed institution here and worked well. We wish the class the greatest success in their effort. Great credit is due '82, as a class, for the interest they have taken during their whole course hitherto, in literary work. We believe in giving credit to whom credit is due. Very few members of the class are not found in one or the other of the Literary Societies, and they are not only members, but workers in the true sense of the word. We feel safe in saying that no class in college has done and is doing more for the interest of the College Literary Societies. We understand that a committee appointed by the class, and consisting of Messrs. Hargreave, Murray, Ransdell and Waddell, sent in a petition to the faculty with regard to the Senate business. The faculty named as a committee to confer with the class committee, Dr. Potter, Profs. Staley and Alexander. The faculty are in favor of the project, and will, no doubt, heartily aid in carrying it out. The idea is to make it a part of the regular work of the Senior Class. The members of the Senior

Class will represent the Senate and will be presided over by a member of the faculty. A committee of seniors will also represent the House of Representatives. This committee will prepare bills and send them to the Senate, which will consider them in a parliamentary way. It is intended that the proceedings be carried on as in the U. S. Senate. The questions discussed will be those of the day. We think the plan a good one. Everyone will thus have a share in a debating club. We regret that '81 did not set the ball in motion, and thus receive that training which so many of them will need when they become Senators and Congressmen.

WE have received an account of a meeting of those members of the class of '54, who were present at the ninth annual convention of the Alumni Association of the North West at Chicago. As the literary department of the last two numbers was wholly taken up with the account of the Association, we do not deem it advisable to take up the space of the present issue. We insert in our personal column, however, the names of the members of the class. We thank the gentleman who was so kind as to send us the minutes of the meeting. We trust the Alumni will send us any items of interest, particularly personal items.

MANY improvements have been made in and about Union during the last two years, for which all praise is due those who originated them. The old board fence extending from the blue gate to South College, so long an eyesore to everyone, disappeared two or three years ago. A system of sewerage, begun last fall, is now being carried to completion, but still the old stone walk extending along the college property on Union street, and from the gate to the colleges, remains as a monument of antiquity. We desire to call the attention of the college authorities to the said walk. That it is of no use, but is rather an unqualified nuisance all must confess. The style of the aforementioned walk is curious, and seems to be peculiar to Union. There

was evidently a dearth of stones at the time it was laid in its present position. To walk them successfully requires almost as much skill as to walk the rails of a railroad track. A person must needs be level-headed and devote his whole attention to his course. The tread of hundreds of Union's sons has made them so smooth that walking is at all times uncertain, and sometimes positively dangerous. They are particularly a nuisance in winter, but even a little rain renders them very uncertain footing. In our humble estimation it is better to walk ankle deep in mud, in which you are in danger of sticking fast, or at least of spoiling the nice polish on your shoes, than over a walk of such character as to render your mind in a state of painful uncertainty as to whether you are going to stand or fall, with the chances greatly in favor of a sudden and ignominious downfall. This walk has been, without a doubt, the innocent cause of more language bordering on profanity, and has had more opprobrious terms applied to it than anything in college, unless the marking system. We hope this much-needed improvement will not be forgotten in the pushing forward of other measures. Let some other walk be substituted before another winter.

THE long-expected pennant, won last season by Union's nine in the N. Y. State inter-collegiate series, promises to be a reality—the amount appropriated for its purchase having been forwarded by Mr. W. F. Chandler, of Rochester University, treasurer of the association. We are under the impression that a gentleman of Syracuse generously (?) donated a silver cup to be awarded the winning team. Doubtless our not receiving it is due to the fact that he is the victim of an ailment called forgetfulness, so chronic with a certain college nine of his city, who not only forgot to play out their series of games, but also to pay their assessment money due the association.

SPRING with all its beauty is with us once more, and under its genial influence the

campus has again assumed its beautiful appearance. Now is the time for base ball and other sports. We notice that the energetic Freshmen have provided a foot-ball, which is being kicked about, these beautiful afternoons, with a good deal of interest. The thought has occurred to us with regard to the advisability of urging the plan of organizing a regular team, and playing the game according to regular rules. Several colleges have already taken the initiative, and set the cause in motion. Princeton, Yale, Columbia, Harvard, and other eastern colleges had regular teams last year. The game is a healthful and exciting one to those participating in it. There are a great many in college who either cannot or do not care to participate in the game of base ball. To such, foot-ball offers a field for operations. Union stands isolated from the eastern colleges, but let her organize a team, and no doubt Hamilton, Cornell and other colleges in the state will, if they have not already teams, follow her lead, and afford her abundance of opportunity to try her skill. They proved worthy antagonists in the base ball arena last year. The plan may not be considered a feasible one by some, as tending to interfere with the base ball interests. We do not think the two would clash. The more interest taken in sports of various kinds, the more will all be supported. We think the plan an advisable one, and hope to see the desultory playing of foot ball culminate in an organized movement.

