

# THE CONCORDIENSIS.

VOL. II.

SCHENECTADY, N. Y., JANUARY, 1879.

No. 4.

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# THE CONCORDIENSIS.

VOL. II.

SCHENECTADY, N. Y., JANUARY, 1879.

No. 4.

## THE CONCORDIENSIS.

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## LITERARY.

### SCIENCE AND THE CLASSICS.

Theories of education are not less varied and opposed than the multifarious and obscure systems of philosophy. Every one has a peculiar idea how mental discipline and culture should be prosecuted. These differences were not so radical some years ago as now, and their source is to be found in the rapid development of modern thought and science. In the light of these changes it would be palpably absurd for one to attempt to set up an arbitrary course; and the article on "Modern Education" was not written with any such aim in view but to call attention to the indications which point to a reform in this direction; to a current opinion that a classical renaissance is not adapted to the demands of modern life. It is not our desire to protract this time-worn discussion, but since the arguments of the "Battle of the Books" have proceeded either upon ambiguous or unwarranted premises, we desire to vindicate the justness of our conclusions.

It was not maintained, as our opponent affirms, that the method of teaching Latin and Greek has not undergone changes. The absurdity of such an assertion would be apparent to anyone who has watched the constant modifications in their system of instruction. As every investigator pursues a different course in his work of classification and generalization, although all tending toward unity; so each method of instruction,

is a separate mean to the accomplishment of a common end, and it is not our purpose to consider their relative value. Our point was that formerly it was a universal opinion, that classical education was the only true system, but that to day many of our best educators claim a superior intellectual value for scientific training. This is incontestible.

Again, it is not a weighty argument for the study of the classics in the original, that our system of government is based to a great extent, on those of Greece and Rome, or that medieval and modern literature and art have found noble models in a Homer or Pheidias. The ancient writings can be most profitably studied in our vernacular tongue, since better linguists than any of this age have translated them into English, and we should save time by reading the English. If a path is paved, is he not a fool who would strike out into some different and circuitous one in order to reach the same destination?

Dr. Emerson, the sage of New England, says that in his literary studies he never reads a foreign author in the original. Moreover, the fact that our knowledge of ancient History and Geography has increased and assumed a more positive character through the researches of the antiquary and archæologist is not a sufficient, nor valid reason for the study of the dead languages. Have these recent discoveries been recorded in Latin or Greek? Certainly not. Should one desire to acquaint himself with them, he must have recourse to works printed in modern tongues. True, they form part of the immortal Book of the Classical Age, but scientific education comprehends within its province such investigation, indeed they are the cherished fruits of the progress of science.

But the central question of the whole controversy, as our opponent justly states is What are the fruits of the classical, compared with other courses of instruction? Sir Will-

iam Hamilton has well said "the importance of a study, is not established when its dignity is admitted." The dignity of classical culture is unquestioned. Its practical value is what we call in question. The only argument of any apparent strength, by which our antagonist attempts to overthrow scientific education, (by showing a higher value of culture than of knowledge,) is based on the supposition that culture and intelligence are not only convertible terms, but that the latter is contained in the former. Nothing could be more erroneous. They are not only not the same but no necessary proportion subsists between them. Culture gives elegance, grace, finish. A person may be perfectly cultivated and yet have no intrinsic power, and we often hear of men uncouth and unrefined who control the destinies of nations, morality and thought by the sagacity and originality of their intelligence. Education should prepare to do, to act, to perform. Polish is surely very good in its way, but more sterling power is necessary for the purposes of American life. The vanity of culture which some newly born bachelor of arts exhibits, resembles the vignettes and embellishes on the green-back which seem fine, but do not enhance its value; for gold and silver are the only legal tender in the commerce of the world.

Knowledge, (not culture,) says the maxim, is power. And culture is not more a test of fine discrimination, ready memory and trained judgment (which have been correctly stated to be the characteristics of the educated man) than a library is of learning, because among the best cultured minds are to be found the most visionary, inconsequential and superficial. Thus his conclusions are invalidated, unless he is prepared to maintain this paradox. Our argument is that classical culture fulfils only an inferior end of education in connection with the highest, whereas the modern system not only disciplines that intelligence, which is the result of the original



exercise of the faculties—the most exalted attribute of man—to a degree not inferior to classical studies, but also trains the powers of observation and stores the mind with a general knowledge of the arts and sciences which every scholar should possess, but which is too often neglected for branches of knowledge which will in the majority of cases be remembered as simply poetical reminiscences of college days. Since knowledge is more valuable than culture for the average man, scientific education must be acknowledged as more useful and practicable. The two belong together, but they have been separated. Let them be united in one grand scheme of education, and we will then have minds better adapted to meet the requirements of modern times, and at the same time have finished scholars.

The purpose of this paper is not to vindicate a particular course of instruction in any institution, but to compare the advantages of the old and new systems. That theory is abused, cannot be made a reproach against it. It indicates simply that the conditions necessary for its complete success are not present. Thus with education. In certain cases the discipline may not be rigid enough, and the course may not be properly systematized, but every system may be faulty in this respect. Moreover the objection urged against scientific education, that the knowledge of the modern languages is frequently imperfect, is indisputable sometimes; yet should the same time be devoted to them that is given to the classics, the student could master them. A thorough knowledge of the classics is undoubtedly valuable; "but," says a thorough classical scholar, "most college graduates know but very little of the dead languages, and still less of the ideas and principles of the ancients, whose books they pretend to have read 'in the original.'"

