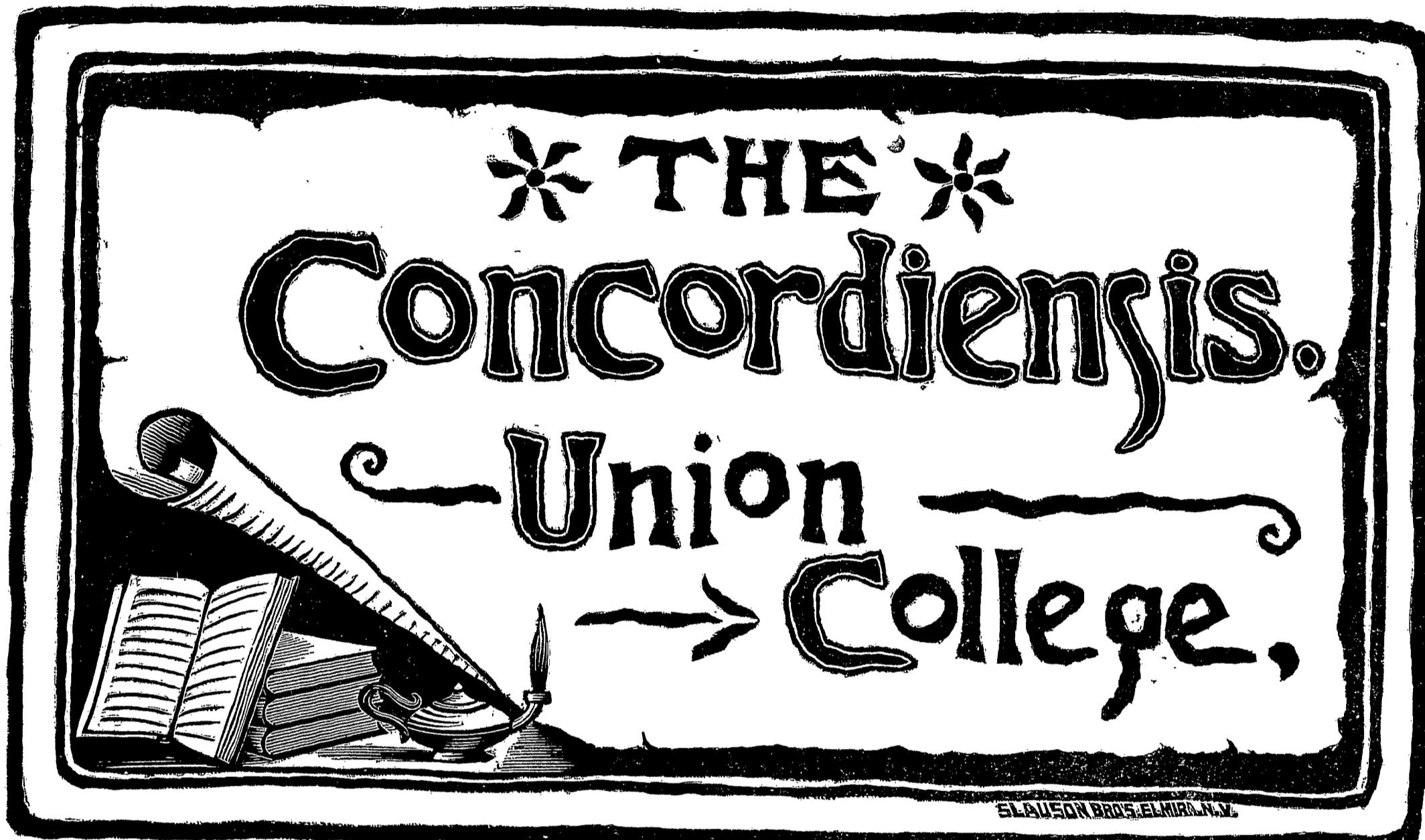


Volume XIII.

Number 4.

JANUARY, 1890.



SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

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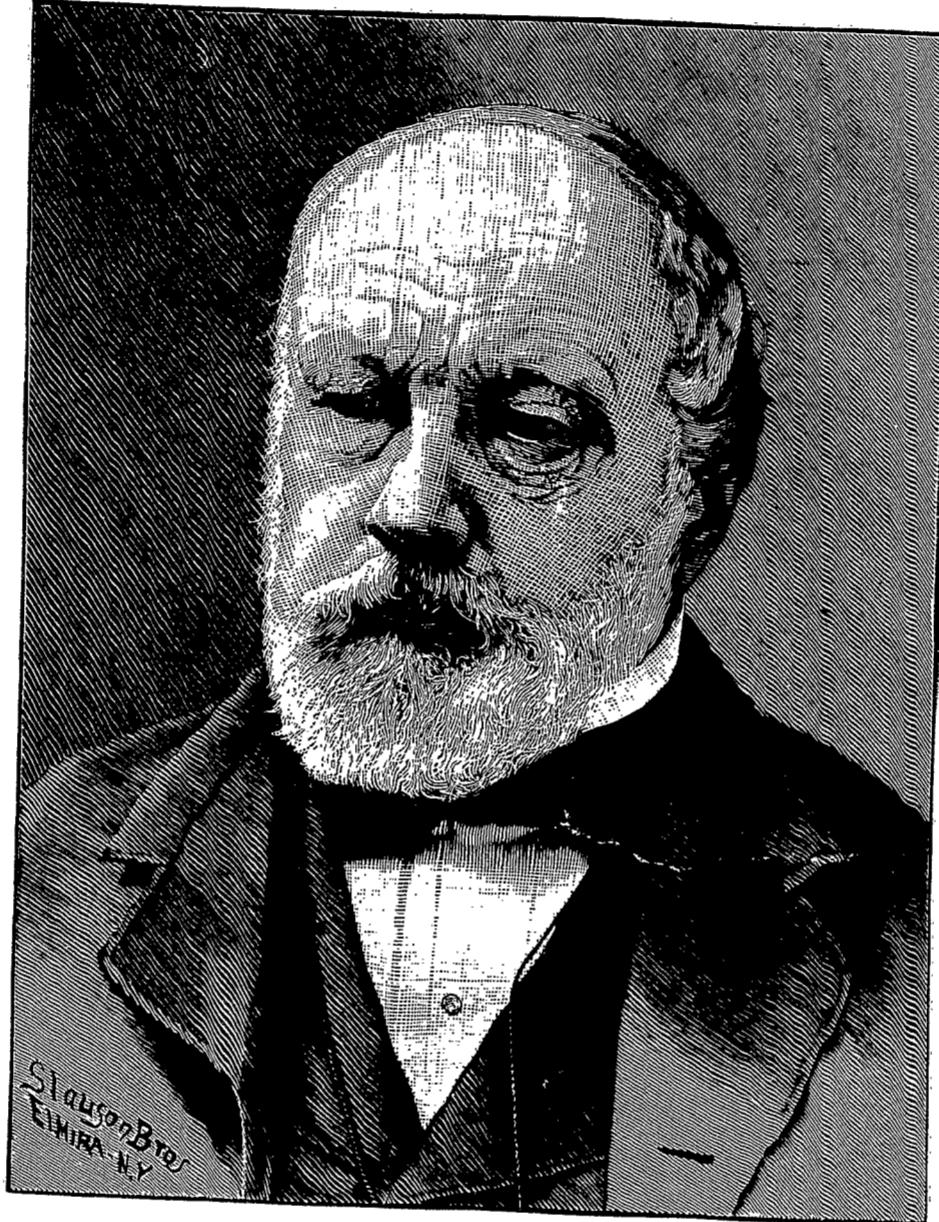
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THE * CONCORDIENSIS

