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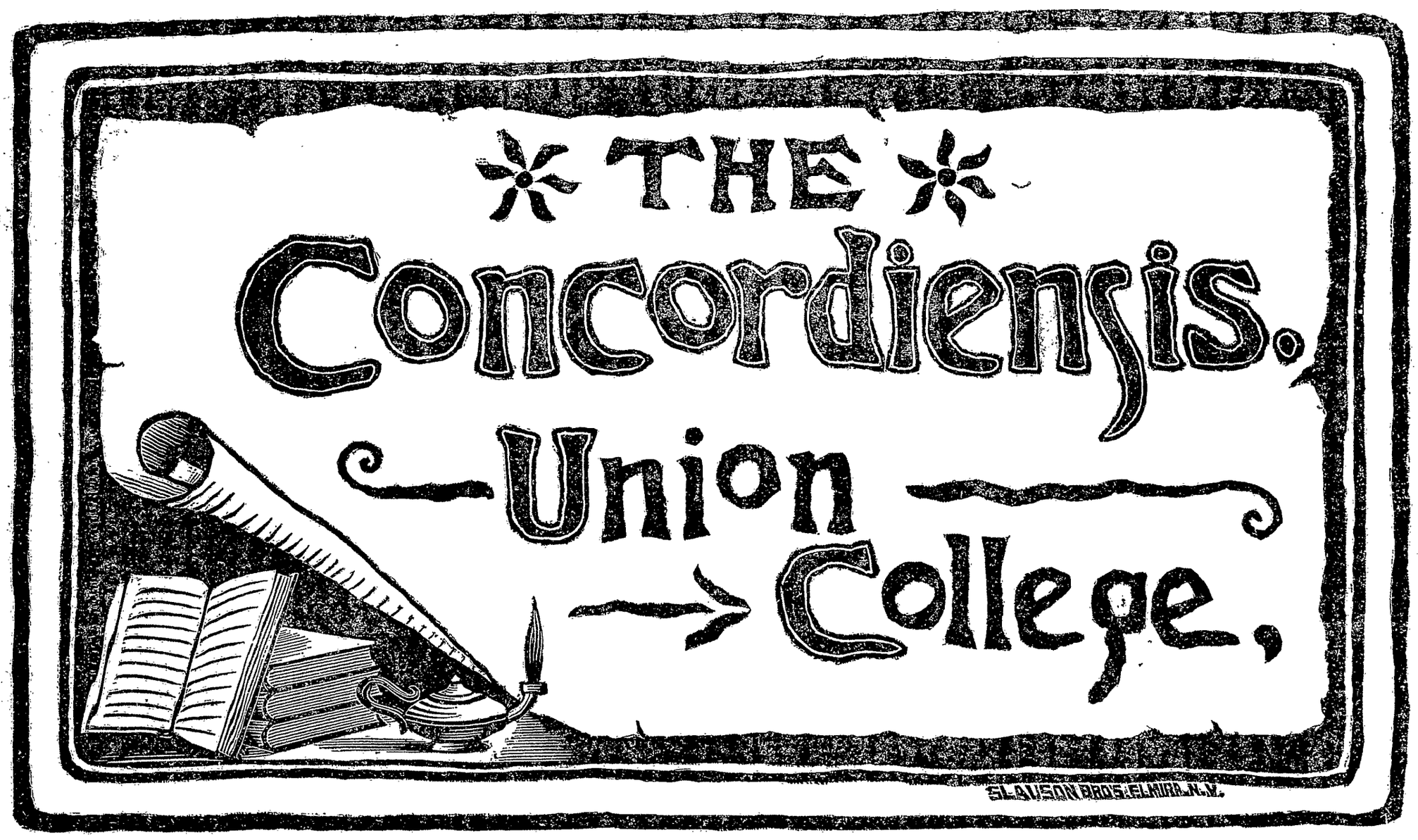

SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

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THE * CONCORDIENSIS

VOL. XIII UNION COLLEGE, OCTOBER, 1889 No. 1

THE CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS.

"Our Times Not Degenerate."

BY CHAS. EMORY SMITH, '61.

We publish below the address given last commencement by the honorary chancellor of the University, believing it to be a production that should be possessed and studied by every young man of thinking mind.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Board of Trustees: When "Old Union" calls, every loyal son answers. For years it was my pleasure to tread yonder storied walks and halls as a student. Later it was my privilege, each succeeding June, to return to these annual reunions as a devoted alumnus. Still later, with the singular and surprising failure to appreciate the kind provision made for their management which sometimes misleads the independent American voters, in national as well as in college politics, the alumni "smashed a slate" which contained far better names, and accorded me the high opportunity of trying to serve our *Alma Mater* in the board of trustees. And now your invitation to act as the honorary chancellor of the year comes with the force of a summons which cannot be disregarded and with the quality of an honor which is deeply prized. I beg you, Mr. President, and your associates to receive my sincere thanks for this distinction, and to accept the assurance of my continued interest in the venerable and honored institution whose diploma I bear and over which you preside.

Whatever its later vicissitudes, "Old Union" has had a noble career of which every son may well be proud. The illustrious president who moulded her policy and so long guided her destinies ranks among the few immortal and tutelar divinities not merely of American education but of American manhood in its broadest and highest sense. Her faculty has from time to time embraced the foremost names in American scholarship. Her long roll of graduates is studded with many stars of the first magnitude which glisten like jewels in the diadem of her glory and in the coronet of the nation's renown—stars of unsurpassed splendor in the realms of law and literature, of philosophy and statesmanship. For more than half a century an influence radiated from this focus which, in its practical force in the wide domain of affairs, found no other center that could match it. Union had the just fame of being pre-eminent in making successful men in all the various walks of life—men who were self-reliant forceful, sagacious and capable of leadership and who carried away not only the lessons of the classics and the sciences, but the higher inspirations of honor, manhood and worthy ambition. It is the aspiration of every son of Union that under your guidance, Mr. President, she may preserve the traditions and witness the glories of the elder day.