Our opponent quotes Tyndall as conceding that the dead languages supplement the work

of science in refining the æsthetic faculties, though still maintaining a superior intellectual value for scientific training. This cannot be denied, for it constitutes its dignity. The ancient writings furnish the purest specimens in the whole range of literature, of exalted imagination, of deep sarcasm, of touching sentiment, of genuine wit. This, however, is only a part, and the smallest part of the argument. The principle upon which the progress of science depends is the use which one can make of the results of previous investigations. So in the pursuit of knowledge. A very perfect appreciation of the Iliad can be had from the translation of Pope or Derby. The pure thought of the Æneid, the wit of Plautus, the eloquence of Cicero can be better enjoyed by the average student in a translation, than in the original, for reasons which we have stated above. But even if this be not admitted, the case would not be materially altered. The value of a refined emotional nature compared with learning, we account very small. The demonstration of the most efficient system of education in determining the mind to a development which will be most useful in professional life, is the intricate problem which it is our aim to solve. Such a character of liberal culture may be suited to those who have abundance of means and time, but it is the aim of most young men to prepare themselves as soon as possible to grapple with the difficulties of their vocations. G. S. A.

#### AN INCIDENT WITH A MORAL.

If questioned, the oldest college servants will tell you in a half-admiring way about a great, brawny man who graduated in 18—, and whose identity may perhaps be best concealed and revealed by the name of Duncan—Edward Duncan. He was rather older than the average, a close student and very retiring. The ordinary men knew nothing of him, except his respectable recitations, but

it was reported among a few kindred spirits that he was thoroughly conversant with several independent lines of study, and for originality, common sense and versatility was the most entertaining of companions. It was impossible to decide from his appearance whether he ignored or was ignorant of the requirements of dress and etiquette. Probably the majority mentally classed him as a rustic, while a few may have suspected that his roughness was assumed. The oddest thing concerning him was his reputed woman-hating. He never went into society, and was supposed to regard ladies, when he thought of them at all, with some contempt and bitterness.

The time of which we write was Spring term of his Senior year. Towards sun-down one day, a thunder-storm being close at hand, with a covered pipe and short, rough coat, he started out for a walk in the rain. Going up Lovers' Lane, by the time he neared its end drops were falling large and frequent.

On the farther side of the stile, or pair of steps leading into the woods, he recognized a young lady and gentleman apparently in distress. The lady seemed to be in command, with her escort hanging heavily upon her arm in the weakest manner conceivable. Duncan recognized the dependent as a fragile under-classman with a soft voice and lavender kids, whose effeminate attentions were received by his present companion and her set as highly agreeable. The principal person of the couple he also knew by name, as he did most of the city people, not through curiosity, but by reason of his acute observation and quick inference.

She had a reputation of being the brightest girl in the city, rather pretty, or, at least, interesting. Black eyes, large enough in the pupil not to look wicked, except to a hasty observer, but on a full glance soft and good. Nevertheless, she entertained considerable

foolishness, including some high-flown notions about aristocracy.

Duncan had already put up his pipe before he heard a somewhat haughty, "Will you please assist me, sir?" whereupon he hastened to vault the fence. Mr. Softcloes had sprained his delicate ankle. Without much ceremony the Senior picked him up, and crossed the steps; then, waiting until Miss C—— had done the same, set off with his long stride, not looking back again. Soon the disabled, what from weak nerves, pain, and the cold rain, began to shiver and chatter. At this his big carrier struck on a slow run, and the aristocratic young belle, thoroughly angry, followed as rapidly as her wet garments permitted.

When they reached the Corner, the leader turned and said, peremptorily, "You know Mrs. Radical," mentioning a Professor's lady, "Run in there, and I will deliver Mr. Softcloes to his society-fellows;" [That elegant individual ventured no remark whatever.] and then, with a perfectly impartial inflection, asked, "Would I serve you by attending you home?"

Miss C—— did not answer directly. For in the first place, she was disgusted and ashamed at the exhibition of her admired friend's feeble spirit—his craven submission to an abler man, mortified, also, at her own ridiculous position, and exasperated by this plebeian's air of superiority to both of them. Accordingly when he spoke so coolly and imperatively, she was vexed beyond patience. What should she do? Her parents would be alarmed at her absence; there was no one else to accompany her; she did not dare ask him to carry a note, and after all he had not been discourteous. She saw that the tormentor followed her thoughts, and was mastered to thank him and accept.

When he returned, shortly, he found her prepared to encounter the wet, and explaining simply "that Mr. Softcloes' friends seemed

not to desire his further assistance," at once made ready to go. Miss C—— never thought of conversation. He, however, began to talk, gravely at first, though not unkindly, but watching the effect upon his listener, who appreciated every point of refining, grew interested and broached some of his most earnest thoughts. This kind of eloquence was new to her. Such life purposes as he advocated had never occurred to her, except as visionary ideas to excite emotion by their beauty. The activity of his mind, now that he was aroused, dazzled hers. He was too quick for her even to steadily follow. On arriving at her residence her own mind was stimulated as never before.

"Will you not call, Mr.—Mr. Duncan?" she finished, although he had not given his name.

"Thank you; with pleasure. Good evening." While saying this, each looking straight at the other on separating, he smiled for the first time—a broad and comprehensive smile. Miss C—— turned and ran in utterly disconcerted. Beginning then she learned that there were better things in a man than conventional style, inherited pride, or mawkish sentiment; and he, that a person might be sensible and true, even if she had been taught nonsense about wealth and blue-blood.

Softcloes has never been mentioned. \* \* \*

#### TO OCTAVIA.

Backward; turn backward, O maiden once fair,  
When beauty was princely and sweet;  
Thy sudden surprise, the rose in thy hair,  
My mem'ry will love to repeat.  
A comeliness set in thy graces  
Still ruffles this bosom of mine;  
Where the light of two loving faces  
Seems yearning for something divine.

CHORUS :—There's a love that's unspoken, unspoken,  
Where remembrance will linger for aye,  
O'er the spell of fond youth that is broken,  
And the fragments of hope flown away.