VOL. XIII

UNION COLLEGE, JANUARY, 1890

No. 4

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BRANDOW PRINTING COMPANY, ALBANY, N. Y.

Editorial.

WE wish you a Happy New Year!

LOOKING over old files of the Concordiensis, we perceive that custom has decreed, that the New Year's number shall contain editorials upon subjects of momentous importance, and accordingly we are reminded that the time has now arrived for the appearance of the customarily trite editorial, urging our athletes to spend the winter in the gymnasium in order to "make their election sure" to the different athletic teams. But this editorial is not going to be written. The hour is likewise fully come for conveying to the college authorities the startling information that the fire in the bath rooms occasionally expires during the winter; but we will

restrain our impetuous zeal in this particular also; trusting to the remote possibility that we may not be the only ones aware of this impending calamity. Were it not also for the fact that for the past several years our savage readers have had hammered into them an editorial announcement of the waning magnitude and graces of the literary societies at this institution, we might seize the fleeting opportunity and contribute our mite of uninspired appreciation. But while not wishing to disparage the literaries, we think that a symmetrical development of the editorial affection requires an occasional change in the editorial favorite.

Trusting that the omission may be laid to an attack of the influenza, we will even refrain from deciding in this New Year's number whether or not the college shall award the degree of A. B., to scientific students. But this process of exclusion cannot prevent us from congratulating all who have any part or interest in Union College, upon the bright outlook at the opening of this new decade. We can indeed wish you a "Happy New Year." The congratulation and wish may possibly be as trite as our excluded editorials, but they are not the perfunctory expressions of editorials in former years, preceding only a pessimistic fear for the college. Union College has nothing to sadden her now. Again we wish you all a Happy New Year.

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as though during the past year the illumined star has been placed by the names of more than the customary number of men whom the nation has loved to honor, but who themselves honored Union College as their mother.

The short biography of Samuel Wilkeson, '37, found in this number, was by mistake omitted last month. Higher words of praise cannot be found than those of one who knew him well : "He was more truly a great man than many who have attained much higher earthly distinction."

With the last hours of 1889, expired also Henry R. Pierson, '46. At the time of his death he was chancellor of the regents, the highest educational office in the state, and was one of the most prominent and respected men in the country. He will be succeeded in office by George William Curtis.

* * *

In a conversation with a man who was captain of the Yale foot-ball team for two successive years, mention was made of the dilatory way in which we seem to procure games, and in reply the gentleman made the statement that there was no need of this—that if arrangements were made during the spring time, a trip to all the large eastern colleges could be made early in the fall before their regular games, and although we would probably be defeated badly, yet we would get such practice as to enable us, in his language, "to give any New York state college points." The statement was further made that the trip could be performed at very slight expense to ourselves if the arrangements were completed before these colleges had filled out their practice dates. We do not see why an effort to carry this out should not be attempted next year and commend the plan to the future foot-ball manager.

It is always unpleasant to make an apology, but we think that at least an apology in the guise of an explanation is due to any who read the Inter-Collegiate department of our last number. By a ridiculous blunder a series of extracts crept into this column, some without credit from the papers from which they were taken, and two of which would have cheapened the tone of a primary school publication.

* * *

THE newspapers throughout the country are announcing the probable selection of Charles Emory Smith '61 as minister to Russia. It is extremely gratifying to Union men to read everywhere the eulogies offered to his abilities as a diplomat and journalist, and the wish is sincere that our country may be so well represented at the intriguing court at St. Petersburg.

* * *

In this number occurs the second part of the valuable literary article entitled "Union Half a Century Ago," by Maunsell Van Rensselaer, '38. The CONCORDIENSIS hopes soon to give articles consisting of reminiscences of other times and prominent classes.

PATRONIZE THOSE WHO PATRONIZE US.

Literary.

"Old Union" a Half Century Ago.

II.

No account of College life would be of any value without some reference to those who lived and moved in it ; let us then take a glance at the *Personnel* of our Alma Mater and the men whom they were training in her halls, and whose names fill her catalogues. This is no easy task, for as I am endeavoring to reproduce the impressions and recollections of a half-century ago, crude and embryonic as they

were, I have no right to intrude the fruits of riper judgments and more mature experience. If there were any idols in those days I cannot become an inconoclast in my "round unvarnished tale," however shattered they may have been by a rude experience; if any swans which I admired then have shown themselves to be in reality geese, they must remain swans in my truthful narrative. I have rashly undertaken the difficult task of making a backward leap of fifty years, and trying to feel,

"My spirit still
Is blithe with boyhood, when 'tis not remembering;
It grows not old; I feel no change in soul.
I am a boy then."

One difficulty of this operation is the danger of having your 7th age confounded with the 2d and 3d by the critical reader who can not comprehend your "Looking Backward" for his benefit. Another and more serious difficulty is well stated by the author of "In the Valley;"—"It may easily be that during the many years that have come and gone since the eventful time of my childhood memory has played tricks upon me to the prejudice of Truth."

When I commenced to write these papers I was reminded of the tenderness and sacredness of my task by the sudden death of one of Union's best and truest sons, Hooper C. Van Vorsta, contemporary and lifelong friend. She can furnish no more worthy sample of her educational work than he was. When he entered college he had all the elements of character which under the training which he received here, developed into a life in which all the sweet amenities of home were combined with unreserved devotion to public duties, and the life of an earnest Christian united with unflinching integrity on the bench and an unaffected cordiality and simplicity of manner which, in union with his unquestioned integrity, made him "facile princeps" among his associates. His cenotaph

may receive without exaggeration the words, "Integer vitae ecelerisque purus." His unwavering fidelity to his early friends and associates was a cause of the affection with which they regarded him, and of his great influence over them. Union may well lament the loss of so able and estimable a son and officer.