Young gentlemen of the class of 1889, you are about to leave these familiar scenes and step out upon the broad stage of independent action. You take the training and equipment of a faithful *Alma Mater;* you take the high hopes and growing ardor of courageous young manhood; and you go forth to do your part in a republic and in an age which give you unbounded opportunities and to which you owe corresponding duties. It is your good fortune to begin your career in the golden age of our history. I know we

have been told that we live in degenerate times. I know that dark contrasts have been drawn between the lofty patriotism and public spirit of the earlier epoch and the assumed profligacy and demoralization of our own period. But I do not sympathize with the wail of the pessimist, and do not accept the unfavorable comparison of the present with the past. And, young gentlemen, as you are just going forth to take your place in the life and the activities of this period, perhaps I cannot do better in the time allotted me than to ask the question, "Are we worse than our fathers?" and to maintain the theme, "Our Times not Degenerate."

"We have just passed through the centennial epoch. For fourteen years we have been celebrating the glorious events from Lexington to the Washington inaugural, which established our independence and made us a nation. It has been an epoch of patriotic fervor and glowing panegyric, and no eulogium upon the transcendent importance of those events in the political progress of mankind, or upon the majestic grandeur of the great actors, can exceed the truth. The spirit which exalts the heroic age of the Republic and holds it up for our example and admiration is altogether right; but when it elevates the sires by decrying the sons, and when it glorifies the past by bewailing the present, it is time for a protest. If you tell me of the lofty virtues and illustrious deeds of the early days, I answer, "Yes, but look around and you will find their match in our own times." If you tell me of the wrongs and evils and abuses of the present, I answer, "Yes, but search the records and you find them blended even with revolutionary glories." You shall not exceed me in reverent homage for the great ones gone forever and ever by, and let me summon you in turn not to believe that the age in which you live is worse than those that have gone before.

We often hear it said that ours is a selfish and speculative era and that under the influence of its spirit of greed public virtue has decayed. But this is no new complaint. "Where is virtue," wrote Henry Laurens, president of the continental congress, to Washington in 1778, two years after the Declaration of Independence, and in the very midst of the Revolution; "where is patriotism now, when almost every man has turned his thoughts and attention to gain and pleasures, practicing every artifice of change-alley or Jonathan's"—Jonathan's being the name of a great resort of speculators. The Revolution had its shadows as well as its splendors. The glories of Monmouth and Saratoga shot athwart a sky of darkness. The Continentals in 1776 bore no such proportion to the fighting population as the Boys in Blue in 1861. The heroism of Trenton and the patient fortitude of Valley Forge sent their thrilling appeal to wrangling states that jarred and clashed even in their common revolt against the British yoke.

The vital need of the revolutionary contest was the union of the colonies under the Articles of Confederation. Most of the colonies neglected to obey the requisitions of congress, and New Jersey absolutely refused. Yet year by year went by without the ratification of the only bond of union. This delay encouraged Lord North to assure parliament of the ultimate triumph of the British government. It excited distrust and uneasiness in our French ally, and unquestionably prolonged the war. And what was the cause of this lamentable delay and discord? Chiefly the jealousy of the colonies and their conflict over a division of the western lands—a conflict for territorial aggrandizement which almost paralyzed their

struggle for independence. It created such feeling that the final ratification of the Articles of Confederation did not come till six years after the Declaration of Independence, and the decline of public spirit was so great that Washington said, "independence, respectability, consequence in Europe and greatness as a nation depended on a change."

The convention which framed the Constitution was the grandest assemblage in the whole history of the world. It embodied more political wisdom and more of lofty inspiration than was ever gathered in any other hall, and it struck out the greatest and noblest work of constructive statesmanship in all the annals of time. Yet this pre-eminent body of almost divine vision was not without its weakness. Luther Martin, one of its members, said that for near a fortnight "we were on the verge of dissolution, scarce held together by the strength of a hair." And even Washington wrote to Hamilton that he almost despaired of a favorable issue and repented of having had any part in the work, and, though he was its president, he left the convention from June until August. When finally immortal success crowned its labors and the new government was gloriously inaugurated, party spirit flamed out with a fury which we have never seen equalled in our day. For a time the overshadowing greatness and authority of Washington held it in check, but during his second term even his supreme influence was unable to quench the fires of party passion and with all the reverence for his august character, Washington himself was more violently denounced than any party chieftain of our time. Since the final triumph of the colonies under his leadership in 1783 his birthday had been regularly celebrated; but in 1795, while he was still president, the house of representatives refused to join in the observance and put a deliberate affront upon the Father of his country.

We are accustomed to the charge of corruption and fraud, and apt to think it belongs only to our own epoch. But it was as common in the first days of the republic as now. In the presidential election of 1796 for Washington's successor, grave accusations of fraud were made, and the crimes against the ballot-box, which were established then, would be startling now in any state where there is a pretense of fair elections. We have heard a great outcry upon the unfounded allegation that men have been called to the cabinet simply as a reward for their services in improper methods of obtaining votes for a presidential candidate. The charge in its present application is false, but what of the past? In the presidential contest of 1800 there was a tie in the electoral vote between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr. This threw the election into the house of representatives. The vote of New York was vital; Burr belonged to that state, and how was Jefferson to meet him on his own ground? The members for New York who would cast the vote of the state were under the dominating influence of Edward Livingston. Jefferson could not approach that eminent man, but while the issue was still undecided he wrote to his brother, Robert Livingston, and asked if he would accept a place in the cabinet? Has history ever found any explanation of this curiously timed inquiry except as a method of reaching the undetermined vote?

Nor is this all of interest and suggestion in that memorable contest of 1800. Though beaten in the presidential struggle the decaying federal party still controlled the house of representatives, and thus had the power to choose between Jefferson and Burr. Burr had been the

candidate of his own party only for vice-president, and until the tie nobody had dreamed of him for president. But in brazen defiance of the plain popular will, the angry and embittered federalists came very near revenging themselves for their defeat by electing the adroit, crafty, unprincipled conspirator who afterward engaged in sedition, and became the murderer of the great statesman to whom his defeat was chiefly due; and they only changed their purpose at last partly because they made better terms for Jefferson, and partly because Alexander Hamilton—to his undying honor be it said—used his paramount influence for his ancient rival and relentless antagonist. Yet Hamilton himself was not without fault. The electors of New York were then chosen by the legislature. The old legislature was federalist, the new legislature republican. When Hamilton found his party beaten, he appealed to Gov. John Jay to convene the expiring legislature in extra session in order that it might change the electoral law and arrogate the power of naming the electors, thus usurping the right lawfully belonging to the new legislature chosen by the people for that express purpose—a proposal more audacious and revolutionary than any act of any returning board of our time—a proposal which Jay, of whom Webster said "when the spotless ermine of the judicial robe fell on John Jay it touched nothing not as spotless as itself," rightly declined to entertain.