Is there ever a strain drifting sadly,  
Or dreams o'er thy slumberous rest,  
Or a face whose remembrance is gladly

Made welcome in thy maiden breast?  
Wherever I wander at twilight,  
In shades so familiar to me,  
Looks down thro' the purple of sky light,  
And smiles the fair vision of thee.

CHO.

How oft have we met by streamlet o'er-grown  
With asters and ferns blooming wild,  
Our favorite spot, the moss-covered stone,  
Where hours so sweetly beguiled:  
How swift I recall the red flushes,  
While pressing thy lily white hand,  
Thy beauty all sprinkled with blushes,  
Obeying love's silent command.

CHO.

Backward! turn backward and gaze on our youth!  
Where are those fond pleasures to-day?  
Thy heart has grown cold, thy beauty and truth  
Are clad in the garments of gray.  
O, where the fair prospect that lifted  
Our eyes to be lovers so true?  
Alas! they have vanished and drifted  
With years of regretful adieu. By E.—'82.

#### EDITORIAL.

WILL not those of our readers who have not yet paid their yearly subscriptions do so at their earliest convenience? They have an excellent opportunity to oblige us, for we need the money.

Boys, give *your* paper a liberal support. While many of you have acted generously toward it, others have been disinclined to advance it in any degree whatever. Without your hearty co-operation it cannot prosper. You have started the paper, and have honored us by choosing us as its Editors. In return we have labored to make it worthy of your approval. See that by purchasing the paper you perform your part. Do not think that this is done when you have taken a single copy, but take as many more as your means will permit. If each of you would take three copies, the financial success of the paper would be assured. It may surprise some of you, to learn that in some issues the

number of copies sold was to the students as *two to three*. No College publication of equal size in the country, whatever the comparative quality, is sold at so low a price as the CONCORDIENSIS. It is true we do not offer 14x18 chromos, stem-winding oroide watches, or brass-mounted revolvers as inducements to subscribe, for we think that the welfare of your paper is a sufficiently strong inducement.

CHRISTMAS holidays were passed quietly by the few men who remained in the colleges, and without much incident by those who returned home. A great many were delayed several days by the storms; one Senior going to South Carolina was shipwrecked. New Year's Day was observed by most of the students in town, although not as many calls were made as usual. Everybody appears to be back safely, with apparent submission to, practically, a six months' grind. This is, however, less noticeable in the Senior's face, as he looks unexpectantly through the spout of the mill into the receptacle of so much culture, to wit, the unheeding world.

THE musical interests of Union have been sadly neglected this year. There are a good many fine singers in College, but no one seems to be willing to take the lead. The Freshmen have made a slight beginning, but are fast falling into the general quiet that has so thoroughly taken possession of the whole College. The College Quartette, at least, ought not to be given up; if however there is such a thing in existence very few are aware of the fact, and still fewer know who compose it. There always has been great difficulty in keeping up a large Musical Association, but we think a double or even a triple quartette could be found who would be willing to practice certainly once a week, and thus keep up some interest in this line.

WHAT is the matter with the Chapel furnace? It is hardly to be expected that we can maintain a very devotional frame when the temperature is nearly down to that point when one's breath congeals. At Butler the Seniors form themselves into relays, and in irregular order march to the register. But little comfort does that give. Even the Doctor has to pace back and forward to keep his blood in circulation. This state of things enabled him to give a touching illustration of the Icelandish idea of Hades. But a comfortable room is to be desired above much rhetoric. We are glad the next Senior class have the promise of better times. If Dr. Potter erects a recitation-room in the rear of his house, it will, without doubt, be a pleasant and comfortable one. We would almost take him at his word and remain another year, that we might help him christen it. It should be added that some of the other recitation rooms have been very cold at times during the past few weeks, thus endangering the good health of those who have to remain in them. Unimpaired lungs and throat are safe things to own in these parts, and ought not to be subjected to disease through carelessness in the heating of the rooms. This matter can easily be remedied by a little stricter attention.

THE attempt to raise money for the use of the Nine during the approaching season has already received a hearty response from a good share of the students in the way of liberal subscriptions. We have every reason to expect that much more will be raised in this way. The outlook is encouraging. Two entertainments will soon be given, although we are not yet able to make an announcement.

But we trust the Nine will not forget to perform their part.

To keep up the interest already begun and render it more enthusiastic they must show



themselves deserving of confidence and support.

Thorough, systematic work in the gymnasium should begin *at once*.

Contributors have a right to expect it of you. And it is absolutely essential to success. Your record of last Fall was good, but you cannot afford to rest on your laurels. There are stronger foes to be met next season and you must train to be able to cope with them. Agility, hardened muscle, and powers of endurance are what you must gain ere the winter's snows have melted from the campus.

The omens were never more auspicious and we believe that if every opportunity be improved we shall have reason at the end of the coming season to be proud of the men who played under the colors of Union. *Work and win.*

#### REQUIESCAT IN PACE.

It gives us pleasure to afford vent, in another column, to certain feminine feelings said to have been excited by a few verses in a previous CONCORDIENSIS. We were prepared to publish any reply, not personal, however keenly it cut those it answered, and therefore can have no hesitation in printing the present article. To the gay deceiver, who was heartlessly bidding his sweet-heart farewell, the sprightly damsel is now represented as retorting that he needn't trouble himself, as she was all the while laughing in her sleeve. The ladies had a right to defend themselves, and they do it with considerable success. It is a pity, however, that the careless badinage of the deserter could not be met by like indifference on the part of the deserted. Both the interest and effect of their sarcasm are lost by the animus they betray. On witnessing this, we begin to suspect that somebody does feel jilted. We would prefer to think this merely the expression of hasty chagrin, but two months' deliberation and the obvious marks of labored

composition prevent this charitable explanation. It is truly sad to contemplate the authoresses and their constituents harboring eternal resentment towards gentlemen so kindly disposed as our students. Moderation at least ought to have restrained them from personal attack, but we actually find several individuals addressed by name, in an offensive manner. We do not ourselves resort to this method of warfare, and cannot permit it to our correspondents. The above remarks are of course not addressed to the ladies in general, as, we are aware, only a portion have felt aggrieved in the matter.