Every College has its heroes whose fame is handed down from class to class, which the new-comer is not slow to hear. Among the famous men of that decade, there were two whose names were held in especial honor, both being then in the Army, and both being destined to achieve high fame: these were Roswell Park and Henry Wager Halleck. Park had spent his furlough after graduating at the head of his class at West Point in preparing to take his degree with the class of '31. He was a man of vast and varied learning, and after leaving the Army and taking Holy Orders became the founder of Racine College. Halleck had left the class of '36 to enter the Military Academy, where he graduated in '39 with the highest honors. His subsequent services as a soldier and an author form part of the history of the nation.

In connection with this topic I recall a statement made by the Hon. Augustus S. Porter, of '18, at an Alumni dinner at Buffalo, which ought to be preserved for the honor of Alma Mater. It was that the "lions" of his class were two men who became ecclesiastics—George Washington Doane and Alonzo Potter, equal in ability, but the former excelling in classics and the latter in mathematics. He said that when they had reached the dreaded "Pons Asinorum," Euclid's 5th Prop., man after man was called up with no result till the end of the class was nearly reached, when Potter, a tall thin youth who had attracted no attention, took up the problem and disposed of it in so mas-

terly a manner that his rank in the class as a first-class mathematician was assured. He became Vice-president of the College and Bishop of Pennsylvania, and Doane became Bishop of New Jersey. Thus their careers, in which they started so evenly together, were finished on the opposite banks of the Delaware.

We had a remarkable illustration of the friendship of Damon and Pythias amongst us, which I am sure the venerable survivor will pardon me for mentioning which I do because it is the best and most remarkable instance of a perfect and lasting friendship with which I am acquainted, and because Alma Mater has the right to have such unity between sons of hers amid the strifes and debates around them recorded for the benefit of those that come after them. "Clapp and Haskins" was the synonym for perfect harmony in affection, aim and action, yet no two men presented more apparent contrasts. Clapp was thin, pale, delicate and seemingly effeminate; while Haskell was broad, muscular, strong and manly. Both were candidates for the ministry, and Clapp was a year in advance, but the bond between them had become so strong that after graduating he resolved, although a mature man, to wait a year until his friend could enter the Seminary with him. Their ordination and settlement made no difference in their relations as they were so near each other in parishes which they never left that their intercourse was unbroken until the death of Mr. Clapp in '78. It is a pleasure to be able to pay this passing tribute to both the living and the dead of that singular and happy brotherhood.

To us Sophs., the seventy-odd Seniors seemed a band of heroes who had passed safely through the ordeal on which we were just entering, and were on the verge of that freedom which we were anticipating with so much anxiety. As we looked

reverently up to them, not so much for what they were as for what they had accomplished, so they looked condescendingly down on us after the manner of their order, as if we ought to feel in their presence the truth of Shylock's saying, "Sufferance is the badge of her tribe." It was a strong class and was bound to make its mark, which it did. There were four Browns in it, and according to Tom of that ilk, that was enough to assure its sturdiness, perseverance and success. It had Sam Beardsley, warm-hearted, generous and gallant, who gave his life for his country in 1863, and lies in a soldier's grave. John Beach was there a favorite with all, for his frank and friendly nature, too gay and blithesome for his own good, over whose too early grave in California, many a heartfelt tear has shed. Paired off with him were Cushman and Mardale, Reid and Hadley, true as steel and unswerving as the magnet, representing the best elements of the class. Hindered by imperfect vision, but steady and plodding, overcoming all obstacles by power of will, Peter Snyder made his mark among his fellows, took high rank, and was always listened to with great attention in our debates. Of course there are many more entitled to mention, but these were some of the men of '36 with whom I was brought into more immediate contact.

As the eye runs down the roll of '37 it is arrested by one to which the fatal asterisk is attached—Joseph W. Gott, Φ. B. K., Teacher, Lawyer, Judge—a name never to be forgotten by any who enjoyed the confidence of the well-balanced, well-furnished, sincere, and faithful man who bore it—a constant friend, a wise counsellor, and a faithful reprobate, his impartiality as well as his legal acquirements qualified him for the judicial ermine. A little farther down the list, with the same fatal mark attached, is another of a different stamp,

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yet calling up pleasant and genial memories of "the long, long ago"—William F. Morgan, Rector of St. Thomas', New York—the adonis of the College, whose handsome face and figure and graceful and courtly bearing made him the delight of the society in which he moved, while his unassuming, kindly and genial manners won the unstinted good-will of his companions. Gifted with a magnificent voice, he was always ready to use it for our benefit in song and glee, and when he delivered the Valedictory of his class his rich musical tones might have been likened to the strains of a dying swan, as he left behind him the hours

"When, so musical,
The dance and banquet were our fond delight,"
and passed into the new life as a Priest of God, in which for the remainder of his days he was so eminently successful.

It would be difficult for an outsider to analyse, assort and catalogue the class of '37. It was composed of various and heterogeneous elements, and exhibited curious contrasts and curious combinations, according to the point of view from which one looked. It had its dandies and fops—"dudes" I believe they are now called—good fellows too, socially and in the class-room; and, as a foil to these brilliants, those others described by Cowper when lauding a friend,

"An honest man, all buttoned to the chin,
Broadcloth without, and a warm heart within."

It has its earnest, steady, resolute men, intent on their business and not to be fascinated by siren and bacchanal: and it had others for whom our venerable Prex felt a special interest and watched and worked with special assiduity, as he always did, like the good shepherd for the wandering sheep. Like every class it had its idlers and its workers. It had its poets and was exceptionally strong in literary men and orators, while Science found a representa-

tive in an unexpected quarter. While it undoubtedly made College Hill exceedingly lively, the subsequent career of its members proves it to have been a very able class and shows that its college work was not neglected, nor its salt failed to keep its savor. It furnished 11 educators, 26 clergymen and 41 lawyers, of whom six attained the dignity of the bench, two having reached the highest rank in this State. It furnished Civil Engineers, Editors and Bankers, a "Capitalist" and a "Grape-grower," although it is not apparent in what department of the College the two last could have received a special training. Some surprises were in store for those who had ventured to predict how certain men would turn out; while others had given token of what their future would be. Tuckerman and Raymond, Professors; Gott, Danforth, Porter, Elisha Taylor, Lawyers and Judges; Morgan, Hall, Timlow Wadsworth, Divines; Wilkeson, Editor and *Litterateur*, with more whom restricted space forbids our naming, have made a reputation for themselves and their class.