I would not pluck a single leaf from the bright garland of Hamilton's unrivaled fame. No man can surpass me in admiration of that consummate prodigy of American history. I believe with Chief Justice Marshall that "Hamilton was the greatest man this country has ever seen, always excepting Washington." I accept the full measure of the splendid eulogy pronounced nearly a century ago by the masterful president of this college, which still ranks among the most stately monuments of commemorative eloquence. But Hamilton, with all his matchless powers and all his elevated patriotism, was human as are the statesmen of to-day. No exceptional code of political virtue ruled even what we rightly call the heroic age of the republic. There were north and south then as now, with their diverse interests and passions and ambitions. Hamilton, as an element of his great fiscal policy, insisted that the nation should assume the state debts. He was right because the states had incurred their debts in creating the nation. The north favored his policy and the south opposed it. They differed, too, upon the location of the new national capital. The north wanted it on the Susquehanna and the south on the Potomac. How settle these conflicts except by the modern method of give and take?—the north winning the debt policy and the south winning the capital; a bargain in which Jefferson joined Hamilton, and which was as much a matter of parliamentary legerdemain as any legislative log-rolling on a river and harbor bill of our day!

The patriotic Robert Morris, though he sacrificed his whole private fortune for his country, was permitted to languish during his later years in a debtors' prison. Edmund Randolph, of whom Jefferson said that "it was his habit to give his opinions to his friends and his votes to his enemies," was driven out of Washington's cabinet on charges of public and personal dishonor, though it is due to his memory to add that the recent researches of Conway have done much to clear his fame. Timothy Pickering and Oliver Wolcott, the secretaries of state and of the treasury, were accused of burning the public records in order to hide wrong-

doing. A little later the great Calhoun greeted the administration of John Quincy Adams at its very beginning with the declaration that it must be beaten at all hazards, no matter what its measures—a declaration of wanton partisanship that would bring a storm of condemnation upon any man rash enough to make it in our time. The present administration invites an American Congress and the whole country applauds; but when the administration of Adams triumphed after the tumultuous debate on the somewhat similar Panama Congress, Martin Van Buren, then a senator and afterward president, said: "Yes, they have beaten us by a few votes after a hard battle, but if they had only taken the other side and refused the mission we should have had them." In other words, the opposition was as ready to take the one side as the other, without regard to the right of question, and only opposed the mission because the administration favored it! Men may sometimes follow such a code of action now, but who would dare affront the intelligent judgment of this age by openly avowing it.

We deplore the violence of faction and the rancor of discussion which too frequently prevail; but though it is true that the waves of party passion, as we see them, often run high, they are the gentleness of the zephyr compared with the furious storms of political contention and personal detraction which lashed the troublous sea of the first fifty years of our national existence. We lament the unseemly scramble for place; but though there is much to learn from our early history, it is still true that John Adams went on with his midnight appointments in the expiring hours of his term until Jefferson's representative, standing with watch in hand called a halt; and that with the advent of Jackson the flood-tide of place-hunters was so great that the fences of the White House went down before it.

Nor is the change limited to the political field. There is a dramatic and thrilling lesson still fresh before us. In 1784 a great flood swept the teeming valley of the Susquehanna, carrying death, havoc and destruction on its tumultuous bosom. Untold anguish, suffering and starvation followed. The legislature was urged to send relief to the hapless sufferers, but they were Yankees from Connecticut and it was stolidly deaf to their piteous cries. Nay, more, it seized the opportunity to proscribe them as trespassers, and, with a barbarity that is almost beyond belief, the horrors of a military scourge were added to the blight of a nature's calamity, and many escaped the terrors of the flood only to perish by the more cruel sword, or to become the victims of the not more savage wolves of the forest to which they were driven. Less than a month ago, within the same state, not far from the same scene, a similar cataclysm overwhelmed the busy valley of the Conemaugh. The nation stood aghast at the greatest single catastrophe which had ever fallen on the English-speaking race, but the mute appeal came not in vain. Instantly the heart of the people was everywhere opened; the flood of sympathy was greater than the flood of devastation; the trains of relief were set in motion from our farthest bounds; the offerings came pouring in from the banker at his desk, the workman in his shop and the children in the street; and the bounteous streams of a nation's loving kindness gave even the black cloud of disaster its silver lining in the shining revelation of the great, true heart of the people. In its light we may realize the truth of Sydney Smith's declaration that "humanity is a modern invention."

I fear that in my reflections on the past you may begin to think I started with the wrong question, and that instead of answering the inquiry, "Are we worse than our fathers?" I am transposing it and rather asking "Were our fathers as bad as we are?" Let me not be misunderstood. I am not here to dethrone any cherished idols or to dispel any pleasing illusions. I share the general reverence for the past, and do not detract from the grandeur and glory of the legacy it has transmitted to us—all the greater because of the difficulties under which it was achieved. It is the fashion to paint only the sunshine of the elder day; I have barely touched on some of the shadows. To recognize the spots is not to be blind to the splendor of the sun. My issue is not with the exaltation of the earlier period but with the unjust disparagement of the later. In the comparison I deny the decay and demoralization of our times. Something of the halo that crowns and softens the mountain peaks of the past is the purple tint of distance; much of the seam and scar that shades the present is the effect of immediate contact and will fade as it recedes in time. The faults and blemishes of the bygone heroes are forgotten, and only their glories remain; the frailties and the follies of the living are seen face to face, and in their nearness cloud the virtues as the hand covers the sun. This propensity to exalt the past is nothing new. Lord Macaulay found a tendency to glorify the age of the Stuarts over the age of Victoria. "It may at first seem strange," he said, "that society, while constantly moving forward with eager speed, should be constantly looking backward with tender regret. It is in some sense unreasonable and ungrateful in us to be constantly discontented with a condition which is constantly improving. But in truth there is constant improvement precisely because there is constant discontent. If we were perfectly satisfied with the present, we should cease to contrive, to labor and to save with a view to the future, and it is natural that, being dissatisfied with the present, we should form a too favorable estimate of the past."