LAST month an article appeared under the head of communications, in which the prominent position of Latin and Greek, in the curriculum of the college was spoken of. A few words in regard to the English Department may not be amiss. It is within a very few years, in fact within a year or two, that Union can be said to have had a good *practical* English course worthy the name. The introduction of the study of the "Elements of the English language," in the first term Junior has done much to help the student in his course. The few scattered and disconnected thoughts he may have had on the subject, have been by this means reduced to order. The exact position of the English language in the sisterhood of languages is made plain to him, and a proper introduction made to the study of English literature later on in the course. In order that the older forms of the language may be the better impressed upon the mind, the study of Chaucer has been taken up, in connection with it. The rules of declension and conjugation are first learned and then applied. The good earnest work which the students have given to these studies, prove not only the fact that they are thoroughly appreciated, but that a stimulus has been given to research among old English writers.

The method of teaching adopted by Prof. Alexander, upon his assuming the chair two years ago, has become very popular. Work done before this was simply drudgery. Now it has become a pleasure. When the happy day comes when the students shall have the benefit of a good library in which writers of fiction, as well as writers of history, shall be represented, and a more comfortable reading room furnished, no college in the country will be able to turn out more cultured men in this department than Union.

SINCE the question of an Inter-Collegiate Boat Race has been agitated and so nearly settled, it is quite necessary that Union, if she intends to enter at all, should give the subject some consideration.

The Passaic, Eureka and Triton Boat Clubs of Newark have offered three cups as perpetual challenge prizes in college races, and the question of what races and the time of them are to be settled by the various colleges themselves.

It is a fact, and one that is easily proved, that among the considerations which influence a man in selecting a college, one of the most prominent at the present day, is its rank in athletic sports. There are instances enough of this condition of affairs in the sudden rise in the public approbation of colleges which were once low down in the scale, but by some fortunate boat race or well played game of ball were suddenly brought into notice, which notice was immediately followed by a large class of incoming Freshmen.

There are many colleges which have much poorer opportunities for practice, fewer numbers, and a less enthusiastic Alumni than Union, yet they are now more eager in this matter than we.

There is no reason why Union should not be represented in these races. We have a good gymnasium and proper appliances for training a man who is competent to coach

a crew, boats for practice, and a good course. What more is needed, but—money? We know enough of the generosity of our Alumni and friends to feel certain that if we furnish the requisites in other respects the funds will be forthcoming.

What is needed is a well established Athletic Association, and a start has been made in this direction by the ball nine. Now let the work be completed by consolidating all in one association.

If there is any interest felt in this matter let some one take the lead by calling a meeting of all interested, when the subject can be discussed, and the questions asked by Mr. Garfield can be answered.

We advance as our humble opinion that if a crew were sent to the regatta next Summer the Faculty, College and students would be benefitted in no small degree, providing, of course, a respectable show were made.

THE students who had been intending to work in the Chemical Laboratory this term were greeted at its beginning by a notice from the Finance Committee, making it necessary to deposit, at the lowest, (that is for two hours a day or less,) twenty dollars cash in advance, ten for tuition, ten for chemicals, etc. As far as the ordinary student is concerned they might as well have locked the Laboratory up. Not but that it is a very reasonable fee for the advantages offered, but in addition to the high rate of tuition already charged, and coming without previous announcement, it falls heavily upon some who ought to have received the benefits of our excellent chemical department. It is now nearly deserted. The expenses incurred to maintain it profit four or five men, and the College gains perhaps fifty dollars a term. We suggest that this is expensive economy. The tuition-fee at Union is with one or two exceptions the highest in the country. This fact may partially explain

the falling-off in this year's number of Freshmen. As a point of law we doubt whether this new charge could be collected if payment were resisted. In the published catalogues which form a part of the contract between student and College, it is announced that "Under-graduates are also permitted to attend the daily two-hour course of experimental Chemistry at the Laboratory; in connection with which there is an extra charge for the material, etc., used." The last clause evidently implies that none shall be made for tuition and so it has been understood. This promise has been given in successive catalogues, including the last.

It is true. The Seniors have actually been allowed to select two of their studies for the term at their option. The specialist may take practical work in the Chemical or Physical laboratory; in Ornithology, Conchology or other departments of Natural History. The would-be clergyman may take Hebrew; the classical student, modern languages; the scientific student, Latin or Greek; and the *lazy* man, lectures in Technology, Analytical Chemistry, &c. That all this will be beneficial to good students who are bent on conscientious work, cannot be doubted. That it will be injurious to indifferent students cannot be doubted. Whether the system be a good or bad one, taken all around, we will discuss when we shall have seen more of its workings.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

*Editors of "The Concordiensis" :*

Your touching lines in the November CONCORDIENSIS awoke in us an earnest desire to make a response, even at the risk of its being called a paltry imitation; but it is well known that women never originate anything, and if they could it would be unbecoming in them to strike out a path for themselves. *We*

are content to walk tamely in the track you have beaten.

Please accept the enclosed as our

New Year's Greeting.

CHERRY AND MERRY.

JUAN FERNANDEZ, January, 1879.

### ANSWER TO "LINES OF CONDOLENCE TO COLLEGE WIDOWS."

Ye gentle boys! We, "maidens sweet!"

"Standing where two rivers meet;"

*Yours* of inexperience, trust,

*Ours* of infinite disgust.

Yours a reck'ning out of knowledge,

Save by would-be swells in College,

Deeming you had drained the draught

Of sweetness, when we only laughed.

For ye youths dead beat, ah! beat,

Ere we part no more to meet,

Ours is the pleasant task,

"Who was taken in?" to ask.

Now has come the trial day,

Were you only all in play?