It is contrary to all precedent for the CONCORDIENSIS to make editorial mention of its advertisers, yet we cannot forbear to speak of Prof. Samuel E. Wells, of Albany, who is justly accorded pre-eminent rank as an elocutionist. Our commencement orators and prize speakers would do well to enlist his services in their preparatory training.

WHY is the terrace so nearly deserted? Why does the evening air so seldom and so feebly ring with joyous songs from light hearted boys? Those of us who are in the

gloaming of our college life, well remember that it was not ever thus. Why this unseemly change? Have our college duties waxed so onerous that, wrapped in gloomy thought, we prefer to spend our leisure hours in gloomy anticipations of the morrow? Or do we desire to narrow our list of college friendships down to a small circle of chosen spirits, beyond which limit we care not to explore? These are questions which should claim frank, honest answers, from all thoughtful students. We think that a man needs as many friends as he can make, in this world, and we trust that our college friends shall not be forgotten by us in after life. Frequent and hearty intercourse of thought and opinion is the very mainspring of college life and college spirit. We may, day after day, pass the precious stone by the wayside, but we never get the wished-for gold until we pierce and crumble the dusky coat. Just so, the face which we daily salute with a passing nod, and then banish from our minds, would beam with new light when the dull barrier of reserve is overthrown, and daily the heart unfolds fresh beauties under the genial sun of frank, social intercourse. Now, the terrace is the place of all others where new friendships can be begun, and old ones be cemented. The principal charm lies in the crowd of pleasant associations which cluster around it. "Probably, fifty years ago, an old alumnus, *then* a merry boy, was sitting just where I am, smoked his weed with like pleasure, and joked, sang and played just as we are doing to-night." And what a fruitful source of pleasure it will be, to return as old Alumni, sit on the same seat which we filled as gay, frolicsome Freshmen, and recall all the happy hours we have there spent. To the Freshmen, we say "go and try it." To the Sophomores, "try it again under better auspices," and let the Juniors and Seniors now take the lead, where they used to follow in the well-remembered footsteps of old seventy-nine. Let the words of hope, breathed by our poet, prove words of prophecy, and let us all join in making

"Smoke and song float o'er thee long,
Thou dear old seat of stone."

IN MEMORIAM.

Ellen Marion, daughter of Prof. Henry Coppee, LL.D., and of Mrs. Julia DeWitt Coppee, and wife of Wm. W. Thurston, Esq., of South Bethlehem, Pa.

Taking up a few months since the History of the Arab Moors in Spain, the reader was impressed with the beauty of the following dedication, full of "sweetness and light," from one of the happiest of home circles: "While I was looking for a patron to whom, with due humility, I might dedicate my work, a hand was stretched out to me from the Infinite, and across the great water." No one will look upon these volumes with more affectionate interest, and a less critical eye,—as soon as he is able to read them,—than my dear little grandson and namesake, Henry Coppee Thurston, who was born at Merau in the Austrian Tyrol, on the 8th of June, 1880, just as my manuscript was going into the publisher's hands.

Alas! "as soon as he is able to read them," he is destined now, to realize that life-long loss, a mother taken from him in his early childhood.

Some years ago there was added to the Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem, Pa., with which the Lehigh University is intimately connected, the valued acquisition of a family remarkable for the talents and acquirements of its members. A bright-eyed, beautiful little girl of that date had in a few years thereafter entered upon early womanhood; and then we learned—so swiftly pass the hours—that she was soon to greet us as a bride. Rare native gifts were enriched by culture; and beauty by accomplishments; at home in French and English literature, cordial in manner, generous hearted, sincere, considerate, and seeking the happiness of others rather than her own, nobly endowed in body, mind and soul, devoted to her family and her church, she was the humble and faithful follower of her Divine Master.

As a young christian mother, training lovingly three splendid boys, she went abroad some two years since with them and her husband who was in search of needed rest and health.

A short time since the mother was joyous with the thought of "home again." The passage had been taken for the fifth of this lovely month of May. Yet to spend the few intervening weeks usefully she journeyed hurriedly with her dear husband to the

world-famed wonders of the "Eternal City" long so called. Contracting the insidious Roman fever, which has changed so many a joyous party journeying homeward, into a sad funeral train, and after an illness of but three short weeks during which the disease never released its hold, she entered into the rest of that City "whose builder and maker is God."

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, "for the former things are passed away." The vessel homeward bound with her bereaved family, brings with it her loved remains.

