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The Omega.

VOLUME I.]

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, JUNE, 1866.

NUMBER 1.



OMEGA CHAPTER.

Instituted 1864.

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* The duties of this Chair have, for the most of the current year, been performed by Rev. John C. C. Clarke, A.M.
† At present absent in Europe. The duties of this Chair have been performed during the year by Prof. Hudnutt.

† Filled for the current year by Rev. J. C. C. CLARKE, A.M.
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JUNIOR CLASS.

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773	The second of th
secretary	group he fert behind Kish.
Treasurer	ant Albion's shore S. BASTIN.
Orator	nd then each the:ROBERT E. NEIGHBOR.
Poet	ne noblestJABEZ T. SUNDERLAND.
Seer	heWILLIAM THOMSON.
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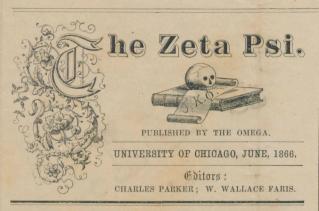
Das Licht, vivacite, et muscle, universitatis.

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Seer	GEORGE HURLBUT.
Toast-Master	
Historian	JAMES SPRINGER.

CALENDAR FOR 1866.

June 28,..... Freshman Declamations for Keen prizes. June 29,.....Junior Exhibition and Sophomore Essays for Griggs prizes.

June 29 (about) Senior Class Day. July 2,..... Graduating Exercises of Law Department. July 2,.....Commencement at 2 p. m.



Salutatory.

Two years have passed since last a College paper was issued from these walls. And, although the Zeta Psi is, in and of itself, complete, yet it becomes us, as heirs to the editorial mantle of our brethren of '64, to refer briefly to the intervening period.

On the wings of these two years many changes have been borne—changes affecting all of us. As a people, we have brought a bloody war to a happy close. Our country has emerged from the conflict redeemed and purified. With the smile of Peace to gladden, and the applause of an admiring world to stimulate her, she has already set out anew on her career of prosperity, we trust never again to be checked in her career of progress by intestine war or

The familiar voices of many who, two years since responded to Liberty's call, and who were then to be found in the camp or on the battle-field, now greet us again. But alas! the ranks of those who came back are not as the ranks of those who went out. We too have our patriot dead to mourn.

Two years ago, our professors and students resided. our libraries and museums were kept, and our classes recited, all in the building that can now no more than serve the purposes of a wing to our edific. This, although not yet complete, suffices to answer our present wants. It has much of which to glories in nothing more than in the Dea

lory and its grand instrument the Clark Of this, with its power of enabling us to peer far into the depths of space, and to reveal the mysteries that have so long lain hidden there, Chicago and the great North-west may well be proud. We are only too happy in that we may record the changes that have brought these things.

As might easily be inferred, the number of students in regular attendance at our Institution has more than doubled since the summer of 1864. This is peculiarly gratifying, as it shows the appreciation in which our rising school of the classics and the sciences is held.

With this flattering record of the past, what may we not expect for the future! We have ardent, glowing hopes for the time that shall find our Alma Mater crowned with the fruits of her maturity, as are her elder sisters of the East to-day. Our prospects are brighter than ever before. For, are they not founded on the brilliant records of the recent past, on the known attractions of our geographical position, and on the hopes (hopes almost too certain in the fruition already accomplished to deserve a word implying doubt) of the liberality of our numerous patrons? That we may live to rejoice with her in the enjoyment of her full maturity, is our earnest prayer.

We cannot pass without contributing our meed of praise to the honor of those — the living and the dead alike-who have, with worldly substance and with patient labor, aided our University.

Not to detract from the merit of others, and only because he is gone from us, and is a fit representative of the class who gave of their means, let us mention the name of Stephen A. Douglas, as a worthy patron. His gift was noble, coming as an unsought, voluntary offering; for he had divined the wants of the land, and he longed to see them supplied. A friend to education, he could not see the cause languish while it was in his power to assist in its revival by the bestowal of a timely gift. Douglas the statesman, the patriot, the philanthropist, has gone to his rest. His star has joined the American constellation. We honor his grave. His deeds yet live. Let all strive to emulate them. Others who have given nobly, still live. Their deeds are sufficient heralds of their worth. We can but thank them in behalf of our Alma Mater.