Tho' you'd fain have been so mean,

Thank us that you have not been.

We were not so innocent,

And we never shall repent

Laughing at you in our sleeves,

While you poured your wine in sieves.

Chide us not with waxing cold,

Our contempt has warmth untold;

For all heads as soft as mush,

Full of self-conceit and gush.

Let this lesson be instilled;

Tho' you thought our hearts were thrilled,

We ne'er danced to your sweet tunes,

We know the worth of *brassy spoons*.

*Mr. Editor :*

We wish to call the attention of the Faculty to the system of marking introduced by the present instructor in military tactics, and particularly to the custom of marking a student for the dress which he wears while at drill. "Seven" is the maximum mark which a student may obtain by ordinary means, viz: By excellence and improvement in drill, by deportment, etc. If, however, he provides himself with a full military uniform the possible degree of attainment is raised to "ten."

This would be but a small matter did it not effect the general standing of a student while at college. As it is, however, the injustice of the plan is at once apparent. Two students are running neck and neck in the race for class honors. One is so situated as to be able to provide himself with a uniform. The other is not so fortunate and must, therefore, take a second or third place in his class, while his real work entitles him to the first place. We trust that a mere mention of this to the Faculty will be sufficient so that the rank of a student may no longer depend upon his clothes. '81.

### LOCAL.

—Freshman A. is No. 52 in ranks.

—How would it do to sing the Terrace Song now?

—What of the Senate and House of Representatives?

—A new pump graces the back yard of South College.

—The Sophomores are on the war-path. Quake, Freshmen, quake.

—The Freshman's soliloquy—"More fair, less money, more flunks!"

—For one study the Sophomore Classics have a choice between Calculus and French.

—Washington's birthday comes on Saturday this year, and the boys, one and all, say "darn it."

—The Freshmen have all returned with the gloomy prospect of being "bored-on" for another term.

—Prof. Perkins' lectures in Technology are of much practical interest and well worth hearing. Free to all.

—Coasting is all the rage just now, and the practical question is, how to hold her on and guide the sled at the same time.

—The Freshman Glee Club progresses finely. The afternoon on which they meet is observed as a legal holiday by all who live within a mile of their rendezvous.

—Before a meeting of the Albany Institute, held Dec. 11th, Mr. Alexander Duane, a post-graduate of '78, read a paper on the "Scientific Life and Work of V. Regnault."

—The study of German is fast corrupting the boys. Men who formerly wore blue ribbons, now go down and call for "zwei lager" in order to attain proficiency in pronunciation.

—Somebody—was it a Freshman?—no; candor compels us to say that it was a Sophomore—said that the classical name for "cicer" was "pea-nut." Now you see the effect of fairs.

—Axiom No. 1: If you want to find the man who had the hardest time while a freshman, and was probably the greenest of the green, pick out him who considers and calls everyone "freshman" but himself.

—A military gentleman wishing to sign himself "A battle-scarred veteran," wrote, "A battle-scared veteran;" but not being satisfied with that he changed it to "bottle-scarred veteran." Which is best—the better?

—Drs. C. F. Rich & Son, dentists, of Saratoga, have recently opened an office in this city and desire the students' patronage. Give them a call. From what we know of them we can assure good work. See advertisement.

—Some excellent music is rendered each Sunday at the First Presbyterian Church by a large choir consisting mainly of college students under the efficient leadership of Art Professor Wells, and the accomplished organist, his wife.

—Our library has received an addition in the shape of hand editions or working copies of English classics. This supplies a want long felt, and we hope before long to see the deficiencies in some of the other departments as fully remedied.

—The regular day of prayer for colleges is Thursday, January 30th. We do not know the proposed arrangements, but we understand that the usual exercises of a sermon in.



Chapel and other appropriate meetings will be held, and that there will be a general "bolt."

—The *Gazette* is an enterprising morning paper of this city, dating its existence from the first day of the New Year. It has more life than either of the evening papers and shows its good sense in copying the article from THE CONCORDIENSIS on the "Schenectady 'Cop'."

—The class feeling between the Juniors and Freshmen is harmonious in the extreme. At least a representative of each class so far agreed as to ask the same lady to go skating the other evening—and then she didn't go. Maybe she didn't care to skate. What do you think, boys?

—Mr. F. J. Ballart, Tutor of Trigonometry and Assistant Instructor in the Chemical Laboratory, will sail for Europe in a few days. He will go to Germany, where he intends to spend a year or so in a University, giving his attention chiefly to the study of Chemistry and the European languages.

—Attention is called to the advertisement of the Y. M. C. A. Coffee Rooms in this number. These rooms have been tastefully fitted up and one may be always sure of courteous treatment. Some changes have been made in the bill of fare; and altogether it is as good a place for a meal or lunch as this city or any other affords.

—A student returning to his hash-house after a considerable absence said to his landlady that he felt "like the 'prodigal son'." A lean and haggard Senior sat over the way. A new light gleamed in his eye at the sound of the word "prodigal" and bending forward with a wild and eager look he exclaimed, "Are we, then, to have the 'fatted calf'?"

—The Union College Chess Club has been organized with the following officers; President, W. W. Childs, '79; Treasurer, David Sprague, '79; Secretary, E. B. Waller, '81. The President informs us that they are ready

to accept a challenge from any college club in the United States. Six moves on each side have been made in the game with Cornell.

—A drunken lawyer in the vicinity while on his way to church was observed by the minister, who said to him, "Sir, I will bear witness against you at the day of judgment." The lawyer, shaking his head with drunken gravity, replied, "I have practiced twenty-five years at the bar, and have always found the greatest rascal the first to turn State's evidence."

—Just now the "poetry of motion" on skates is the desirable thing. If you are so fortunate as to have a lady friend who skates—slightly—and are not yourself a perfect tyro on ice, what bliss may be yours! We enjoy your graceful antics from the bridge, but have no desire to rival either your skill or favor in the fair one's eyes. The ice is too cold and hard this season. And besides, not properly cushioned.