"Calm on the seas, and silver sleep,
 "And waves that sway themselves in rest,
 "And dead calm in that noble breast
 "Which heaves but with the heaving deep.
 "Sphere all your lights around, above;
 "Sleep gentle heavens, before the prow,
 "Sleep gentle winds, as she sleeps now,
 "Our friend, the sister of our love."

UNION COLLEGE, May 4th, 1881.

E. N. P.

A WORD TO THE WISE, ETC.

I wish to call the attention of the classes of '82, '83, and '84 to some things in the management of the CONCORDIENSIS which my connection with the paper during the past year has convinced me could be improved. And I do not simply wish to call attention to them, but I hope that the three classes who are to be in college next year will take some action in the matter, and either adopt the changes here proposed or devise better ones. I might say that the ideas here expressed have found full favor with my colleagues to whom I have made them known.

In the first place, as the matter stands now, eight men are elected each year to act as editors. They have had no previous connection with the paper; they probably know nothing whatever of printing or proof-reading; they have nothing to guide them in their selection or arrangement of material; and they are not able to make use of any experience gained by previous editors. There are no records for them to refer to, no mode of perpetuating advertisements or subscriptions, and every year the work that ought to be done once for all has to be done over and over again by inexperienced men. The editors under the present system are only interested in the success of the paper for the year they are in office, and so do not trouble to get remunerative advertisements or sub-

scriptions for longer than that time. As soon as the year is up, the men whose services have now become valuable by reason of the experience they have gained, are succeeded by others who know really nothing of what is expected of them.

Again, it too frequently happens that they are elected for their popularity, for their influence, for anything, in fact, rather than their fitness for office, and so there are always men on the staff who are extra weight for the others to carry.

The present number of men elected for editors is too great. The more men there are on the staff the more there will be to do nothing but find fault with the rest.

As a remedy for these evils I would suggest that only six men be elected—two from each of the three upper classes. If the men are efficient this number is large enough, and below I will suggest a plan by which the fitness of any editor for his position can be seen at a glance. These six men should be so elected that the term of office of only half of them should expire at any one time. For example, let the Sophomores elect two editors, one for one year and one for two years.

In the Junior year they would only have to elect one editor for two years, and in the Senior year, one for the rest of the course. Thus each class would always have two representatives, and the continuity of the board would be preserved. I know it will be objected to this, that only four men from each class can go on the staff then, whereas eight go on now. This ought not to be any argument at all with men who have the success of the paper at heart. I know that as the thing now stands positions on the staff are bought and sold, and are used as capital; but I think that all true men will agree that considering the position the CONCORDIENSIS holds here at Union, and considering also that it now exchanges with almost every college journal in the country, it is essential that everything be done to make it a worthy representative of our Alma Mater.

To this end the classes should try to elect men who have shown some fitness for the position. By the end of the Freshman year it ought to be known who are the best writers, and these should be put into office. Let those who enjoy such things as scheming and wire-pulling be content to exercise their ingenuity in elections for class offices, but let the editors be selected for their merit.

I would suggest, too, that at the beginning of each year the editor-in-chief appoint each

of his associates as editor of a certain department, and that he be so designated in the list of editors. In this way all the classes can see whether or not any certain man is doing good work, and if he is not he can be asked to resign, and some one else substituted.

The business manager should always be a two-year man, and during his second year his successor should be appointed to assist him. It should be a part of his duty to collect from the graduating class as many subscriptions as possible for the following year, and in this way a large and valuable subscription list would be built up.

Further, I think it would be much better to publish the paper on the first of each month. A contract should be made with the printer at the beginning of each year, giving him a certain time—say a week—to get the paper out, and guaranteeing him the payment for one issue before the production of the next.

In conclusion: Do not read this article and then let the matter drop. Talk it up in class-meetings. Discuss the plan here given, and see if it seems feasible. If it does not, put your wits to work and devise some other, but at any rate do not let this year pass by without doing something to place the paper on a firmer foundation than ever before.

C. TEMPLE.

LOCAL.

- Base ball is now in order.
- Wood wears corsets and a silk hat.
- Spring, beautiful spring, is with us sure.
- The nine have come out in new uniforms.
- The genial face of Ed. is among us once more.
- Target practice for the shooting prizes has begun.
- An addition to the Freshman class this term, a Canadian.
- Seniors have all returned, and, of course, are working hard.
- Herodotus is accused by a Fresh. of being a biblical writer.
- The money has been received for the pennant won last year.
- The day for the annual field sports is the second Saturday in May.
- F. W. Moore, '81, has been elected captain of the University nine.

—Adriance, of '82, was in town lately, and intends returning next year.

—Bicycles of all varieties and sizes are daily seen on the college grounds.