Nor can we fail to remember those who have borne the burden and heat of the day," sparing neither mental nor physical labor for us. The names of Burroughs, Mixer and Sawyer are worthy of all honor. Our noble institution is a monument to their self-sacrificing toil. The success that has ever attended their labors, the zeal they have ever manifested, the interest they have ever taken in the welfare of those committed to their charge, entitle them to a high standing among the educators of the land. As students under them, we, personally, acknowledge a debt due them and their worthy co-laborers, which we can never fully discharge.

All honor to patrons and teachers alike. May the Divine blessing be bestowed upon their gifts, and accompany their efforts to the end, that the best hopes of all for the prosperity of the University of Chicago may meet with a speedy fruition.

Qur Contemporary.

Our readers have doubtless been informed that the local organizations of the College have this year united in publishing a paper. This was very laudable, and, if they had been content to do nothing further, we should have been among the loudest in their praise. But when they seriously declare that their production is an exponent of the college, we deem it our duty to protest against such a sacrilege, and against such an

attempt to impose upon the credulity of their readers. Just here permit a word touching two whose names appear on the list of editors of said production, who are honored members, the one of the Senior, and the other of the Junior class in college. They are honest and honorable men, men of respectable standing among their fellows and in the community, notwithstanding the fact that one of them has been inveigled into a connection with one of the organizations referred to. These men are not fairly represented by the paper, the real editors of which, doubtless, have thought it necessary to use their names for the purpose of giving or the purpose of exonerating these gentlemen from complicity in the publication of a

sheet so unworthy of them. So far as we know, no college paper will be published this year. Two society papers are, however, to be given to the world-The Zeta Psi, and that of the local associations referred to, the name of which has escaped us.

We are pained to learn that the editors of our contemporary, having become responsible to the printers for the expenses of the issue, are seriously embarrassed for want of funds with which to meet those expenses. They have put in circulation in the college a subscription paper, industriously laboring to fill its columns. The result, we learn, is as follows:

A friend,	\$1	50
A staunch Tau Alpha,		10
A life-long enemy of Zeta Psi,		05
A. B—s—th,		02
V. F—rg—n,		15
Two Juniors,		06
D. B. B—tl—r,		01
Pi Kappa Xi,		06
Freshmen Class,		10
The Society for the Propagation of the Phi		
Delta Zeta,	0	65
Total	00	70

This is too bad. The editors are at their wits ends, and frantically call for aid. We desire to extend our influence to aid them. We therefore appeal in their behalf to their patrons, and if they are found wanting, to the students at large. Do not let this great work fall to the ground for want of means necessary to carry it through to success. We call upon the members of the Phi Kappa Xi to sustain the action of their editors. Give freely. And to the members of the Phi Delta Zeta we appeal. Give of your means, all of you. Exercise self-denial touching your indulgence in pea-nuts, apples, candy and lager beer, and give the fruits of the sacrifice in aid of the project which you have inaugurated. We beseech you who admire these local one-horse organizations, to give liberally of your pennies to this noble project. Address of Historian......

We make this appeal from motives of pure generosity. We are desirous of doing all we can in behalf of our contemporary. We cordially and sincerely hope that the managers of the paper may speedily be relieved from their embarrassments. We wish them

Cime-Honored Enstom.

The Alumni Association of a college is a source alike of pleasure to its members and of life to the institution. The two elements which usually enter most largely into the computation of the pleasure anticipated by a graduate who purposes revisiting the scenes of college life, are — the associations of his fraternity, and those of his class. All that tends to enhance this pleasure is noble, since it also tends to increase the attraction to scenes so worthy of frequent re-visitation; doubly noble, inasmuch as the Alumni Association subserves a double purpose.