—There was a festival at a down-town chapel the other evening. The fortunate holder of a ticket received in addition to a nice little supper a bag of candy. And now one or two of the boys want to know where that candy was made. They weren't very sick, not so but that they recovered after a day or two; but they say that candy was the most energetic sweetness that ever encountered them. They'll take the article in another form next time.

—The following are the essays announced for this term: Senior class, "The effects of classical studies upon the several mental faculties;" Junior class, "Characteristics of Chaucer's poetry;" Sophomore class, "Effects of a successful war on the conquering nation." The subjects chosen for the Senior and Junior classes are intended as a kind of review of the work accomplished by those classes last term. The Sophomores' subject will *hardly* come under the same head.

—The scene was in the dining pavilion at The New Capitol Reception, at Albany. 'Twas crowded, and the ordinary rules of etiquette were laid under the table. A person got what he ordered about once in four times (close calculation). "Bring *charlotte russe* for *four*," said modest Senior No. 1 to waiter. "Bring *charlotte russe* for *four*," said Senior No. 2 to waiter No. 2. "Bring *charlotte russe* for *four*," cried Senior No. 1 to waiter No. 3. With astonishing promptness *charlotte russe* for *twelve* was brought on to the intense delight of the Seniors and the merriment of the sympathizing folks around.

—Any institution in College which is doing good, thorough work in the way of intellectual culture, deserves, at least, the respect of every student. Such an institution is the Adelphic Society. Its success last term was marked. Largely attended meetings were held nearly every week and the debating was, without doubt, the ablest of many years. The membership was largely increased. The Hall was handsomely curtained, at considerable expense, and yet the Society begins the term with about \$30.00 in the treasury. At the regular meeting, Jan. 18th, the following officers were elected for the term: J. A. Kemp, President; F. P. S. Crane, Vice-President; A. H. Dougherty, Treasurer; J. P. Davis, Secretary; Jno. Ickler, Engrossing Clerk; E. P. White, Advocate; J. F. Glover, Curator. At the last meeting of the Society last term, Mr. L. W. Beattie was elected Valedictorian for the anniversary in June.

—One of those events which always result in the strengthening of the existing ties between teacher and pupil occurred on the evening of Dec. 18, 1878. Prof. Wells, who with his family, has lately returned from abroad, had kindly invited the Scientific Juniors to his house to view the many pictures and rarities gathered in his travels, and the appointed hour found the expectant German

students all ready for the promised treat. Ably seconded by his wife and daughter, the Professor with his beautiful pictures and interesting conversation concerning the objects and places represented so completely fascinated his hearers that before they were aware of the fact, the entire evening was gone. The Professor extended his hospitality still further by offering his guests refreshments, and after some little time spent in doing justice to the treat and in conversation, the boys took leave of their host with many thanks for his kindness, and each one went away fired with the desire of one day seeing the marvels of which they had received an insight.

#### ANOTHER MYSTERY.

Common report gives us a case for discussion before which interest in the Mollie Fancher case pales. A former member of the present Junior class seems to be afflicted with some complaint akin to hysteria. While with us, he was considered by some a monomaniac, (on the subject of purloined street-lamp lanterns,) by others a kleptomaniac, and by those who knew him best, a fair 'alf-and-'alf mixture of an untruthful thief and a multimaniac. He passed through here during the last summer vacation, taking in the middle section of North College on his route. He seems to have had an unusually strong fit at the time, as he secured an outfit from the different rooms in the section. The case is a peculiar one, and when it comes to be understood, we hope from it to furnish additional data tending to prove the unreliability of human testimony in the pursuance of scientific investigation. According to letters to his creditors, this young man and his father have both been numbered with those "gone before" for some time, and yet both are reported to be seen occasionally now-a-days. Some seem to think that there is an apparent relation between this case, and the

Union street ghost: The ghost is under observation, and if it is found to steal a street-lamp lantern or lie unnecessarily, we shall be convinced that this is the spirit of the young man under consideration. He turned up on an excursion to Brighton Beach, some time after his creditors knew (from letters) that he was deceased. His apparition at that time reported itself as about to set out for Europe, and acquaintances of the deceased in this country were overjoyed, but it turned up again in the northern part of this State a few days ago, with the news that it, together with the fleshly body it had infested, had been a member of '78 in this college. We have this only as hearsay, but the faulty architecture of the lie connects the apparition, beyond doubt, with the '80 man herein-before mentioned. A summary of this case is difficult from the fact that it is not susceptible of direct and continued investigation. There are no *facts* to be had, since the man in life scrupulously avoided the truth and his disembodied spirit, ineligible to corporeal punishment, can hardly be expected to circulate reliable information. Indeed, we are even incredulous of the observations of others on this point since this spirit would doubtless be so fond of deception as to deceive *any* investigator. This is another mystery which with the Stewart grave-robbery, the bath tub horror and the the Mollie Fancher case we leave time to decipher.

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### EXCHANGES.

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—The January issues of our Exchanges are slowly pouring in and with their appearance the duties of the Exchange Editor commence, and these same duties are by no means to be overlooked. He it is, who is to wield the pen of criticism and by his fortunate or unfortunate reviews of his contemporaries submit to their words of praise or outbursts of indignation. Last year we succeeded in

producing one such commotion, but this year having formed the accustomed New Year's Resolutions we are prepared to start on a firm basis, intending to blame or commend as appears to us right and resolved to expect and submit to fair criticisms on our own sheet.