—A Freshman asserted that the original language of the Bible was Sanskrit.

—A Freshman in Geometry has been trying to erect a slanting perpendicular.

—Prof. W.'s little girl on being asked the color of Mac's hair, answered yellow.

—Johnson, of '81, we regret to state, has resigned his position as class prophet.

—A Senior expounded the fact that America was discovered by Columbus in 1592.

—Colonel Pickett and force of men are busy getting our beautiful grounds in order.

—Greene, of '82, preached in Lebanon some time since, to a large and appreciative audience.

—Prof. Wm. A. Potter, the architect of our new building, will give his usual lectures during the term.

—Dr. Coppee will lecture at the date when the late Rev. Dr. Washburne had expected to deliver his discourse.

—Aspirants for oratorical honors in the Sophomore and Junior classes are busily preparing to enter the arena.

—Prof.—Mr. P. please translate "Votre pere est il vent?" Mr. P.—(hesitating,) "Your father is he a widow?"

—Gen. Grant has consented to be present on Alumni Day, at the laying of the corner stone, and on Commencement.

—Leland, Addison and Bacon have been selected by the Philomathean Society for the debate with the Adelphic.

—One of the crack marksmen of the Freshman class swears he must have hit the bull's-eye, because he aimed at it.

—A Junior translates "Speculum Meditantis," "The voice of one crying in the wilderness." He is a classical, too.

—Maria has been connected with the college for twenty years. Surely she is worthy of an honorable retirement with a pension.

—The University nine were to play a club from Albany on the home grounds, the 3d. The latter failed to put in an appearance.

—Prof. (in History)—"Mr. G. where is Normandy situated?"

Mr. G. (generally)—"A little north-east of Europe!"

--Prof. Roswell D. Hitchcock will endeavor, notwithstanding his many engagements, to fulfill his promise to lecture before Commencement.

--Freshman, (in French class)--"The dog is a very intelligent animal--"

Prof.--"That will do, Mr. F., as that is more than you are."

--The Latin recitation room rejoices in new chairs instead of the old benches. Professor Dean has thus far (adhuc) succeeded in keeping them nearly spotless.

--Major McMurray drills the Sophomores and Freshmen every Wednesday in battalion drill. One Sophomore and three Freshman companies for the battalion.

--Officers of Adelphic: J. Ransdell, President; A. S. Wright, Vice-President; A. K. Gilchrist, Secretary; W. A. Waddell, Treasurer; J. Sands, Curator.

--Prof. Dougherty has a class in free hand-drawing. Several Juniors and Seniors are availing themselves of the opportunity thus offered of learning sketching.

--The Freshmen will soon be improving these beautiful evenings by relieving the cattle peacefully grazing in the college pastures of some of their lacteous fluid.

--Just as we go to press Union and Hamilton crossed bats on the Union campus, the visitors winning. In four years they have met five times, and Union has won three times.

--We are glad to see Dr. Coppee with us once more. His lectures to the Senior class on History and on the Constitution of the United States are certainly very interesting.

--The University nine for this season consists of Osterhaus, c.; Mountain, p.; Naylor, 1st b.; Ford, 2d b.; Taylor, 3d b.; Nolan, s. s.; Fairgrieve, l. f.; Moore, c. f.; r. f. not yet decided.

--'81's Commencement orators will be as follows: C. V. Anable, F. W. Cameron, E. I. Delvin, H. G. Glenn, E. C. Johnson, R. S. Lyon, H. Schlosser, J. Still, G. B. Tullidge, W. C. Williams.

--Scene in History class:

Prof.--"Why were they called the crusaders?"

Fresh. R.--"I think, Prof., because they went on a cruise."

--Prof. (To history class)--"What is the first great event?"

Freshman--"The creation."

Prof.--"What is the second?"

Fresh.--The Aryan Migrations."

--A very exciting game of base ball came off on the college campus, on the afternoon of the 4th, between the "Lilliputians" and the "Giants," resulting in a victory for the latter by a score of 15 to 13.

--The "Hub" Clothing House, 472 Broadway, Albany, N. Y., offers special inducements to students. We would cheerfully recommend their goods for fineness of texture and par excellence of style.

--Another debate between the Philomathean and Adelphic societies is announced for June 3d. The subject is,--Resolved that the acts of the Nihilists are justified by the social and political condition of Russia.

--Mr. John F. Conner ranks among the foremost of Albany's merchant tailors. He will be pleased to receive calls from students who wish nobby spring suits, at his establishment, No. 12 North Pearl St.

--Singing has at length been introduced in connection with the morning services in chapel. An organ has been provided, and a large choir of the students. The former is presided over by Mr. Gilbert, the latter led by Mr. Alex. Campbell.