Class organizations and exercises have this tendency in a powerful degree. These in the older institutions usually culminate in what is termed Class-day—a day set apart to be observed after the senior examinations are over, as commemorative of the toils and pastimes of the years of early study. As such they are sacredly observed. The exercises of the day generally end with the planting of a tree or a vine in the college grounds—the tree remaining there forever, as a token of the pledge of enduring remembrance then and there understood to be given by each individual member of the class to every other, and likewise as a token of the devotion of the whole class to its Alma Mater. The ground immediately surrounding the tree is thenceforward held sacred as a rallying point for the class, at all alumni or other meetings. Other parts of the exercises frequently are—a recounting of the history of the class; the reading of a poem, offered as a sort of valedictory; the delivery of an oration, having reference to the class-tree, and to the recollections clusteking around it; and the address of a seer, who unertakes to foretell, somewhat humorously, the course to to the paper. We say of individual members of the class. Sometimes pestowment of mock premiums for fancied excelces (?) is added.

> ur college is yet in its infancy; nevertheless, it has seemed good to the class of 1866 to inaugurate the custom of observing the Class-day. This has been resolved on in the hope that other classes will follow the example set them, and that thus good feeling, mutual friendship, and deep-seated admiration and love for out Alma Mater may be subserved. We trust their hopes will be verified; that the class of 1867, and others, will follow the example of their predecessors in this respect; and that the Alumni Association of our growing Institution may on this account possess the more interest, not only for the members of this class, but also for previous graduates and graduates yet to be, to the end that it may prove a source of life to this favored seat of learning.

> The organization of the Class of 1866 will be found in another column.

> We regret our inability to announce the precise date on which the Class-day for this year is to fall. Due ment, we learn will be made hereafter. w are, however, authorized to say that the date will be about the 29th of June. Nor do we yet know whether the exercises will take place during the afternoon or in the evening—on the University grounds, in the chapel, or in one of the city churches. This, too, will probably be announced in due time. Suffice it to say, good music will be procured; and what with that, and what with the carefully prepared performances which the class promises to present, the exercises cannot fail to interest. We earnestly hope that the friends of the University, and of education generally, will manifest at once their sanction of the custom and their approbation of its observance in the present instance by their presence on the occasion.

The following is a rough sketch of the programme proposed, as given us by the class secretary:

MUSIC.
Opening Address, by the President Charles Parker. MUSIC.*
Poem
Address of HistorianHENRY FIRST.

MUSIC.*CHARLES M. HULL. Address of the Seer.... DOXOLOGY. (Words.) Examination days are o'er-Examination comes no more; Examinations are a bore-

Secret Societies.

Bore-ore, bore-ore-ore-ore-ore

* Original.

The University of Chicago has kept pace with the giant strides of progress which the city of her birth has made, and it now ranks high among the institutions of learning in our land. We are proud of our college, and it is with feelings of exultation that we indicate to the stranger the beauties of its buildings, and the perfections of its appointments, while in passing through and around it, we stop at intervals to descant upon the educational privileges to be enjoyed here. Although the memories of generations do not cluster about its walls as about those of venerable Harvard and Yale, still, its curriculum will show that nearly as thorough a course of study is pursued here, and nearly as high a grade of scholarship is demanded, as in those antiquated seats of learning.

Colleges like ours, which are just beginning to make their influence felt in the literary world, are usually cursed with innumerable organizations calling themselves secret societies, while they have but a purely local organization, or which, at best, exist but in a few feeble chapters in insignificant western colleges. These presumptously thrust themselves above their level at every opportunity. They are like the noxious weeds which spring up immediately after the ground is broken for cultivation.

Our College has formed no exception to the rale It was only in 1864 that a secret society was established here. Its excellence was immediately proved if proof were necessary, by its growth, and by the fluence which it exerted almost from the first, which it still exerts. The ZETA PSI FRATERNITY conferred a lasting benefit on this college when it established the Omega Chapter.

Those who form their estimate of secret societies from the insignificant organizations which drag along a feeble existence here, may not be able to appreciate the truth of this statement. For the benefit of these benighted minds we will proceed to prove our asser-

In the first place, a secret society was needed here. The growth of the Institution in all the other requisites which go to make the excellence of a college, demanded this addition. The best class of students, feeling deeply the inferiority of the local societies, wisely kept aloof from them, and began to look around for a fraternity to whom they might apply for a chapter which should be an honor alike to themselves and to the College. The wide-spread and enviable reputation of the Zeta Psi induced them to apply to it. After some delay the petition was granted. The urgent demand for such a chapter was at once shown by the numerous applications for membership, and by the

There can be no doubt that the presence of secret societies goes far to make a college attractive to young men. The unanimous testimony of graduates confirms the statement that the most pleasant memories of college life are associated with their membership with such organizations. The fact of the existence of such societies is of great influence upon the student in his choice of a college. An institution, therefore, owes it to itself to see that fraternities of well-established reputations are founded within its walls.