It was the day of large classes at Union, and we felt proud of our members, in which we were nearly on an equality with the oldest Colleges and far in advance of most in the United States. Southern students had once formed a large contingent of our men, but it had been gradually diminishing till not more than half a dozen were to be found among us. The class of '38 had embraced 120 men, of whom we graduated 90. The faculty was disproportionately small for so large a crowd, but they worked hard and did not spare themselves, and what they did with us has always struck me as a marvelous proof of their ability, learning, skill, and energy. It was too much for two of the ablest of them who died at an early age. Only a few could be called up at one time from such numbers as were found in our

yet calling up pleasant and genial memories of "the long, long ago"—William F. Morgan, Rector of St. Thomas', New York—the adonis of the College, whose handsome face and figure and graceful and courtly bearing made him the delight of the society in which he moved, while his unassuming, kindly and genial manners won the unstinted good-will of his companions. Gifted with a magnificent voice, he was always ready to use it for our benefit in song and glee, and when he delivered the Valedictory of his class his rich musical tones might have been likened to the strains of a dying swan, as he left behind him the hours

"When, so musical,
The dance and banquet were our fond delight,"
and passed into the new life as a Priest of God, in which for the remainder of his days he was so eminently successful.

It would be difficult for an outsider to analyse, assort and catalogue the class of '37. It was composed of various and heterogeneous elements, and exhibited curious contrasts and curious combinations, according to the point of view from which one looked. It had its dandies and fops—"dudes" I believe they are now called—good fellows too, socially and in the class-room; and, as a foil to these brilliants, those others described by Cowper when lauding a friend,

"An honest man, all buttoned to the chin,
Broadcloth without, and a warm heart within."

It has its earnest, steady, resolute men, intent on their business and not to be fascinated by siren and bacchanal: and it had others for whom our venerable Prex felt a special interest and watched and worked with special assiduity, as he always did, like the good shepherd for the wandering sheep. Like every class it had its idlers and its workers. It had its poets and was exceptionally strong in literary men and orators, while Science found a representa-

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class sections, but it was dangerous to trust to this for neglect of preparation, as we were liable to be called up at any time, and the professor was rarely mistaken as to the right moment to catch the napping. It must be admitted that we learned the art of utilizing this whenever something came along on which we felt particularly well posted and thus easily gained a reputation which was not deserved. One reviews the old catalogues reviving familiar faces and scenes with mingled pleasure and sadness. Much more than one-half of the names have the death mark affixed, and the number increases every year. The youths of 1835-8 have become the septuagenarians of 1890. One of their company is striving to reproduce the faded memories of fifty years ago. If we had had an historiographer, as every Class ought to have my task would have been easier, and I should not have been compelled to grope about the dark chambers of memory for facts which would be clear as day on the historic page.

Dayton was among the leading men of '38, intellectually strong and able in debate, with an overmastering inclination for politics. He has made a reputation by an able work on the duties of Surrogates, the fruit of his own experience. It is remarkable how some men make a indelible impression on you, often from some peculiarity or circumstance not worth remembering; while others, perhaps better deserving of remembrance, leave no impression but only a name. Why do some of my classmates come at my call with all distinctness as in those early days altho I have not seen them since we parted, while others are "vox et praeterea nihil?" I cannot answer, except that it is the fault of my own forgetfulness.

An epidemic of typhus visited the college towards the end of our first term Junior, and struck down several with fatal

effect. There was great alarm both in and out of college, and we were sent home after the death of poor Hull, who was followed by ten more at different intervals. Those who faced the peril of nursing their stricken comrades were not few, among whom I remember two, Washbon and Duryee, whose unserving consistency amid the peculiar trials of life in College was a powerful incentive "to refuse the evil, and choose the good." I remember Ledyard, who transferred his Christian and surnames and became Ledyard Linklaen, as a quiet, modest unpretending student, minding his own business and intent on acquiring knowledge; too much so to be appreciated by those who managed "the squables of our mimic state;" but which he little heeded in gaining what an ample fortune enabled him to enlarge and utilize in congenial scientific pursuits until his untimely death. Davison is a name which comes back with pleasant recollections of an attractive, true-hearted friend, faithful to his duties and a credit to his class, by whom it is a pleasure to have been remembered during so many years. Cramer was a bright and interesting man and a good companion, who managed in spite of excessive deafness to learn about all that was going on, and who has seen from his editorial chair the growth of Milwaukee, Chicago and the great West. Noxon and Platt were our Yoricks, full of dry humor and quiet fun, able "to set the table on a roar." William Taylor (we had four of that family but not one Smith or Brown) will ever be remembered among his friends of '38 for his fidelity, his constant friendship, and his absorbing devotion to the interests of his society, which seem to be to him, as Hector to Andromache,

*"Πατήε, καὶ πὸτνια μὴτμε
Ἡδὲ κασὶλυητος."*

Taylor was not a bookworm, nor a votary of the "midnight oil" supposed to be

consumed in getting up the morrow's recitation, but he had native force of mind, good common sense, and a keen observation of men and their ways, and despite the pain of a seton which he wore to ward off apoplexy, he gained his degree, and after an active life prolonged beyond the usual span, he has left an influence as widely extended as that of any one in his class.

Newman was one of our best scholars, whose name recalls some of the pleasantest reminiscences of our student days, as one with whom it was a pleasure and a benefit to be associated. Union honored him and herself by placing him in the chair of Latin Language and Literature, and has attained the highest rank as an educator. Thro Lockwood the class of '38 has the honor of having founded the first school for the Freedmen, the first step in the real enfranchisement of that race which has such pressing claims upon this nation. It has never been imagined that anything in the way of amusement could be made out of the Commencement Hebrew Oration until that feat was unwittingly accomplished by Leighton, good "old Leighton," dry and serious, yet cheerful withal, with no particular fondness for "Literae Humaniores." How he got it up no one could tell; how he committed it was equally a mystery, but he did both, and delivered it with such energy and action, with such fire and emphasis, that the old language of the prophets, usually spoken at Commencement, if spoken at all, in a perfunctory style, became instinct with life, producing a very different effect from that anticipated by our worthy classmate; insomuch that the grave features of the venerable President relaxed into a satisfied smile, either at the justification of his penetration of the orator's undiscovered ability, or at the skill with which his adroit plan to shut him off by an impossible task, had been turned upon

himself, and made one of the interesting and amusing parts of the programme, or in genuine appreciation of the fun;—which it was, no one could tell, but all enjoyed it immensely, and dear old Leighton left with the reputation of having outstripped his mates in one branch of learning which must have been of the greatest service to him in his calling.