--We would urge all subscribers, advertisers and students who are owing the CONCORDIENSIS, to pay up. The year is drawing to a close and we need the money to straighten up our accounts. We hope it will not be necessary for us to say anything more on the subject.

--We urge the presidents of the three lower classes to call meetings as soon as possible, and elect their editors. We advise them to call meetings Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week, in the order of the classes. Let competent men be selected, and let it be understood that they are expected to work, and that no dead weights will be allowed on the staff.

--Rumors are afloat that a convention of Union Nihilists is to assemble in or about the college at the coming commencement. Their object is, without doubt, revolutionary in its character, and their seditious designs should be frustrated by the police. They are said to be possessed of the idea that they are divinely appointed for the purpose of correcting imaginary abuses about the college, and they propose to carry out their reform measures with a high hand. We hope that the assembling of these factious fanatics will, if possible, be prevented. Forewarned is forearmed.

—The Commencement committees of the class of '81 are as follows: Invitation committee—Wm. M. White, chairman; R. A. Wood, I. Wiswall, W. C. Marselius, F. S. Bloss; Reception committee—W. E. Van Epps, chairman; H. H. Taylor, J. R. Davis, A. D. Darling, G. B. Tullidge; Music committee—G. G. Leland, chairman; A. Campbell, J. Still, W. B. Landreth, J. J. Henning; Floor committee—H. N. Potter, chairman; F. W. Moore, E. T. E. Lansing, H. Neagle, J. Sawyer.

—A reunion of Union Alumni was held at the residence of Clarkson Potter, New York city, the 5th inst. Over one hundred Alumni were present. The Faculty of Union College were represented by Dr. Potter and Prof. Foster. An Association was formed with the following officers: President, Hon. Wm. Tracy; Vice-President, Ex-Judge John K. Porter; Secretary, Silas B. Brownell; Treasurer, Howard Potter; Executive Committee, Judge Clifford, A. Hand, Hon. W. H. H. Moore and Douglass Campbell.

—In accordance with an annual custom, the Alpha Delta Phi Society on April 27th, tendered a banquet to the members of the Legislature, who are connected with the fraternity. Judge W. L. Learned, Yale, '44, presided with W. J. Kline, Union, '72, as toast-master. Of the guests there were present Senator Lord, Hobart, '56; Assemblymen Hurd and Cullinan, Cornell, '72; Steele, Yale, '58; Welles, Geneva, '45, and Niles, Dartmouth, '45; also Frederick G. Mather, correspondent of the New York Post. Union was further represented by De Remer, '56, Littlefield, '66, Thomas, '72, Stanton, '73, Rudd, '73, Hill and Newman, '76, Bassett and Johnston, '77, and Bender, '78.

—Thursday evening, May 5, Prof. Wells delivered a short lecture before the Gillespie Club on "What the world is doing," in which he briefly reviewed the progress being made in our own country through immigration and the efforts which are being made by foreign nations to explore and open to civilization the portions of the world still unexplored. He also sketched the great engineering enterprises which are being projected and carried on at the present time, both at home and abroad, and gave a short account of the great plans for the improvement of international intercourse which are now being accomplished. The lecture was extremely interesting and very much enjoyed by the

members of the club, who join in heartily thanking the professor for taking so much trouble for their benefit.

THE NEW ENDOWMENT BUILDING.

During the last winter a friend of President Potter voluntarily offered to present for the Memorial Hall, copies of famous pieces of statuary, ancient and modern, like those in the world-renowned European Glyptothekas, and in the collections of the New York, Boston and Philadelphia museums; these will be of great value for instruction and for the cultivation of taste, and will form a centre of attraction to numerous visitors.

Only the galleries in the Memorial Hall are designed for this purpose; the main floor being retained for gatherings of the Alumni, for annual Commencements, and other similar purposes, according to the original intention. The college library has only been removed to the building, for fire-proof protection, and as a temporary arrangement, until a better place could be provided for it. The professor of architecture has long since prepared plans for another building, fire-proof and permanent, and these plans are in the main modifications of those adopted over half a century ago, as presented in many drawings and engravings. It was to be erected as soon as requisite funds should be provided. The librarian and the standing committee of the faculty having called attention to the pressing need of a suitable place and force for the library, and for space for class-rooms, the president determined to postpone his trip to Europe this spring, until an effort should be made to meet these needs, which was hoped, with the aid of Providence, should be crowned with success. These hopes have been realized. The new building will be erected, substantial and complete, and with it a fund will be provided (permanently invested) like the fund some time since arranged for the completion and maintenance of Alumni and Memorial Hall; as will appear on the sale of the lands devoted to that purpose.