Young gentlemen, you step out into a present which is an advance upon the past, and you look to a future which will excel the present. The world grows better as it grows older. The onward march of time is the march of both material and moral progress. The general level is constantly rising. If the Mount Washingtons do not seem to tower around us as when we look far behind it is because we are all up on the table land. We have a different perspective, and we have different conditions. Our fathers lived in the shadow and the solitude of the tallow-dip and the stage-coach; we live in the glare of an electric light which reveals every wrinkle. Our fathers lived in the day of small things, we live in the age of giant forces. It is true we suffer from evils which they could not know—evils which come with the growth of wealth and population and power; from speculative greed and corporate aggrandizement and ring rapacity; from the vices of great cities and the struggles of great conflicting interests. But it is equally true that the compensating gains far outweigh those evils. Never was education so broadly diffused; never was the right of independent judgment so freely exercised; never was the sceptre of political chief or the creed of party convention so toned and swayed by intelligent public opinion; never were the alert sentinels of public journalism so vigilant or impelled by such a high sense of responsibility; never did biogtry and passion, whether in church or state, exert so little influence; never did philanthropy and charity spread so far and wide the mantle of their sweetness and light.

You go forth in an age not only of higher impulse but of boundless opportunities. At the dawn of the Republic, outside of the pulpit, the only open avenue for intellectual activity and genius was politics and public life. Even fifty years ago the field had scarcely broadened. The professions of law and medicine were still in their infancy. We had no literature, or art, or science. Journalism was nothing more than violent political pamphleteering. Even the commerce of Astor and Girard was simple barter and trade. There was no vast railroad system, with its marvellous scope for the genius of organization and command. There were no great constructions to call out the wonderful resources of modern engineering, There was no development of the subtle and occult and mighty forces which, under the inventive skill and applied science of our day, have astonished us with their achievements. There were none of the far-reaching projects and colossal combinations which illustrate the penetration, the enterprise, the daring and the grasp of our business spirit. We make our business a triumph of intellect, and coin our triumphs of intellect into the profit of business. We no longer limit genius to Grub street, and recognize that talent and education are capital as well as money. You have a wide choice, not only for the pleasures of mind, but for the prizes of life, and if you start upon the career for which you have been preparing, great possibilities beckon you onward.

But they will not be realized without labor and patience. All real advance is measured growth. No solid and lasting success comes without persistent effort. "Pray, sir," asked a young student of an artist who was distinguished for the splendor and glow of his coloring, "with what do you mix your colors?" "I mix them, sir, with brains," was the answer. The brilliant master of tints taught a universal lesson. Brains are the ruling solvent. If the beauty of color is the brighter when genius irradiates it, the achievement of labor will be the greater when intelligence informs it. "We row in the same boat, you know," said a pretentious comic writer in a patronizing way to Douglas Jerrold. "True," answered Jerrold, "in the same boat, but not with the same sculls." It is of vast consequence to the progress of the boat which you are just launching on the untried sea of life to understand what sort of sculls you bring to the enterprise and how you apply them. The great lesson is that there is no achievement without patient and well-directed labor. When Clay made his brilliant speech on the right of petition, it was supposed to have been struck out in the heat of debate, but Preston of South Carolina settled that point by declaring that Clay had read it to him from manuscript in advance. When Webster, on the day following the philippic of Hayne, rose and made his immortal reply, the world wondered at the splendor of the oratory with so little time for preparation. But Webster, himself, afterward stated that a large part of the speech had been written long before, and the stately and noble preparation had been running through his mind for years. The great structures of history have been slowly built.

You have barely laid the foundations of your work. You have only learned how to learn. The great part of your education is before you. The careful training of your *Alma Mater* has given you the tools, and it is for you to use them not only in building the temple of outward success but in rearing the shrine of that inward intellectual and spiritual aspiration which has the divine spark and which is the highest joy and glory of life. The last time it was my fortune to see Ralph

Waldo Emerson just as I was entering on my profession, warning me with the philosopher's wisdom of the dangers of hasty thinking and desultory reading which were incident to it, he said: "Never let a day pass without giving half an hour, if you cannot give more, to the reading of history." I am sorry to say that I have not followed the injunction though I have never ceased to be grateful for its influence. I pass it on to you with the hope that you may be more faithful than I, and in doing so I recall that other saying of Emerson, "Men who read history read unconsciously as superior beings." There are great figures like William of Orange, and Cromwell and Washington and Hamilton and Lincoln that march along the grand highways of history with the tongue of inspiration and with the sword of command. Their flaming torch blazes the pathway of destiny; their lofty fellowship enkindles and ennobles the mind; and as you tread the stately corridors of the centuries under their influence, with the wide illumination of human experience and with the elevation of high motive and great achievement, new vistas open before your enraptured eyes and you feel the quickening glow of the masters.

You have duties as well as opportunities. You are placed in a position of leadership. The people look to their educated men for guidance. You have gathered the richest fruits of our institutions and you owe the best service to the state and to society. Scholarship, especially, has a high duty in elevating the tone of political contention and public life. I do not sympathize with the wild and reckless denunciation of the public service as inefficient and corrupt. It isn't true; it doesn't touch the real sores; it confuses and misleads the public mind. Outside of the large cities, with their local rings, the public service, by whatever party administered, has for the most part been as honestly and faithfully conducted as the average of private business. The root of the evil is not a lack of integrity or capacity, but the lack of a proper conception that public office is a public trust and not a personal appurtenance; it is not maladministration, but the organization of the administrative machinery outside of its proper function into a political engine. And no duty of American scholarship is more commanding than that of leading the awakened American thought to a still higher and broader apprehension of the true governmental system.