John Steinfort Kedney!—how shall I speak of thee, poet, thinker, philosopher, theologian, professor, legislator, and best of fellows all the time! Anything about '38 would be incomplete without thee who hast done so much to honor it and carry its fame beyond the seas in thy great work "Christian Doctrine Harmonized." Did I not know thy innate modesty, perfect sincerity, and fondness for the old memories, I should hesitate to introduce thy name, learned pundit as thou art, in those rude charcoal sketches of old familiar things and trivial events; but can any one forget the aroma of that fragrant Turkish with which thou and thy kindred spirits were wont to season the meerschaums that decorated the walls, or the talks on art, literature or lighter themes, and eke on graver, which ended in something more to us than "smoke?" I reckon it among my great privileges that, having been called to prolong our student life in the united study of the "Queen of Sciences," we can recall such pleasant memories of those unfledged days. Salve frater carissime!

Three of our class were carried off in the typus epidemic, who were among our best men. Two died within three years of their graduation, one of whom, Van Schelluyne of an old Albany family, a lovely and promising youth, after a brave struggle against a lingering disease which wasted his energies, at last succumbed to the overwhelming foe. Nor could I be justified if I neglected to lay a wreath on

the grave of one whose brief life was full of beauty and promise—Henry White of '39, who came among us a boy in looks and years, but proved himself a man in intellect, wisdom, self-controll, and the acquisition of knowledge. Recalling his beautiful refined, boyish features with their meditative look, his frank confiding ways, his industry and eagerness to learn, his acquisitions and the rank he took, with the premonitions of his early death in a delicate constitution, we must honor his memory with all the offerings of sentiment and affection:—

*"Manibus date lilia plenis,
Purpureous spargam flores."*

Two left us to enter the Navy, John Matthews and Robert Townsend. Matthews, modest, quiet, brave, became a Lieutenant and was lost in the East. Townsend, my own playmate, unassuming, warmhearted, a lover of books and a graceful writer, left the service, and married. At the outbreak of the Civil War he offered his services to the Government, and he died in command of a frigate on the China station in 1866, a noble specimen of a brave, true-hearted sailor, an accomplished gentleman and a patriotic citizen of the Republic.

*"Sweet be their sleep, and o'er their quiet urn,
Bright let the memory of their virtues burn;
Glad may they rise—nor let it be for men
To heave their dust or speak their faults till then."*

Although these reminiscences have far exceeded the limits marked out for them, and have reached an intolerable length, I cannot close them without saying something of the Faculty of fifty years ago. Only three of them survive, one of whom alone was my instructor. It was remarkable in this particular, that all, with a single exception, were alumni of the College, and had been trained by Dr. Nott himself. Whatever Union had to furnish of ability and learning might well be supposed to be embodied in them. Averill

and Savage, both able men and conscientious officers and instructors, were carried off by consumption in the springtide of their usefulness. With great dignity Savage united an urbanity and grace which made him a universal favorite. Averill with the same high sense of duty and devotion to the interests of those entrusted to him, was austere and unbending, it is needless to say with what result. Had we no quams of conscience when we found that all our petty tricks and annoyances over which we had laughed so hugely, had been played off on a man who was battling for his life against an insidious disease and whose sternness was the outward and visible sign of the grim resolution with which he was holding the fort till he should have done his full duty to us, and then, when all was done, gave up the fight and laid him down to die?

The constitution of the Faculty secured harmony and efficiency. Dr. Nott's great aim was to make *successful men*; if in striving for this he left out some things essential to a rounded character it only shows that he was not beyond human infirmity, as no one could have labored more sincerely and earnestly for the welfare of the youth entrusted to him. He was unsurpassed as a teacher, and his great powers and learning, his wide experience, his wise counsels and his instructive conversation were always at the service of his "children," as he used to call them. It was the habit of the younger men to look askance at Professor Potter, as the disciplinarian, who had shown more than once that, like Keith of Eton, he had "the courage of ten battalions," until they came within the fascination of his class-room, where his masterly intellect, his varied and well-ordered knowledge, and his skill in imparting it, added to his dignity and weight of character, made him a "king of men." Professor

Jackson had a genial and unprofessional way which attracted all, but woe to the unlucky wight that presumed on it to take any liberties in class-room or elsewhere. His love of flowers and his charming garden made him the chief contributor to the beauty of College Hill. The families of the President and Professors made a delightful circle, where the men were always welcome, and around which were gathered the wit, beauty and grace which Commencement attracted. All have passed away, but they can never be forgotten. "May they rest in peace, and perpetual light shine upon them."

MAUNSELL VAN RENSSALEAR '38.

EDWARD BELLAMY'S VISION.

Ever since Plato in his Republic so thoroughly charmed the ancient Greeks with his fascinating pictures of the time when "the kings and princes of this world shall have the spirit and power of philosophy," and the ideal State "shall have the possibility of life and behold the light of day," many thoughtful men at different periods in history, have presented to the world similar visions of brighter days for humanity, and have sought to quicken the activities of the age in which they lived by similar ideas.

Cicero in his *De Republica*, avowedly in imitation of his illustrious master, idealized for his contemporaries the excellencies of the Roman State, just as Plato had done with those of the Grecian. This was plainly the purpose of St. Augustine in his famous *de civitate Dei*, and in a later day we have the result of a similar effort in the *Utopia* of Sir Thomas More. Among modern attempts in this direction, judging from the extent of its circulation and the eagerness with which its suggestions are read and discussed, probably no book can be compared with "Looking Backward." It is hardly too much to say of it that it

is already doing for Modern Socialism what Dickens novels did to arouse an interest in the outcasts of London, and Mrs. Stowe did by her *Uncle Tom's Cabin* to bring vividly before the world the cause of the American slave.

Our criticism of the contents of this book will depend almost wholly upon our view of the Socialistic theory, upon which it is based and to which it merely seeks to give expression if that theory seems to us rational and just, we shall find much to approve; if irrational, much to condemn. Without attempting at all to examine the book in detail, let us look for a moment at its principal thoughts. "Socialism," says James Russell Lowell in his address on Democracy, "means, or wishes to mean, coöperation and community of interests, sympathy, the giving to the hands not so large a share as to the brains, but a larger share than hitherto in the wealth they must combine to produce; means, in short, the practical application of Christianity to life."