It is hardly necessary to make the assertion that the Zeta Psi Fraternity ranks among the highest of these organizations. Its eighteen chapters distributed among the principal seats of learning in the land bear indubitable testimony to its excellence.

Were it necessary to enlarge upon this theme, we might speak of its influence on its members, promoting in them a keen desire for intellectual and moral improvement, and a strong and abiding faith in the immutability of friendship. We might descant upon its extensive connections, its flourishing chapters, the respect always paid to its members, and the influence which they individually exert. We might with pride point to the statesmen, the warriors, and the authors whose names are enrolled upon its records. To these we beg to point the skeptical, since want of space forbids enumeration.

The associations and the ties which a man forms in a secret society of as high an order as this, are most pleasant, and are imperishable. It is one of the most beautiful features of the order, that its members, when their college days are ended, carry with them into the world an earnest and enduring love for the Fraternity. Often in the whirl of business, or amidst the cares of professional or political life, the quondam student pauses to dwell with fond reflection upon the pleasures he, as a student, once enjoyed. Grav-haired men, whose work is nearly done, love to visit their old society, and renew their youth amid their successors.

We have thus shown that our society was needed here; that fraternities with sound philanthropical principles, aims, and objects, go far towards rendering a college popular and respected; and that the Zeta Psi Fraternity is possessed of qualities that should recommend it to reflecting men. Our assertion that our College is benefited by the presence of a chapter of our Fraternity, is therefore proved. In conclusion, we would most earnestly and respect-

fully recommend to the Faculty, as they have the good of the University at heart, to eradicate those local organizations which infest it. Thus the way will be cleared for the establishment of other fraternities which will command the respect of all. In this connection it is, perhaps, proper to advert to the rumor which has reached our ears, that the Sigma Phi fraternity is considering the propriety of establishing a chapter here. We hope this report has good foundation. We should rejoice to see a chapter of this well-known and popular society flourishing in our midst. We should also be pleased to see the Psi Upsilon represented. Both these fraternities enjoy a wide-spread and well-earned reputation, and we should cordially welcome them to our University. We should then go hand in hand in our noble work of benefiting, through the student, mankind in general, and of as sisting in the efforts made to raise this College to the highest position among its sisters, which it already almost deserves to fill.

----THE GRAND CHAPTER.

At the Session of the Grand Chapter, held in New York City, last December, it was determined, at the request of the Western delegates, to hold an extra meeting of the Grand Chapter at Chicago during the present summer. Accordingly, the 5th of July has been fixed upon as the day for meeting, it being understood that this time will be acceptable to a majority, if not all, of the different chapters, and afford ample time to reach this city immediately following the several annual commencements. Besides, the weather will doubtless be pleasant for traveling, and an opportunity will thus be given the brothers to be present on the 4th of July to witness the ceremonies attendant upon laying the corner stone of the monument to the late Senator Douglas, whose remains lie alv a short distance from our University, and who was one of its earliest and most liberal patrons.

During the convention an oration will be delivered n public by Reverend Brother I. S. Kalloch, of Kansas, and a poem by Brother W. H. McElroy, of Wisconsin. A short excursion on the lake is contemplated, and also the usual Grand Chapter supper.

This will be the first of our conventions ever holden west of New York, and will mark an era in the westward march of education, and hand in hand with it is the Zeta Psi Fraternity, which stands equal with the foremost of college societies in numbers and in character. We believe that the 5th of July will prove the starting point of a more frequent and extended intercourse between Eastern and Western brothersan intercourse which must be fraught with the best

At the last convention, some of our members had the pleasure of meeting, for the first time, a number of brothers from the south who had been isolated from us during the recent war. It was a source of much pleasure to note the cordiality with which they were welcomed again to our midst, forgetful of all sectional

or partizan feeling—every other sentiment being lost in the love for Zeta Psi. We trust that we shall see many of these brothers present at our approaching convention, and that the occasion may afford additional proof of friendship still unbroken between the two classes of re-united brothers.