The contributions for the erection of the new building are from new friends of the college. The president and faculty would earnestly urge the thousands of Alumni and old friends of the institution, who have as yet made few considerable donations to it, that they should co-operate with this cheering movement, by adding funds for instruction, which will be needed from year to year,

adequate to the increasing opportunities and great needs of the college.

For the first time in our history a noble endowment was made without conditions as to its use, so that the trustees were enabled to devote the income of eighty thousand dollars to the salaries of professors. Without this provision of James Brown, Esq., and others since acquired through the same channel, the college might have found it necessary to close its doors, as the resources formerly supplying most of the professors' salaries had been cut off by the failure of college investments in real estate.

We are informed that General Grant will have returned from his mission to Mexico, in time for the laying of the corner-stone of the new building, which will take place on Alumni Day. It is expected that many prominent persons will be present on that interesting occasion.

The new building, which will be thus begun and inaugurated, is a memorial gift, with the exception of the noble hall to be connected with it, which is the gift of friends of the lamented Reverend Dr. Washburn. The main building is presented to the college by a friend, on the express condition that the structure shall be worthy, in its beauty and solidity, as a memorial of the departed relatives whose names are to be inscribed upon it.

PERSONAL.

'47. Hon. Robert McClellan is a banker and lawyer in Galena, Ill. He was a State Senator at one time.

'54. At a meeting of the class of '54 in Chicago, the following were found to be the living representatives of the class so far as heard from: Ormango Allen, lawyer; Erwin Baker, educator; Miles Beach, lawyer; John I. Bennett, lawyer; John H. Bastin, manufacturer; O. W. Chapman, attorney; A. R. Cornwell, educator; P. R. Ferbeck, physician; Philip Ferbeck, minister; Edwin H. Heacock, attorney; Albert L. King, miner and M.; Daniel Marvin, jr., minister; James Y. Mitchell, minister; Wm. D. Murphy, lawyer; Eliphalet Nott, jr., minister; John V. Rice, attorney; A. W. Street, banker; D. M. Westfall, attorney; N. H. Wood, attorney; Isaac Pendleton, attorney; E. W. Rice, editor; L. W. Simon, architect; P. G. Valentine, physician; Alex. Wilson, attorney; Austin A. Yates, attorney.

'55. Rev. Alexander Adair is settled in Oxbow, N. Y., over a large congregation.

'58. Charles P. Shaw, Esq., who resides in New York, and Miss Lizzie Fisher, daughter of the late Dr. Fisher of the Royal East India Service, were married April 19th in St. Mary Abbott's church, London, by Dean Stanley.

'61. Knox is in the census office at Washington.

'78. R. G. O'Neale is practicing law in Charleston, S. C.

'78. W. D. Maxon will shortly be ordained.

'78. N. F. Lansing is practicing law in Wall street, New York.

'79. Gregory is soon to flash upon an expectant world as an attorney-at-law. "Twat" still indulges occasionally in his old pastime of writing for the newspapers, and the effect of his effusions is much the same as of old.

'79. Van Dusen was in town a few weeks ago for the first time since last commencement. He will probably be offered the position which he filled so creditably last year, that of umpire for the University nine.

'76. Chisolm is assayer among the mines of Pitkin, Col.

'80. DeLancy W. Watkins is in business in New York.

'80. Ickler is whetting up his scalping-knife preparatory to an eastern raid about June 22. The powers that be should take timely warning.

'80. Godfrey has been the first of '80's graduates to perpetrate matrimony. We regret to learn that a separation has already ensued, Eli having departed alone to the vast wilderness of the northwest—the general rendezvous of Union engineers. The separation, however, was an entirely amicable one.

'80. Rogers is studying medicine with a physician in Westerly, R. I.

'80. Benjamin is in the book business in Albany.

'82. Early is in the Troy Business College.

'82. Beattie intends to bring his old familiar howl back to Schenectady about commencement time. He is teaching in Cornwall and is as susceptible as ever.

'82. Gifford was married lately to a young lady of Schenectady.

'82. Couch is in a Business College in New Haven.

OBITUARY.

'67. Rev. O. D. S. Marcley, pastor of the Lutheran church at Bloomsburg, Pa., died in January last. He was a gentleman of more than ordinary abilities. He was in the "meridian of his life" and in the "noonday of his usefulness."