It is the work not simply of the cloister but of the public arena. It is the work not of sour and querulous and morose cynicism but of practical leadership in practical methods. I am too much impressed with my duty as a citizen and too deeply interested in the grand drama of popular government to sit down coolly and calmly in my little private box of this great theater of public action, and simply amuse myself with petty criticism on the faulty dress or the paste jewels, while the decisive movements of the stupendous play are going forward around me; instead of that I will, with honest convictions, choose my side in this struggle, use the practical agencies of free institutions, do my best to uplift its standard to a worthy ideal, and fight its battles manfully and earnestly. In this mission of citizenship and scholarship you have every inspiration. "Have a care," says the demagogue to the patriot in Heine's story, "for if the people lose their reason they will tear thee to pieces." "Take care of thyself," answers the patriot to the demagogue, "for when the people recover their reason they will tear thee to pieces." Popular government may be trusted. The appeal to popular passion may prevail to-day, but the appeal to popular reason will triumph to-morrow. And

there is no higher satisfaction or loftier duty for educated men than in leading this public opinion which is the ruling force of free government.

And so, young gentlemen, these opportunities invite you and these duties command you, as you take your place in the best of ages, under the best of governments, among the best of peoples. Going forth with the generous enthusiasm and the pure aspirations of ardent young manhood, clad in the armor of right and equipped with the training of a devoted and cherished *Alma Mater*, let me adjure you to uplift your standard, to keep the faith of your own best ambition, and wherever placed, in whatever sphere, do valiant battle for truth and principle.

Above all to thine own self be true,
And it shall follow as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.

BLATCHFORD ORATION.

Light—Physical and Intellectual.

When darkness reigned supreme, God said "let there be light," and out over the immensity of space, light burst forth in all its effulgence.

From the dawn of that morning when the genial rays of the sun first flooded the earth, countless forms of life sprang into existence and this globe was clothed with garments of light.

Above, beneath, on every side, its radiance streamed out, making each part in the vast concave brighter than the lines which the lightning pencils on the midnight cloud. Yet, we ask, what is this wonderful thing?—physical light?—so simple, yet so mysterious; so gentle, yet so powerful, penetrating and pervading all space; revealing not only the exquisite symmetry and proportions of form, but also the beauty and color of outward and visible things.

As the eye rejoices in the light by which it surveys the universe of matter, so the mind thrills with pleasure at the entrance of that light by which it surveys the world of thought; especially in the development and acquisition of new truth.

Faraday was so overwhelmed in his discovery of some of the powers of electricity that he was almost delirious with joy, when he exclaimed: "Oh! but to *live* in it! Oh! but to *live* in it!"

Magnificent, indeed, was the creation of the physical, but far more sublime was the creation of the intellectual and spiritual. When we consider the possibilities that lie before men, we are constrained to exclaim—"The human mind is the grandest display of the power and skill of the infinite."

Enlightened and cultured minds are the foundation upon which rest the security and stability of government. Hence institutions of learning become the dispensers of intellectual light and in these the best interests of national life center.

Since the establishment of the first University in Paris has the conflict been raging between light and darkness, knowledge and ignorance. Our forefathers, quick to perceive the advantages of education, no sooner settled in the new land, than they turned their attention to the founding of a college.

Within the last century, science has made rapid strides; the stage-coach has given way to the steam engine; electricity has been summoned to the aid of man; on the wings of lightning, thoughts flash from continent to continent, to the remotest ends of the earth. The advance in every department has been so rapid and extensive, that an attempt to particularize would be futile.

Just as, in every mountain range, a few peaks tower in majesty above the neighboring heights, so in every age there have

been men of superior genius, as Plato, Paul, Dante, Luther and Milton, who, seizing the torch of truth, have borne it along and lighted the masses into regions hitherto dark and unexplored.

In the 15th century, when the literary world had been for ages obscured as by a total eclipse, a light of vivid brightness burst forth in the invention of the printing press, forever dispelling the gloom of the dark ages.

While we appreciate and extol individual effort in its attempt to elevate the masses by a diffusion of light and knowledge, we hold that it is the duty of a nation to exert its power to develop the minds of its citizens.

In doing this, she will not only exercise the noblest prerogative of government but also coöperate with the Almighty in one of His sublimest works.

Upon the broad foundation of knowledge and free education, the American nation has reared the grandest institutions known to history.

In this respect she stands pre-eminent, and just as the statue of Liberty sheds its rays out over the dark ocean, beckoning the weary mariner on to his haven, so America sends forth light and truth into the remotest corners of the earth, in rousing nations who sit in darkness to purer motives and nobler aims. So through her efforts, the gloom which now enfolds the earth shall be dispelled, and the light of knowledge and truth shall cover it as the waters cover the sea.

F. F. BLESSING.

Inter-Collegiate News.

Syracuse is to have a foot-ball eleven.

The will of Professor Elias Loomis, lately deceased, bequeaths the bulk of his estate, valued at from $250,000 to $300,000, to Yale University.

The University of Pennsylvania will admit women as students in all the various courses.

Amherst has 100 freshmen; Williams 85, Hamilton about 30, Madison 50, Wesleyan 55, Cornell about 400, and Lehigh 170.

Out of 1,200 undergraduates at Cornell, nearly two-thirds come from the state of New York, and both sexes are largely from the farming region of the interior. —*Lehigh Burr.*

In view of the reports circulated to the effect that the Johns Hopkins University was financially embarrassed, President Gilman authorizes the statement that the present efficiency of the university is assured for at least three years. He says that, while the income from Baltimore and Ohio stock has completely failed, gifts amounting to $300,000 have been received within the last six months.

Dr. Elias Loomis, who died at New Haven, August 15, was one of the best known professors in America, and widely celebrated for an excellent series of text-books, several of which have been translated into different languages and used in European institutions. His published works, including scientific books and papers, exceed one hundred in number. For many years he led a solitary life, keeping aloof from society, and his eccentricities were remarkable. He was seventy-eight years old.

As has been the case for the past three years, Yale leads the colleges in the number of athletic championships won. By gaining the football, baseball, track athletic, and rowing championships, Yale has a quadruple victory. Harvard comes next with her Freshman race over Columbia and the tennis singles and doubles. The University of Pennsylvania holds third place by winning the Freshman race with Yale and the cricket championship. Cornell holds the rowing championship among the minor colleges, and Princeton has the lacrosse championship.—*Yale News.*

THE CONCORDIENSIS.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

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BRANDOW PRINTING COMPANY, ALBANY, N. Y.