—Among our new Exchanges is the *Bates Student*, the December number of which has just reached us. The article on "Les Miserables" was evidently written by an ardent admirer of Victor Hugo and as such his enthusiasm may be pardoned; but the article itself, though very good as a condensed synopsis of the story, would not rank very high as a review of the work in its broadest sense. Again, one might find fault with his estimate of Hugo as a novelist, but a question like that could scarcely be decided here. However, if left to the mass of careful readers, Hugo would not be ranked as the equal of Scott. We notice a well written article relating experiences in the White Mountains, which also possesses the merit of being interesting, though written on a much-worn subject. The Editorials are all good, though one of them advances some very strange theories in regard to the matter of one or more studies at a time. Another treats very sensibly the matter of reading in colleges, and a third engages itself in the worn discussion of Commencement Orations. The Locals are well sustained and the issue as a whole is commendable.

—Another new arrival is the *University Press*, from Madison, Wisconsin. We hope that this issue may be exceptionally poor, for poor it is. Commencing with a dry history of the University, it passes to the death of Prof. Carpenter, who, though an able man is overwhelmed with eulogies of all kinds and from all directions. The Editorials are lacking in both quantity and quality, while the Locals are so interspersed with adver-

tisements that it would be difficult to draw the line between them. The Exchange Department is lacking.

—The *University Quarterly* is good, being brimful of literary merit, while its duties as a reporter of college news are carefully looked after. An article upon the prisons in England and their abuses, traces the career of John Howard in his endeavours to alleviate the sufferings of the prisoners and to put the necessary restrictions upon the power of their jailers. It was in 1780 that Burke spoke of him thus: "He has visited all Europe, not to survey the sumptuousness of palaces, or the stateliness of temples; not to make accurate measurements of the remains of ancient grandeur; not to form a scale of the curiosity of modern art; not to collate medals or collect manuscripts; but to dive into the depths of dungeons; to survey the mansions of sorrow and pain; to plunge into the infections of hospitals; to take the gauge and dimensions of misery, depression, and contempt; to remember the forgotten, to attend to the neglected, to visit the forsaken and to compare and collate the distresses of all men in all countries." This philosopher and philanthropist was stricken down by the infection from which he was aiding his fellows to escape and his loss was mourned by all Europe. "Punishment as a Preventive of crime," considers the subject in its broadest import. The author advances as his theory, that education is the only true remedy for crime in place of the as yet fruitless punishment. The Editorials are well sustained, and treat of a variety of themes.

—From the *Rochester Campus* we gain the information that the whole length of the class of '80 is 161 feet, 5 inches, and the weight 4,115 pounds; that of the whole number only six are addicted to the use of tobacco. Is this to be considered as a compliment or a rebuff to that class in general? The issue also contains a prize oration which

is very good, and an account of an ancient ball game which ranks well in the army of so-called poems, which are just now flooding the College periodicals. Besides this the *Campus* possesses the quality of having a well conducted Local department.

—We acknowledge the following: *Amherst Student, Advocate, Berkeleian, Hamilton Lit., Yale Record, Oberlin Review, Trinity Tablet, University Magazine, Archangel, Tripod, Chronicle, Vidette, Dickensonian, Tuftonian, University Quarterly, Packer Quarterly, Williams Athenæum, Rochester Campus, Targum, Dartmouth, Vassar Miscellany*, and others.

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#### PERSONAL.

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'27. Rev. Dr. Leonard Woods, a graduate of Union College, class of 1827, and for many years president of Bowdoin College, died Dec. 26, at the age of 72.

'28. Hon. Ward Hunt, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, is suffering from a partial stroke of paralysis in Washington. Although his recovery is not despaired of, he will probably be compelled to relinquish the duties of his office. He was appointed to the position in 1872. His home is in Utica, N. Y.

'33. Another alumnus of the College has died since our last issue—Dr. Alexander M. Vedder. He was born in Schenectady in 1814. His father, Mr. Nicholas Vedder, as his name indicates, was of Dutch extraction. He was a much respected carpenter, and for many years was busied in making patterns for the Nott stoves, the first base-burning stove in this country. (The principle had been known in Europe for some time.) He worked at this trade in the South Colonade in that part now occupied by Prof. Perkins, at one time the general work-shop of the College, but afterwards fitted up for the residence of Prof. Alonzo Potter upon his marriage with the daughter of President Nott.

Dr. Vedder was one of a family of ten, three of whom graduated from this college, and were, like himself, well known physicians. He attended school here in Schenectady, and used to relate that his father, wishing him to have more than ordinary advantages, was



compelled to send to Albany to purchase a geography and history, and that he was the only scholar among 200 who studied these branches.

He graduated in 1833, no doubt among the first in the class, as we find the Latin Salutatory was awarded to him.

After graduation, his means being limited, he taught school for some time, at first in Schenectady and subsequently as principal of the Academy at Hudson, N. Y. Afterwards he went to Philadelphia and attended the lectures on medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, at that time by far the most celebrated medical school in the country. While there his talents attracted the attention of Dr. Rush and Dr. Duglinson, teachers in the school, and through their exertion he was appointed resident physician at the Blockly Hospital. In this position he gave great satisfaction to the Board of Governors and Medical Staff who were loth to accept his resignation when presented.

He graduated from the University in 1839 and maintained a most friendly correspondence with his teachers as long as they lived. He settled in Schenectady, and not long afterwards while a salute was being fired on the fourth of July, very properly the cannon burst and wounded one of the gunners. Dr. Vedder was called in and successfully amputated the man's arm. This operation established his reputation as a careful, successful surgeon, which years of experience made more eminent.

In 1846 he was appointed Prof. of Anatomy and Physiology, which position he held until his resignation in 1864. He served in many of the elective offices in this city, at one time having been Mayor. He was the first physician in this country to write on the subject of Albuminuria and certain symptoms of this disease were first noted by him and were copied by foreign periodicals. Many graduates of the college studied medicine under his direction in his office and among them we find the name of Dr. Featherstonhaugh, at present Medical Director to the College.