As a Socialist, Bellamy believes in the supremacy of society. He holds that the community is of far greater importance than the individual; that the State, or the body corporate, is the grandest of all human institutions, and should have supreme control of the individuals that compose it, so far as their activities have to do with the common good. He believes that the present system of unrestricted competition, of unbridled individualism, by freeing men from all social and moral restraints in their mad pursuits of money, has wrought incalculable injury to our industry, upset the foundations of morality, and brought in jeopardy the very existence of the family and the State.

For this reason he affirms with great earnestness and tenacity of purpose, that the gross inequalities and "general misery of mankind," that now exist over the

earth, can never be done away with till the people as a State shall form a sort of national syndicate to take possession of all the means for the production of all commodities, and have full control of their use and distribution. By this method he would do away with the vast army of individual industries that now seek to build up their own interests on the ruins of their fellows, and bring all the members of the Nation to work together in harmony under one common leadership and for one common end.

John Stuart Mill, in speaking of the disadvantages of communism, incidentally expresses the opinion that if we were obliged to choose between the present forms of economic life and communism, all the difficulties great and small of communism would be but as the dust in the balance. It is an easy task for any man to show beyond all doubt that our present economic system is enormously wasteful of money and labor, careful students tell us that the government could easily construct a far more efficient railroad system than we now possess in the United States at a saving of over 1000 million dollars—enough to make comfortable homes for 5 millions of people. We now have to pay the owners of the Western Union Telegraph 5% per annum on 120 million dollars. The State could construct a much better system for 40 million dollars, and operate it in connection with the Post-office at a fraction of the present annual expenditure. Our gas costs us at present anywhere from \$1.50 to \$3 per 1000 cubic feet. Experts tell us the government could furnish it to us for 65 to 70 cents. If the Standard Oil Company by combining together a great number of separate interests, can reduce the price of oil to the people to almost nothing, and still make enormous profits, why would not a system of general coöperation under one common leader-

ship in almost all industries result in a vast saving of labor and money and greatly improve the general comfort of the people?

Along with government ownership of the means of production and government control of labor, necessarily goes government distribution of the products. According to Mr. Bellamy this should be done annually, each laborer receiving at the beginning of each year the same proportion of the previous annual product. This method of distribution is only an incident in the general scheme—not an essential part of it. The founder of socialism took this for his motto : "From each one according to his capacity, to each one according to his work." The objection at once presents itself to Bellamy's method, that all do not render the same service and do not have the same needs. He who serves the people with his head renders a far higher service and has far greater needs than he who serves with his hands alone. But after all that can be said against it, who will undertake to show that the present method of distributing to the people what they have combined to produce, is a whit more desirable or one iota more just? By what right divine or human, can any man claim for himself an annual income of a million dollars or even half that amount? He can not possibly earn it. No service he has rendered to society can entitle him to it. Yet according to our best authorities, 100,000 men out of the 60 millions of our people take to themselves over half of our annual product. Many of these men have never contributed a farthing to the wealth of the country by their own personal effort. Our laws have allowed them to grow rich while they slept. There is no such thing as an absolute right to property. All property belongs to the State, and it alone has the right to determine under what conditions, if any, it will allow the individuals of the State to possess and

control it. And it is not only the right, but the duty of the State to modify, or even abolish the system of individual ownership whenever it sees that the well being of the people demands it.

Combination, coöperation, is the watch-word of our time. Competition has been tried and found wanting. Who shall reap the advantages of the change? Shall it be the whole people or shall the already rich become enormously richer at their expense and to their inexpressible injury? The most important truth that has come to the world during the last 2000 years, is the thought that all men are brothers, children of one common father, having common right and common duties. The unbridled individualism of our day ignores this fact, and, if not speedily checked, will legitimately issue in anarchy and dynamite. Any honest attempt to free us from its ills should receive our warmest commendation. And he who can show to the world, how the genuine rights of the individual can be brought into proper subordination to, and harmony with the highest well-being of the whole people, ought to be revered by us as one of the greatest benefactors of the race.

WE have received an excellent engineering article by W. E. Fay '91, the publication of which, much to our regret, is delayed until next month.

College News.

President Webster was present at the convention of Zeta Psi, held in New York city January 3d and 4th.

The Sophomore class will give a dance in the new hall on State street, January 24th. The following are the committee: Hunter, Meserve, Dailey, Wemple, Reddish, Orr, Prest and Coons.

A Valuable Donation.

The Department of Natural History has received by gift of Rev. O. B. Hitchcock, of the class of 1852, a valuable collection of rock, mineral and fossil specimens, seventy-five in number.

The Albany Banquet.

The annual banquet of the Union College Alumni Associations of North-eastern New York, will occur at Albany on Tuesday evening, January 28th. A very large attendance is expected. Many will go from this city.

Our Glee Club.

The last number of the Concordiensis published an incorrect list of the men composing the Glee Club. It is made up of the following efficient singers. Johnson, '90; Robertson, Briggs, Fiske and Adams, '91; Trumbull, Mosher and Coons, '91.

Our Prayer Day.

January 30th is the day set apart as prayer day for colleges, and on this occasion, Henry A. Powell, D.D., '73 will officiate at Union. Dr. Powell was given his degree by Union at last commencement. He is a congregational clergyman and is located at Brooklyn.

The Annual Cremation

The customary cremation of Algebra occurred at midnight on Sunday, December 15th. The date was quite unusual and was an original idea, to say the least. Owing to this fact the ceremonies and parade were witnessed by fewer people than usual. The customary exercises were enacted. The injuries and bruises to both Sophomores and Freshmen were more numerous than general, although perhaps less severe. Conde, Van Voast and McAlpine were the committee.

Prof. Loisette's Memory System is creating greater interest than ever in all parts of the country, and persons wishing to improve their memory should send for his prospectus free, as advertised in another column.

Personals.

'40. George F. Danforth, LL.D., has retired from the bench of the Court of Appeals, after a long and honorable service. The date of his retiring was the occasion of a brilliant reception at the Fort Orange Club at Albany, at which many prominent jurists were present.

'41. The Rev. Dr. Saurin Eliot Lane, is the author of "One of a Thousand," just issued by the First National Publishing Co. of Boston.

'50. John Roberts has been appointed a member of the board of Charities and Correction at Philadelphia. He is the law partner of District Attorney Graham. He served three years in the war, gaining a captain's commission in the 3d New Jersey Infantry. He has been for many years manager of the House of Correction.