Editorial.

TO ALL of the older classes at Union; to every member of our new class of sixty men; to the faculty and college officers; to all who, according to the daily newspapers, have been "summering," "visiting," "passing a few days," "rusticating," "fishing," "hunting," "entertained by" and "entertaining," THE CONCORDIENSIS extends its cordial greeting and best wishes for the coming year. It congratulates the students upon the prosperous outlook for the college, and the college officers upon the decided success of the improvements and automatic appliances that make life on the hill once more safe and agreeable.

* * *

WITH the expiration of the term of Lieut. Benham, the military department at Union has been abolished. Before the issue of this paper the popular lieutenant will have "received reinforcements" and be settled in Schenectady. It is fitting that the change should take place at this time. It is safe to say that under no instructor has the always irksome course been less irksome and productive of more good than under Lieut. Benham; but there has always been a strong dislike and noticeable sentiment against the military work, and it is the universal feeling that the trustees have acted wisely in abolishing it.

* * *

OWING to the inability of Mr. Schofield to take the position of tutor in mathematics, Edgar H. Winans, '88, was appointed in his place. Mr. Winans' abilities and careful thoroughness leave no doubt as to his fitness and success in that position.

* * *

WE ARE glad to announce that Mr. Stoller, formerly tutor in natural history, has been made professor of biology. Prof. Stoller has made these branches a life study and is worthy of his advancement.

* * *

WITH the exception of Cornell, Union has made more advancement in foot-ball than any New York state college, and is passably familiar with the game. A large number of our best players are back; our facilities for practice are unexcelled, and our newly equipped gymnasium offers the best opportunity for training. It would appear that the only doubt of success this fall lies in the traditional "slowness" of all save the enthusiasts in this sport. Let every man who is not physically unable come on the campus to give the team practice; let every broad-shouldered freshman try his strength at the game; let every class organize its eleven and so find out who are the players. Most men do not discover that they are players until late in their course, simply from ignorance of their abilities. Finally, let every

one cheerfully give financial support to the organization according to his ability. In these days, success in athletics is one of the most important factors in the glory of a college, and the glory of Union should be the personal pride of each of her sons.

* * *

THE CONCORDIENSIS hopes this year to print in each of its numbers cuts of members of the Union College faculty, and gives for a frontispiece this month a portrait of President Webster. Although this appeared in last year's CONCORDIENSIS, we think that the members of the new class will be glad to possess the likeness of the man who begins the second year of his administration after the pronounced success of last year's work. Holding the support of the trustees, the coöperation of the faculty, the confidence of Union's immense and powerful alumni, and the sincere affection of a loyal body of students, President Webster can look forward to years of more pleasant labor and the assured success of the institution.

* * *

"THAT which comes last is best remembered." We hope that this will prove true of the appeal that the CONCORDIENSIS now makes to its subscribers. A successful paper cannot be published upon the credit of the editors, and we earnestly remind our delinquent subscribers of last year that about half the subscriptions are still unpaid. It is a small matter to each man; but to the persons who must personally advance funds for the publication of this number, it looks larger.

College News.

Class Officers.

The senior class assembled in the chapel Monday afternoon, September 30th, and with marvelous harmony elected the following officers: President, Pickford; Vice-President, Baker; Secretary, Brandmahl; Treasurer, Schwilk; Addresser, Stewart; Grand Marshal, Carroll; Orator, Fish; Prophet, Edwards; Base-ball Director, Cassidy; Ivy Orator, Bennett; Toastmaster, Wright; Pipe Orator, Lochner; Poet and Ivy Poet, Knox.

The officers elected by the junior class for this year are as follows: President, Adams; Vice-President, Burr; Secretary, Lay; Treasurer, Conant; Base-Ball Director, Little; Foot-Ball Director, Ferguson; Toastmaster, Fisk; CONCORDIENSIS Editor, McDonald. The following constitute the junior hop committee and give assurance of successful dances: Little, Robertson, Walker, Burg, Ferguson, McDonald, Conant and Briggs.

The sophomore officers will be: President, Dougall; Vice-President, Reddish; Secretary, Sanders; Treasurer, Loebenstein; Base-Ball Director, Banker; Foot-Ball Director, Dailey; CONCORDIENSIS Editor, Homer B. Williams.

The freshman class has elected the following men as officers for the present year: President, McAlpine; Vice-President, Lamb; Secretary, Raymond; Treasurer, Gellespie; Historian, Shanahan; CONCORDIENSIS Editor, Carris; Base-ball Director, Tallman; Foot-ball Director, Babcock.

UNION opened Sept. 18th with a freshman class of about sixty men, with several additions to the upper classes, and all men of most excellent material. Those who entered with conditions were exceedingly few, while the proportion in the different courses is well maintained. Whereas, last year, almost the entire class was from the state of New York, this year we have men from the south, the north and west. One of the men to enter, A. F. Wright, is from the Indian territory, and is the son

of a former chief of the Choctaw nation and ex-governor of the Indian territory.

It is thus assured that Union will be in no sense a local college. The following is a list of the freshman class and the entries in the different courses:

22sci B. R. Babcock, 41lat sci G. Banker, 48eng R. H. Bellows, 13c G. T. Bradt, 42c E. Burke, 43c J. Burke, 27sci L. H. Carris, 3c C. W. Clowe, 15eng E. G. Conde, 8ec W. F. Cromer, 54eng W. D. Culver, 4eng C. R. Dean, 47ec W. C. Dean, 46ec S. L. Dougherty, 21c A. Fairlee, 26eng C. W. Field, 29sci H. C. Fox, 14sci E. Gellespie, 18c H. Glen, 40c F. W. Grupe, 30sci W. A. Hamilton, 33eng T. J. Herrick, 38c G. H. Hoxie, 20c G. T. Hughes, 11eng J. Kenny, 2eng E. A. Lamb, 37sci A. M. Lewald, 45sci E. D. Lines, 16sci W. B. Lippencott, 25sci B. H. Lord, 9sci G. C. McAlpine, 12c F. McPartlon, 10c H. D. Merchant, 23lat sec J. R. Morey, 39ec W. T. Mynderse, 6c S. G. Parent, 1c E. E. Pike, 17ec H. S. Raymond, 34eng J. O. Reynolds, 28eng A. J. Roy, 24eng J. A. Shanahan, 51sci J. B. Spruill, 35eng O. N. Tallman, 36c R. H. Thatcher, 5eng H. A. Van Alstyne, 50lat sci J. H. VanDerveer, 49ec H. S. Van Voast, 44sci B. Van Zandt, 7c E. J. Webster, 52sci C. S. Whiting, 19c A. F. Wright, 55sci R. B. Lewis.