We hope for a full representation from each of the Chapters, and also a large attendance of our graduate members, scattered all through the land. Let us have a grand reunion, one which shall strengthen old ties, recall old associations, bring together old friends and make new ones; and above all, one which shall excite the enthusiasm, rekindle the love for our noble Fraternity, and waken one and all to new and increased efforts for the promotion of her prosperity. ----

ZETA PSI.

A Poem delivered at a Supper given on the evening of the 5th of November, 1864, in honor of the establishment of the

From the rapids of the Mohawk, From Narragansett Bay, From the willows of the Kennebec, From the Lake State far away, From homes so distant severed From hearth-stones warm and bright, Brothers in heart, with features strange, We welcome you to-night.

With feet all weary from the tread Of life's deceitful way, We meet within this way-side inn, And here our burdens lay; Like mutual prodigals we come, Tired of the husks of swine, To gather round one father's board With mirth, and song, and wine.

In the chivalric times long past, In old crusading days, Some gallant knights by chance had met While riding diverse ways; No sign of recognition passed, None word of greeting spoke, Each looked suspicious on the rest, No one the silence broke Each, sullen, sat absorbed in thought ends to meet no more int Albion's shore and then each thought of those who fell, he noblest of the line, Whose bones lay bleaching on the sands Of far-off Palestine.

At length one drew a golden cross From 'neath his coat of mail, When quick up rose each gallant knight, And bade the stranger hail; Strangers no more, but brothers now, For on each manly form, Beneath the triple-plated steel, That golden cross was worn.

Like those brave knights, we need no scrip Indorsed with seal and hand, To tell who may the worthy be, To join our mystic band; Mid northern winter's chilling snows, In southern sultry air, Where er this golden badge is seen, Go, greet thy brother there. * * * * * * * *

For our young brothers gathered here, Good boys! I've known them long and well, We'll help them lest they fall! I pledge a god-sire's care to each, An elder brother's love, That they dishonor not our craft, But worthy brothers prove.

You are our Western pioneers, Our outward picket line, Be vigilant to guard your post, Extend your ranks with time; Be ready with your armor on To fight for Zeta Psi, And ever let your banner be Inscribed, "Tau Kappa Phi."

----DRILL MEETING.

The University Brigade will meet for parade on the 4th of July. Members are requested to appear in full uniform, as worn by the Hospital Corps. The solemn procession of "ye sold" will be formed at 2 p. m. pre-Bush, Captain.

WEAK TIMBER.—The INDEX UNIVERSITATIS " Board

The Unknown Great.

Tis not alone on tented fields, That mighty victories are won: Tis not alone 'mid carnage wild, Heroic deeds are nobly done.

Within the school-room's humble walls. Beside the couch of pain, Are greener laurels daily earned, Than conquerors ever gain.

Whether with pickaxe or with sword, With musket or with pen, Man's noblest work is best performed When man can better men.

We build the monument above The titled hero's bed. We strew the leader's path with flowers, Forgetting those he led

Some journeyman of Tubal Cain, Whose name we'll never know, Forged from the rusty iron ore, The first bright shining hoe.

Then first the tares from out the corn, Were plucked by willing hand, Then grape-vines took the thistles' place, And plenty filled the land.

Some potter, long since turned to clay, Made bowls our feasts to grace; Who sings his praise with song and wine, Who knows his resting place?

The unknown great! behold their work, Where mighty cities stand, Where navies float upon the seas. Where vineyards shade the land.

They labored on the Appian Way, The pyramids they reared: They rescued Holland from the sea, The gloomy forests cleared.

From granite hidden in the earth, They built the walls of Rome, They bridged the Tiber, Seine and Tha And "counded Peter's dome. Me viai

They gave the fame to Flodden Field, They fought at Marston Moor, And Runnymede and Waterloo Were deluged with their gore.

They braved the cold at Valley Forge, The foe at Lake Champlain, They piled the ground at Abraham's height And Solferino's plain.

* * * * They're coming home, the boys in blue, We greet them with our cheers, But as we mark how thinned their ranks, Fast fall the scalding tears.