Though twice married, his second wife surviving him, Dr. Vedder leaves no living child. His interest in the College was most active. He never missed its Commencement exercises or the annual meeting of the Phi. B. K., of which society he was an officer for many years. He died in New York City, at the house of his brother, Dr. M. R. Vedder, on the last Sunday of 1878, aged 65 years.

'65. Benedict.—In the matter of malfeasance in office preferred against the Superintendent of the Onondaga Salt Springs the Governor has appointed Honorable Samuel T. Benedict, of Schenectady, a commissioner to take testimony in the examination of the witnesses as to the truth of the charges. The appointment of Mr. Benedict is an eminently fit one and will be received as an evidence that the investigation will be conducted with perfect fairness and with an intent solely to ascertain the truth of the charges.—*Albany Argus*.

'76. E. E. Kreigsman has been admitted to the bar. His abilities assure his success in his chosen profession.

'77. H. T. Chadsey spent the holidays at his home in this city. He is studying at the Auburn Theological Seminary. He speaks highly of that institution. Success to you Horace.

'80. E. T. Tomlinson is married and teaching in Hungerford Institute, Adams, N. Y.

'80. E. L. Vincent is farming in Persia, N. Y.

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#### EXTRANE A.

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—Cremation—"We earn our living, why not *urn* our dead?"—*Ex*.

—What was Joan of Arc made of? "Maid of Orleans," of course.—*Tripod*.

—"Do fish talk?" Certainly, out in Colorado—Pike's Peak.—*Dickinson Liberal*.

—"What will you take for your horse?" asks a Prof. to a Junior. Junior ponders. Class collapses.—*Ex*.

—Prof. to Senior in metaphysical recitation: "Then what is the use of such a study as metaphysics?" Senior promptly: "No use at all, sir."—*Ex*.

—"Now," says the Prof. in Psychology, "take the class, Horse." "We sold him to the Juniors last year," interrupted the man addressed.

—A festive Junior who has been rash enough to elect geology, discourses learnedly of the "metaphoric" rocks of the "Achian period."—*Ex*.

—Two Japanese girls are at Vassar. It is a beautiful and effecting sight to see the American girls teaching them to slide down the bannisters.—*Ex.*

—A Junior, building a fire in his stove, was heard to mutter; "When I get to be a man, I'm going to have fire places in every room of my house."—*Ex.*

—A Freshman being asked the name of Xenophon's wife, replied, after considerable hesitation, that he believed it was Anna Basis.—*Chicago Journal.*

—Sophomore fourth division Latin: "*Tel-ephum dives et lasciva puella occupavit.*"—"The rich and lascivious young maiden grasped the telephone." Mr.— is reseated.—*Ex.*

—Professor—"What is a function?" Junior—"Well, sir (deliberately), a fellow's mark, for instance, is, I think, a function of his recitation, his behavior, and the caprice of the faculty. (Sensation.)—*Ex.*

—"I don't care anything about your lectures," remarked a Junior, speaking of a lecture course, "but when Helen Potter and her Blondes come, I would state that I am going to take that show in."—*Hamilton Lit.*

—A Freshman, while extolling the merits of his boarding house, exclaimed: "Why, the quality of the board has been well sustained from the beginning. The dinners have not varied a hair during the whole time."

—Senior to Prof.—"All I know about the Afghans is that they are a small tribe in the central part of Africa!" A minute later that Senior wished that he was a native Afghan, and now he reads the newspapers.—*Ex.*

—Autumn man get drunk?  
Autumn mule kick?  
Autumn monkey marry?  
Autumn maiden kiss?  
Autumn musician muzish?  
Ought'em?—*Ex.*

—One of the saddest and most disgraceful affairs that ever occurred at any college recently took place at Oberlin College resulting in the expulsion of two young ladies and

four young—we almost said men—scoundrels.

—A Freshman is proved; knows everything. A Sophomore has the wisdom of an owl, but like that sedate-looking bird keeps still about it. A Junior knows *something*, but is a little doubtful. A Senior knows nothing.—*Campus.*

—It is said that the exchange editor is a little out of his head and goes around among the Freshmen with a shocking bad hat, in which is a printed legend, "Please Exchange." Perhaps there is method in his madness.—*Dartmouth.*

—"Johnny," said a sporting Third Ward father, "Johnny, what have you got in your fist?" "Two pears," said Johnny. "Good hand," said the absent-minded parent; "take the pot—." Then he blushed, and pointing to a brass kettle, he added, "to your mother."—*Ex.*

—"Show me the fashion plates of an age," said Talmage, "and I will tell you the type of morals or immorals of that age or that year." All right, Brother Talmage, we suggest the age of Adam and Eve. We haven't the plates handy, but doubtless you recollect them.

—Teacher—George Gregory, rise and recite on the spur of the moment, a pleasant paragraph on an execution. George—The drop fell, and the horrified spectators shuddered as the poor girl bounded in the air; but investigation disclosed that she was a seminary girl, while the drop was a gum-drop that had gone down the wrong way.

—Hear this Freshman:

"Who steals my purse steals trash;  
'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands—  
But he who filches from me one hour's sleep—  
(By getting up in the morning at 5½ o'clock,  
walking through the hall with heavy boots,  
slamming every door he can find, and practising his vocal gymnastics by singing and shouting)  
"Robs me of that which not enriches him  
And makes me poor indeed."


"N. B.—To all whom it may concern."

—"Raising the wind" is now denominated more classically, "Exsuscitating the financial Æolus."—*Ex.*

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### BILL OF FARE:

Beefsteak, - 15 cts.	Oyster Fry, 25 cts.	Oyster Stew, 15 cts.
Pork-steak, 15 "	Sausage, - 15 "	Pork & Beans, 6 "
Mutton Chop 15 "	Ham & Eggs, 15 cts.	Sandwiches, 3 "
Tea and Coffee, 3 cts.	Other things in proportion.	

Patronized largely by Students.

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