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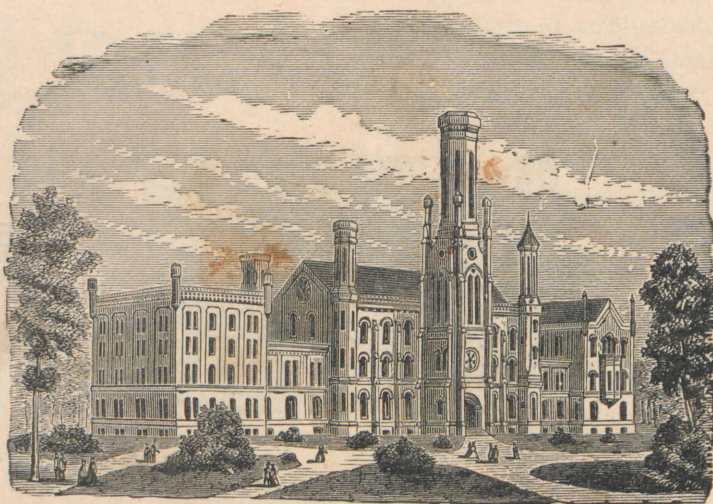
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THE VOLANTE.

VOL. XII.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, JUNE, 1883.

No. 9.



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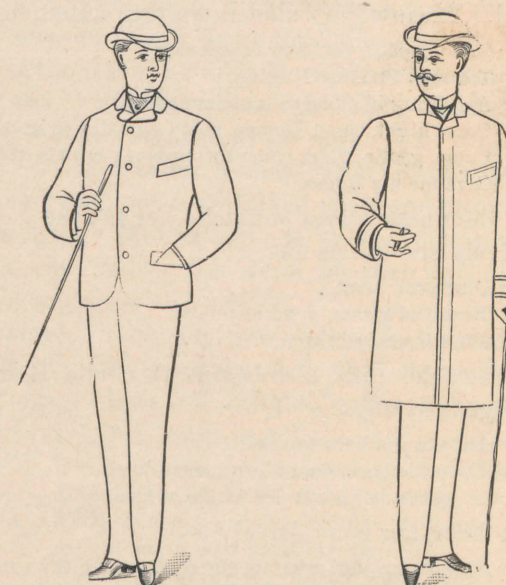
THE VOLANTE.

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LITERARY.

Romeo and Juliet.

What is it that attracts tourists to Verona? Is it her beautiful gardens and famous churches? her fine art collections and valuable libraries? Perhaps it is the colossal statue of Dante standing in a square, surrounded by rich palaces. It may be on account of the imposing amphitheatre rising in grand ruins on a hill overlooking the city. Other towns can claim attractions even greater than these. But what draws us to Verona? It is a plain, partly decayed sarcophagus, in a wild and desolate garden of an old convent. Everything around is in decay, the old cemetery is ruined to the very graves. The winds play in wanton pleasure about the low mounds, and toss the dead leaves into the partly open tomb. Desolation and neglect are on every side. Nature seems to wish to remind us of blighted love, and everywhere she expresses her sympathy with disappointed hopes. Here is the tomb of Romeo and Juliet.

Verona's palaces will decay, her magnificent amphitheater will disappear, but as long as human love and passion exist, there will always linger around this spot tender affection and sympathy. We may believe with the Veronese that here lie the remains of the lovers, or we may think them to have been borne elsewhere. It makes no difference, the legend of five centuries still holds our attention to this spot. The story of Romeo and Juliet is a story of passionate love, love under Italian skies, and influenced by the warmth and luxuriance of that southern clime. The houses of the Capulets and Montagues are at variance, bitter hatred exists between them. Romeo is the only son of the Montague house, Juliet the only daughter of the Capulet house. The families are equal in dignity and wealth. Romeo loves Rosaline, a cold beauty, who scorns his affection, and in despair he goes about sighing and moaning his unrequited love. Through the advice and help of his friend, Benvolio, masked, he gains admission to a supper at the house of Capulet, where Rosaline is to be present. Here he sees Juliet. He cares no more for Rosaline. Juliet satisfies his ardent nature, for she is love itself. What a pretty scene it is when Romeo introduces himself to Juliet;