Where the Faculty Were.

NEWS CONCERNING THE FRESH HEALTH AND FRESH INFORMATION GATHERED BY OUR INSTRUCTORS DURING THE SUMMER.

President Webster spent most of his time in Schenectady; but was at Halifax and on the Maine coast for two weeks.

Dr. Whitehorn remained in Schenectady the entire summer.

Prof. T. W. Wright traveled in the far west—principally in Montana.

Prof. A. S. Wright spent some time at White Lake, N. Y.

Prof. Wells rested at home, in Schenectady.

Prof. Lamoreaux also stayed in Schenectady.

Prof. Stoller spent the summer in Arkansas, upon the State Board of Survey.

Prof. Brown was employed by the State Board of Health in making an inspection of the Hudson river. He was aided by Little, '91.

Prof. Perkins, in the absence of his family in Europe, went to South Carolina.

Prof. Truax traveled through Europe during the summer.

Prof. Ripton spent two weeks at Ocean Grove.

Prof. Hoffman, aside from short trips to Saratoga and Long Branch, remained in Schenectady working upon his studies.

Prof. Ashmore went to the University of Bonn, where he took the lectures in philology of the last six weeks of the term; after which, he spent the remainder of two months in Berlin, roaming through the museums. Prof. Ashmore returns, feeling that his time has been valuably spent.

The Bowling Alley.

In the excellent re-equipment of the gymnasium, nothing needful has been omitted but attention to the bowling alley, located under the gymnasium. It is now in such a condition that a very little expense will put it in shape for use. There is no sport more fascinating to many than bowling; and the opportunity to pursue this exercise would be greatly appreciated by those who cannot find time to enter the regular class in calisthenics, but who often have an extra hour in the morning or afternoon.

Locals.

Why not have a tennis tournament?

Union has received foot-ball challenges from Cornell and Williams.

Sixty freshmen.

Their yell is: "Whoop! Rah, Rah; U-pi-dee! Union, Union, ninety-three!"

George H. Clute, '90, has been elected captain of the foot-ball eleven for the present year.

A large class in calisthenics has been organized, and will work under the direction of Mr. Van Derveer.

A reception was given to the senior class, September 26th, at the home of President Webster. They met, there, members of the faculty and their families.

Robertson, '91, has had a piano placed in his room. This is the only piano in the dormitories and serves to make Robertson's room more of a "hang-out" than ever.

A game of ball between nines from '92 and '93 resulted in a victory for the latter, by a score of 14 and 9. This is the first instance in a long time of the first game being won by the freshmen.

The corrugated iron ceilings are an immense improvement. Hereafter, inquiries concerning the personality and character of George Washington will not have their former disastrous effects.

The senior essays are due Prof. Truax October 14th and November 4th, and will be written upon the following subjects: Resolved, "That the English are a freeer people than the Americans," and "Wordsworth as a philosopher."

The President made a half-hour speech to the students, early in the term, upon various college topics, and particularly concerning the drinking habit, urging upon all to abstain, even to the degree of total abstinence.

During the "setting up," two weeks ago, a lamp was overturned in a small rush and the scattering oil took fire. It looked for a few moments as if the consequences might be serious; but by the combined efforts of the students the blaze was soon out.

Personals.

'83. G. W. Sherwood has been appointed instructor in civil engineering at Lehigh University.

'89. Hanson is tutoring in Amsterdam.

'89. Waite is at his home in Sandy Hill.

'89. Whalen has been doing bridge work.

'89. Voorhees is studying law at Columbia.

'89. Cameron is at Princeton Theological Seminary.

'89. Flannigan is at Westerly employed as a draughtsman.

'89. Conover is now at his home in Pattersonville, N. Y.

'89. Nolan is studying law with his brother in Schenectady.

'89. Snow is at New Bedford, Mass., engaged in engineering.

'89. Lewis is studying at the medical college in Washington, D. C.

'89. Hunsicker is studying law with his father in Norristown, Pa.

'89. Furman was married during the vacation to Miss Annie Rector of Schenectady, and is now employed as Principal of the union school at Cambridge, N. Y.

'89. Culver is studying law at the Columbia law school in New York. He expects to play with the Columbia foot-ball eleven.

'90. De Puy has left college.

'90. A. B. Wright, of St. Paul, Minn., has entered the senior class.

'91. S. H. Adams has entered the junior class from Hamilton College.

'91. W. O. Lay, has entered the engineering course in '91. He was formerly at Madison University.

'92. Banker, Perkins and E. N. P. Dailey have left college.

'92. T. H. Reddish has left Williams College and enters sophomore at Union.

Lieutenant Henry Hill Benham was married on Thursday, October 3d, to Miss Anna Franchot of Schenectady. The ceremony took place at St. George's Church in this city. In the evening a reception was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Keyes Paige, the parents of the bride.

Notes.

It is possible that Union will play football with Rochester at Elmira on Thanksgiving. Rochester University has a team that defeated an eleven run by a stock company in the city. From all reports it will require a strong team to defeat Rochester in the proposed game.

The John Crouse Memorial College for women, a gift of the late John Crouse to the Syracuse University, was dedicated on the 18th inst. The building cost about $500,000, and is considered one of the finest college buildings in the country.

Necrology.

One of the leading homœopathic physicians of New York, Dr. Edward Bayard, who died at Yarmouth, Va., Saturday, September 28th, at the age of eighty-three, was a graduate of Union College. His brothers were ex-United States Senators Richard and James Bayard, while he was uncle to ex-Secretary of State Thomas F. Bayard. He was a staunch democrat. He was buried at Johnstown, N. Y.

Poetry.