The death of General George Erskine Danforth, at Middleburg, Schoharie county, in this State, is announced. His death resulted from heart disease. He was in the sixty-third year of his age. General Danforth was born in Middleburg, and always resided there. He was educated at Union College. For many years he was engaged largely in tanning, conducting an extensive business and employing many hands. He was supervisor of his native town for six consecutive years. He was colonel of the Fortieth regiment of State militia for a long time, and also general in command of the Eighteenth brigade. In 1861 he was commissioned by the governor to raise a regiment in Schoharie and Otsego counties. This he did in a short time and delivered to the government the old Seventy-sixth at Arlington Heights. The next year he received another commission and organized the 134th from Schoharie and Schenectady. Some years since he was appointed by the President one of the visitors at West Point. For many years he has been a consistent member of the Reformed church. In 1852 he married a daughter of Governor Bouck, who survives him. He has only one child living—W. C. B. Danforth, of Albany. He was the only brother of Judge P. S. Danforth.

EXCHANGES.

The *College Journal* from Milton, Wis., comes to us marked, "please exchange." We gladly send the *Journal* a copy of the CONCORDIENSIS just to show what a college paper can be made by a little—or rather, a good deal—of care and painstaking. As to reading the *Journal*, that is another matter, for we think that it is about the poorest specimen of typography that it has ever been our lot to look upon. The matter is all right—what there is of it, and, in fact, there's plenty of it—such as it is, but the printing—oh!

The *Niagara Index*, which a short time ago made for itself such an unenviable notoriety by its loud-mouthed invective, and after that

was let severely alone by college journals, has again been exhausting its vocabulary of slang. This time over the St. Louis *Student Life*.

The *Eu Philonian*, of Kentucky Wesleyan College, is ably edited and full of readable matter, but has such an unprepossessing exterior and it is printed on such miserable paper that we never feel like looking through it. It is too bad to see so much good work make such a poor show. The *Eu P.* is certainly worthy of a new dress.

The *Acta Columbiana* is engaged in another squabble with the Cornell *Era* over the projected visit of the Cornell crew to England. If it were not for its fights with other colleges the *Acta* would not know what to do with its space. As it is, it is obliged to fall back on a trashy little "to be continued" story to fill up with. The *Acta* is in a position to become the leading college paper in the country, but by devoting so much time and energy to "running down" Yale and Cornell it has become one of the poorest and least interesting of our exchanges.

The *Madisonensis* has a capital paper on "Smoking Genteelly," in which the writer points out that one can be genteel or vulgar in smoking as in most other things. Its views are so similar to our own, and so well expressed that nothing but a lack of space prevents us printing it in full. The *Madisonensis* is about the only one of our exchanges which makes no pretense at all to an editorial department.

The *Dartmouth* in speaking of the founding of a new secret society by the medical students of Columbia, says of secret societies that "their alumni embraces the most noted men, and their influence is increasing. All who know anything of the good work that can be done by such societies will be glad to hear this." It somewhat spoils this in the next sentence, however, by confounding Greek-letter secret societies with ordinary debating societies. The coming poet is doubtless a Dartmouth man, for in the appended verses can be seen traces of a master hand:

Dame Maria pertinacious,
How proceed your plants herbaceous?
With Cardium shells and specie gongs,
And ladies ranged as each belongs.

Protuberant gloom reposed on the casement,
Protuberant gloom declined to the basement.
No monarch's full steed, nor vassal nor groom
Can now coalesce, Protuberant gloom.

The *Notre Dame Scholastic* in a late issue contains three separate items on games of baseball played on the previous Sunday afternoon. It speaks of the good batting, a "daisy" fly-catch and other points with great gusto. And yet this is the paper that contains notices of all the feasts and fasts of the church, accounts of the celebrations of high mass, and speaks of a bishop as our "holy father in God."

EXTRANEAE.

—There was a young fellow named Tickett,
Who tried to leap o'er a fence picket,
But the slack of his pants
Caught on top of the fence,
And he hung there, and don't you forget it.
—*Boston Times.*

—"Do you get along without the Lord during the first hour?" asked a member of the Visiting Committee of a student. "No, sir, we have enough left over each day to last until chapel," was the prompt reply.—*College Index.*

—"Ode To Night."
"The Evening for her bath of dew
Is partially undressed,
The Sun behind a bobtail flush
Is setting in the west,
The Planets light the heavens with
The flash of their cigars,
The Sky has put its night-shirt on
And buttoned it with stars."
"I love the timid, shrinking Night,
Its shadows and its dew;
I love the constellations bright,
So old and yet so new!
I love Night better than the Day,
For people looking on
Can't see me skinning round to meet
My own, my darling John!"

—Professor, to Junior in electricity—"Are sparks of a long duration?" Junior, with a knowing look—"It depends on whether the old folks have gone to bed or not."

—How long did Cain hate his brother?
As long as he was Abel.—*Clonian.*

—A nobby young man travelling in Texas went into a store and asked the proprietor if he had black kids. The young man doesn't see why the store-keeper came over the counter and broke up all the furniture with him.—*Ex.*

—Prof.—"Mr. M., I suppose you have often hung around the gate bidding your girl good night?" Mr. M.—"Oh no, Prof., I always hang around the girl."—*Argosy.*

COLLEGENSIA.