'73. Martin Schenck is chief of the engineering corps that has charge of the construction of the retaining wall and of the new locks.

'76. Homer Green was awarded the \$100 prize given by the *Scranton Truth* for an American sea song. From 200 competitors his song entitled "Banner of the Sea" was successful. It possesses many of the elements of a national song. Mr. Green is also the author of "Coal and the Coal Mines," published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

'84. Bishop is principal of the schools at Barre, Vt.

'85. Foote was recently in town. He was before the general term as a candidate for admission to the bar.

'89. Culver and Voorhes of the Columbia Law School, were back for a few days visiting their old friends.

'89. Max Smith was in town during the holidays.

'90. Harder, who was kept at home during the last part of the past term by illness, has returned.

'91. Adams has left college and returned to Hamilton.

'91. Roe visited in Schenectady lately.

'93. Shanahan, who has been ill with typhoid fever, is back.

'93. Roy, also a victim to typhoid, has returned.

Necrology.**CHANCELLOR PIERSON.**

The Head of the State University dies suddenly. He was President of the Board of Regents, a former State Senator, and an old Railroad Man.

The Hon. Henry R. Pierson, Chancellor of the University of the State of New York and a private banker, died December 31st after a brief illness from pneumonia. He was in his 71st year.

Mr. Pierson was president of the Board of Regents. He was a native of Montgomery county and was 70 years old. Union College graduated him in 1846, when Dr. Nott was in his prime as president. He belonged to the Kappa Alpha Society. He was a classmate of the late ex-Gov. John T. Hoffman, the late John M. Gregory of the Illinois Industrial College, and the Rev. Dr. Rankin. Mr. Pierson studied law in Cherry Valley and practiced in New York city. He lived in Brooklyn from 1849 to 1869, and was conspicuous in educational affairs, as well as being president of the Board of Aldermen. He was a State Senator in 1867 and an Assemblyman in 1873. In 1860 he became president of the city railroads of Brooklyn, but resigned in 1869, and moved to Chicago as the financial agent of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad. Later he was its vice-president. In 1871 he moved to Albany and was made resident director of the New York Central Railroad. In 1872 he was elected a Regent of the University in place of Erastus Corning, deceased. In 1878 he became Vice Chancellor and in 1887 Chancellor. In 1873 he became a member of the Stock Exchange in New York and has carried on a banking business in Albany ever since. He was prominent in religious circles also. In politics he was a Conkling Republican and belonged to the famous Grant 306 at the Chicago convention in 1880. In 1888 he voted for Grover Cleveland. His successor as Chancellor is likely to be George William Curtis.

Mr. Pierson was twice married. His second wife was Mrs. Fannie Mott of Hamilton. He leaves one son, Henry R. Pierson, Jr., his partner in business. He left an ample fortune.

'11. Jonas Heartt, a prominent manufacturer of Troy, died in that city on the 3d inst.

'37. Samuel Wilkeson, the secretary of the Northern Pacific R. R. Company, died at his home in New York city on December 2d. He was born at Buffalo, May 9, 1817, and admitted to the bar in 1840. He has been a very prominent journalist, being at one time the principal owner of the Albany *Journal*; he was also on the editorial staff of the New York *Tribune*. He aided greatly in the sale of the war-loans under Jay Cook. While in college he was a Sigma Phi. He leaves a widow, two sons and a daughter.

'41. The Hon. James H. Cook, of Canajoharie, N. Y., formerly district attorney of Montgomery county, and county judge, and a wealthy and influential citizen, died on Sunday, July 22d, aged sixty-nine years.

'42. The Rev. Stephen Maroon, for twenty-five years a missionary in Siam, afterward president of Biddell University at Charlotte, N. C., died Aug. 15, 1889, at Marion, O., aged seventy-three.

'50. Samuel T. Freeman recently died at his home in Westchester county of congestion of the lungs. He always took a lively interest in the affairs of his Alma Mater and was almost always present at the annual alumni gatherings at Commencement time. He was a lawyer of some note and was for some time a lecturer on law at Union.

'58. Mark D. Hanover, for many years proprietor of the Cincinnati *Times-Star*, died recently at his home in Brooklyn.

'61. John A. Osborn, a lawyer of considerable note, and United States commissioner, died recently.

Exchanges

The *Sybil*, representing the Elmira Female College is one of the best of our exchanges received from similar institutions. It has not the amateurish characteristics of papers published generally at female colleges. Its editorial style is pointed and scholarly; its literary work is of a high order; and the typographical appearance of the paper is certainly excellent.