Postponed.

Sometime ago I planned to make
A trip for recreation's sake.
Into the country would I go
And pass in fun a week or so.
That I might be in latést style
I bought for cash a new straw tile,
Four flannel shirts, some yellow shoes,
Two dozen ties of gorgeous hues,
Two flannel suits of purest white,
A tennis sash, a blazer bright,
A racquet and a summer suit.
Some patent leather shoes to boot,
A fishing pole, a Gladstone grip,
A silver flask to hold a nip.
And then in counting up my cash
I found that I'd been somewhat rash
So that, for reasons that are clear,
My trip's postponed until next year.

Ye Constant Lover.

I cannott leave ye olde love:
  Ye new love will nott yielde,
And 'tis not welle, forsooth, to dwelle
  Alone on Life's broad Fielde.

Swete May is faire as Roses
  That round ye trellis twine,
And Anne is fairer far than she:—
  But—zounds!—she won't be mine.

I kiss my May twice weeklie,
  And whisper "I am true,"
I pleade wyth Anne ye other nights:—
  Alas, I vainlie sue!

I'll aske swete Anne to wed me;
  And, if she says me nay,
I'll grieve no more; but leve ye doore
  And go to faythfull May.

I cannott leave ye olde love:
  Ye new love will nott yielde,
And 'tis not welle, forsooth, to dwelle
  Alone on Life's broad fielde.

—*Yale Record.*

CHAS. G. ELLIS, Pres't.
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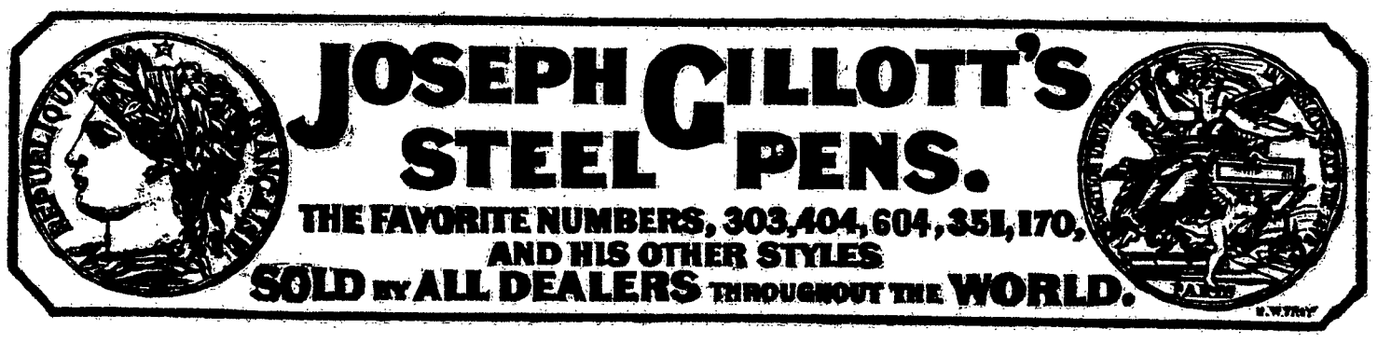

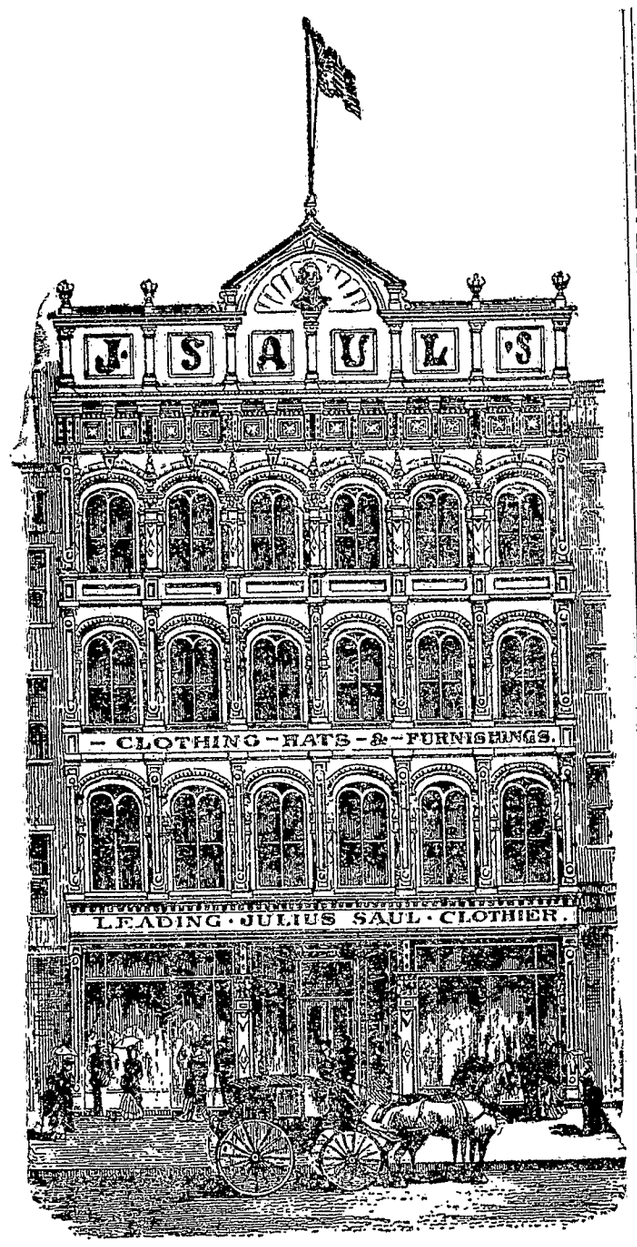

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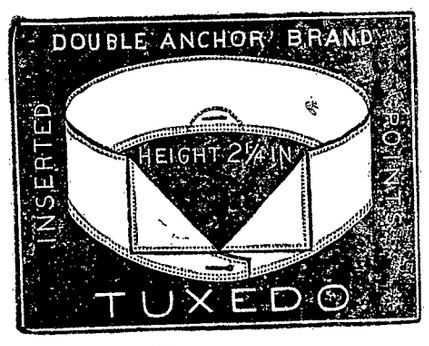

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