Honor the favored that remain, The living boys in blue, And doubly honor those not here, The boys the rebels slew:

Stand back and let the brave men pass, Open the crowded street; The soil is better where they march, Tis sacred where they sleep.

We ne'er may know the soldiers' names, Their regiment or state; But this we know, they saved the land, They are the unknown great.

The unknown great lie all around, On Lookout Mountain's side, Mid Shiloh's hills, at Gettysburg, Where'er the brave men died.

Their graves are in the Wilderness, On sandy, lone Tybee: They ridge full many a cotton field, They skirt the sounding sea.

One monument sufficeth all,-A re-united State, And one inscription doth for each-Here lies the unknown great.

THE paper issued by the local clubs contained an essay on the littleness and greatness of man. We think that the littleness of man was never so fully illustrated as in the foundation of those clubs.

A Pointless Index.—The Index Universitates.

The Telescope.

This instrument is the largest equatorial refractor now mounted. It is achromatic, so called; that is, the object glass is composed, not of a single lens, but of two, so fitted together as to destroy the prismatic dispersion caused by either of them separately

It is mounted on the principle known as the Frauenhofer style of mounting, that is, the tube of the telescope is on one side of a great steel axis, pointing to the north pole, and is balanced by heavy iron weights on the other side.

The length of the tube is 23 feet; the diameter of the object glass 181 inches. This last dimension is the most important one in the telescope. The total cost of the instrument was \$18,187; that of the tower and machinery nearly \$30,000. The tower was built by Hon. J. Y. Scammon, at his sole expense.

Besides the great telescope, the observatory is to possess a meridian circle, now in process of construction in Germany. This is to have a telescope of six inches aperture and six feet length: but is otherwise so delicate an instrument, and made with so much care that it will cost \$4,500 in gold in Germany.

The makers of the telescope are Messrs. Alvan Clark & Sons, of Cambridge, Massachusetts; the meridian circle is to be the work of Messrs. A. and G. Repsold, of Hamburg. It is hoped that both instruments and the observatory will be a lasting credit to Chicago.

THE ACADEMIC GROVE.

Dr. Burroughs having become acquainted with the intention of the class of 1866 to inaugurate at this institution the time-honored custom of planting a classtree, together with the exercises usually attendant upon class-day, has kindly offered to secure within the University grounds a tract, to be set apart for an academic grove, and to present it cleared, graded, and inclosed, to the present senior class, as early as the 2d of July, the time set for class day. This generous offer has been gratefully accepted, and a suitable plot selected at the north end of the college campus, and will be formally dedicated to the purpose named, on the 2d day of July, on which occasion Dr. Burroughs has kindly consented to deliver the address

Upon the conclusion of the exercises for the class of 1866, an invitation will be extended to the classes of former years to add their contributions to the grove.

PROFESSOR SAFFORD.

It is with pleasure that we welcome through our columns the advent among us of our brother, Truman H. Safford, who, as is already well known, has been appointed to the chair of astronomy, and to take charge of the great refractor. This alone, is a broad acknowledgment of the Professor's ability, and -coupled with his already distinguished connection with the Cambridge observatory, dissolved upon his acceptance of this larger field-indicates an enviable and preeminently successful career.

In another column will be found a brief article on the telescope, to which we refer our readers; and, in conclusion, we predict for the Professor the crown of success which his talents, and the worth of the great instrument lead us to expect; and we trust that, while his thoughts are fixed on the heavens, his pathway on earth may be long, pleasant, and unobstructed.

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LITERARY NOTICES.

A sheet published by the local clubs and other "small fry" of the University, gives birth to some truly wonderful productions, which, out of courtesy, we are constrained to notice. On the second page of the sheet referred to, we find a nameless "piece of poetry," commencing:

"There was a time when God's great throne, In the midst of immensity stood alone."

We refer our readers to this "divine efflatus" as an index of the Universitatis. There is certainly much room for improvement in that portion of the paper devoted to the muses. A poem on the Creation should not be written to the jingle of an Irish jig, as:

"Eternity's clock ticked on the same, And God's good time at last it came.

If the reader is disposed to be critical, (and we are nothing if not critical,) let him postpone further judgment on this "nameless" poem and read "Ye Senior Amidons" on the fourth page—then weep!