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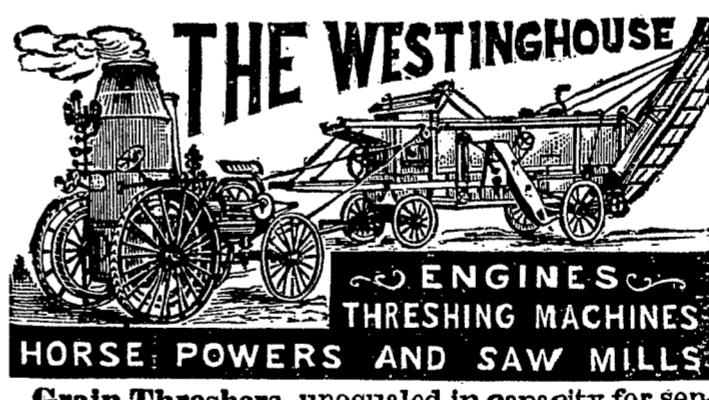
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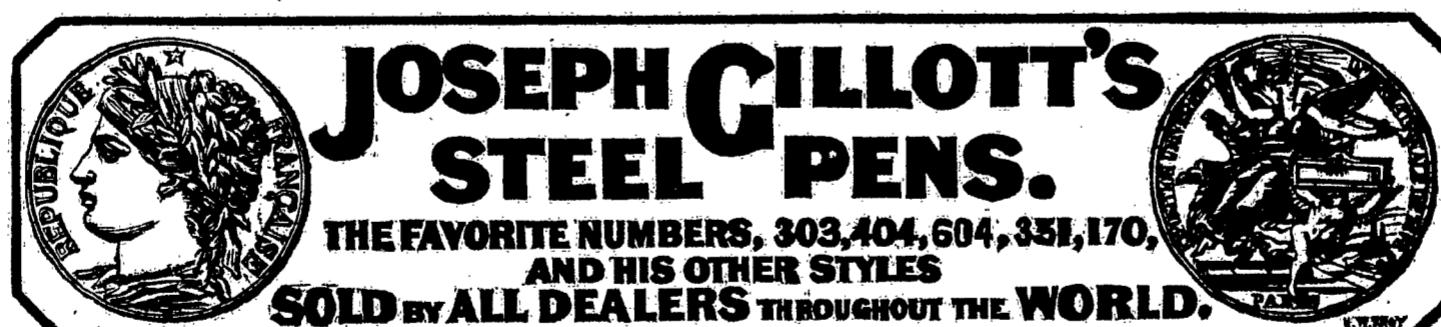
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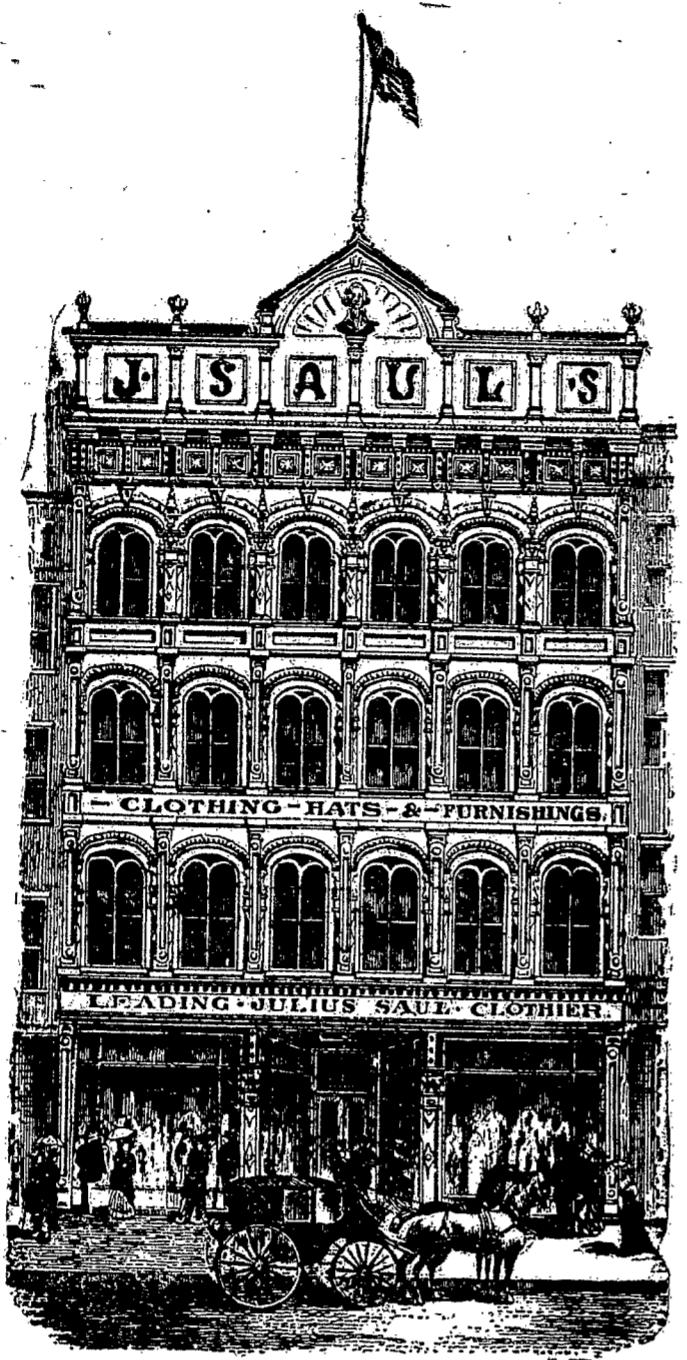
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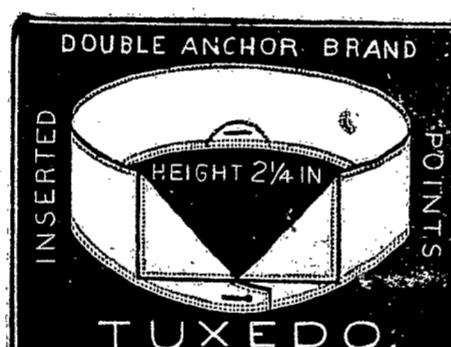
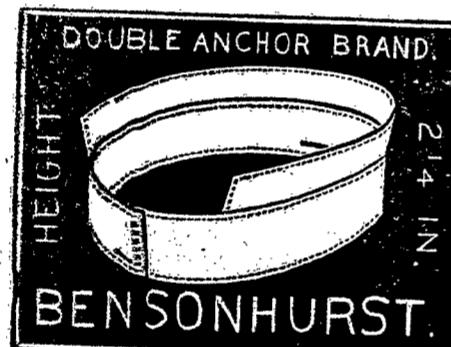
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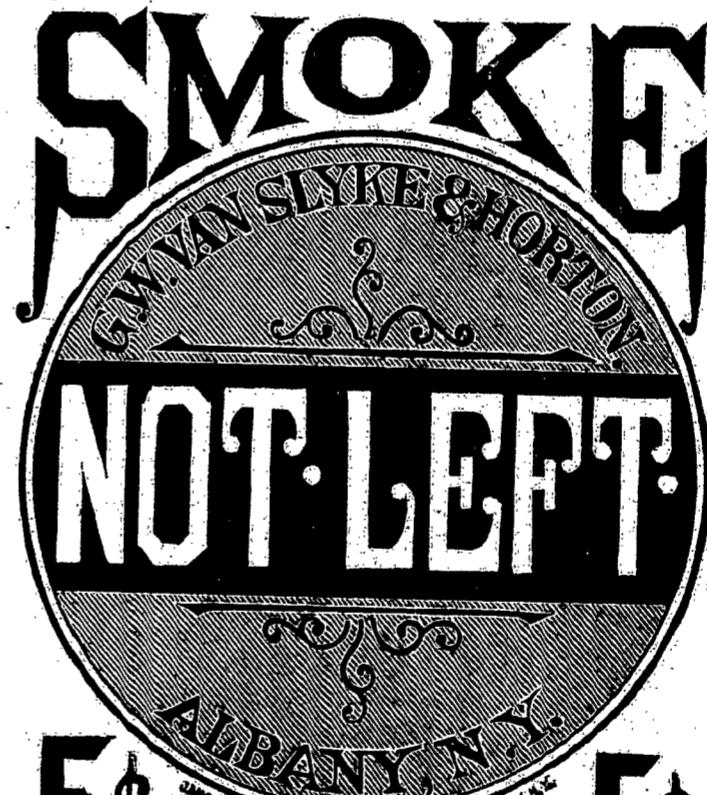
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