—At Harvard, a retiring fund for professors is being raised. Twenty-one thousand dollars have already been subscribed.

—The Seniors of the University of Pennsylvania have received permission to hold their Ivy ball in the chapel. As the University is non-sectarian, the chapel has never been consecrated, and the concession of the faculty in this matter is regarded with much favor.

—It will be remembered that in our last issue mention was made of a case of hazing at Syracuse University, and the subsequent appearance of the supposed offenders in the police court. The criminal prosecution fell through and the hazers were discharged. A banquet was immediately tendered them by the rest of the students, and great sympathy expressed, but the faculty determined they should not escape so easily, and immediately suspended them.

—President Hinsdale has promised the Hobart boat crew a new shell this season.

—At Oberlin, the students have to "report" themselves every week. The faculty acts as a Father Confessor, and those who are so unfortunate as to come under its *regime* have to report how many times they go to church, what girls they take home, what time they go to bed, and whether they say their prayers or not. The other day the faculty gave all four classes a regular raking over for not taking to the confessional as kindly as they ought. The *Review* speaks of the lecture as a "little talk." We begin to understand now that clause in the Oberlin catalogue which says that students must be accompanied by their nurses.

—The day before that appointed for the Freshman class supper at Cornell; the Sophs carried off the Toast-master, Prophet and Historian, thinking to thus prevent the supper taking place. The three men were soon missed, and a reward of \$50 being offered, the police found them eight miles down the lake, guarded by a band of Sophs. They were released and reached Ithaca in time for the supper.

—Scene, Pike's stable: *Funny Freshman* (to hostler, who is rubbing down his horse)—"Pat, I'm afraid you're currying favor with that horse." *Hostler*—"Faith, no! I'm merely scrapin' an acquaintance."

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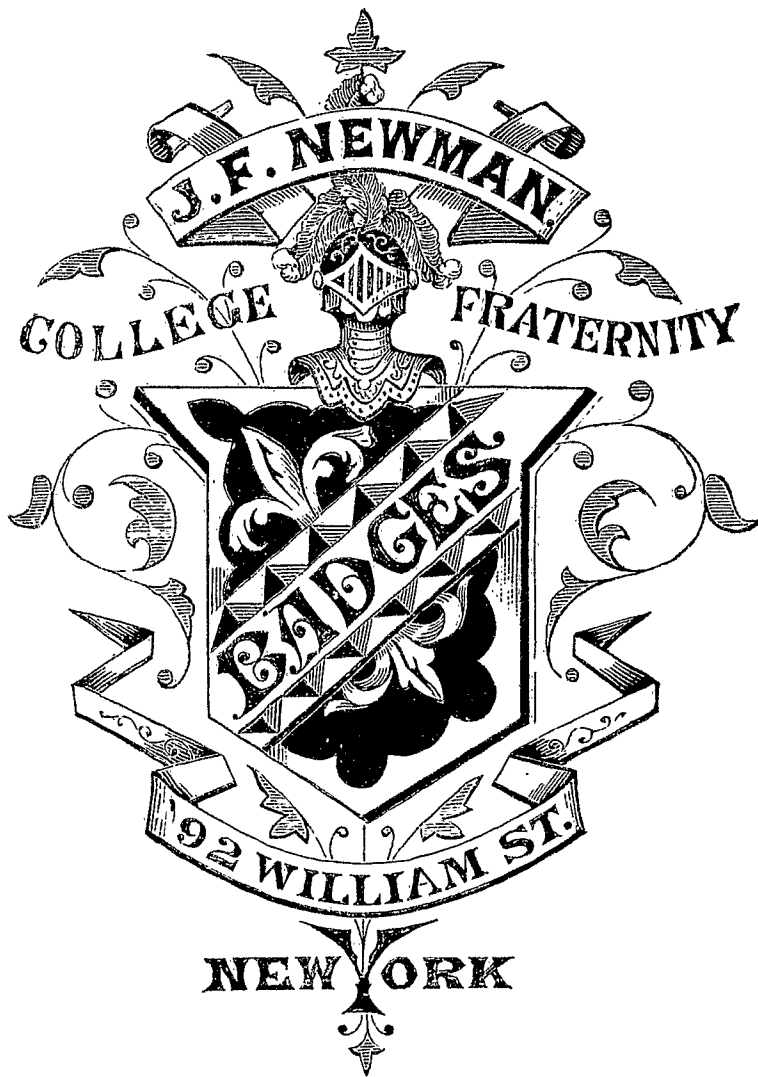
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