"Romeo: If I profane with my unworthing hand
This holy shrine, the gentle fine is this:
My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand
To smooth that rough touch with a tender kiss.
Juliet: Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand too much,
Which mannerly devotion shows in this;
For saints have hands that pilgrims' hands do touch,
And palm to palm is holy palmer's kiss.
Romeo: Have not saints lips, and holy palmers too?
Juliet: Ay, pilgrim, lips that they must use in prayer.
Romeo: O, then, dear saint, let lips do what hands do;
They pray, grant thou, lest faith turn to despair.
Juliet: Saints do not move, though grant for prayers' sake.
Romeo: Then move not, while my prayers' effect I take.
Thus from my lips by thine my sin is purg'd.
Juliet: Then have my lips the sin that they have took.
Romeo: Sin from my lips? O trespass sweetly urged!
Give me my sin again."

After the feast she learns that he is a Montague, and she bursts out:

"My only love sprung from my only hate!
For early seen unknown, and known too late!
Prodigious birth of love it is to me,
That I must love a loathed enemy."

But we question whether she would have hesitated long for the family hatred. Romeo has met his true love; he has drunk in the sweetness of Juliet's affection, and scorning sleep, he seeks the home of Juliet. With the light wings of love he leaps the high garden wall, and sees Juliet at a window above. Imagine the night! The mellow light of the moon is softening the outlines of the house, and flecking the earth beneath the orchard trees with patches of brightness. The leaves scarcely stir, the breath of flowers is sweet and heavy, all nature is in harmony with the feelings of the lovers. But harken! Juliet is speaking. Romeo listens below unperceived:

"O, Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?
Deny thy father and refuse thy name?
Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,
And I'll no longer be a Capulet.
'Tis but thy name that is my enemy;
Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.
What's a Montague? it is nor hand nor foot,
Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part
Belonging to a man. O, be some other name.
What's in a name? that which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet.
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo called,
Retain that dear perfection which he owes
Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name,
And for that name which is no part of thee
Take all myself."

And Romeo disclosing himself, exclaims:

"I'll take thee at thy word;
Call me but love, and I'll be new baptized,
Henceforth I never will be Romeo."

Who can describe that balcony scene? What pen can portray its deep love, its ardent passion? It

needs an artist's skill to paint the rich glow of love which colors and lends enchantment to the whole scene; it demands a poet's fancy to see the lovers basking in the beams of mutual affection, and to feel the soft influence of the gentle night that broods her protecting wings over them. It matters not that Juliet first pours out her love to Romeo. Her true, young heart is not bound by custom, nor held in the shackles of conventionality. She does not transgress one whit the modesty of her pure nature in arranging for the secret marriage.

The following morning she repairs to the cell of Friar Lawrence, where she meets Romeo, and the vows are taken. After the marriage Romeo goes out into the street and finds that the old hatred has broken out afresh. Mercutio, his friend, has been slain by Tybalt, the nephew of Lady Capulet. In hot revenge he kills Tybalt, and the Prince exiles him for the deed. Meanwhile Juliet is waiting impatiently.

"Gallop apace, you fiery-footed steeds
Towards Phoebus' lodging,
And bring in cloudy night immediately.
Come night, come, Romeo, come thou day in night,
Come, gentle night, come loving black-brow'd night,
Give me my Romeo."

Then the nurse comes and tells her the sad news. Impulsively she bursts out:

"O serpent heart,
Beautiful tyrant, fiend angelical,
Dove-feathered raven!"

But when the nurse also begins to revile Romeo, she indignantly says:

"He was not born to shame,
Upon his brow shame is ashamed to sit;"
"O, what a beast was I to chide at him!"

We can hear her convulsively sob:

"Ah, poor my lord, what tongue shall smooth thy name,
When I, thy three hours wife have mangled it?"

Her impulsive Southern nature returns as quickly to her love as it had turned from him. The night brings Romeo. O, the sweetness and the anguish of those last hours. But the parting cannot be longer delayed. "The lark heralds the morn, and jocund day stands tiptoe on the misty mountain tops."

Romeo goes to Mantua, and the severest test of her wifely affection awaits Juliet. Capulet determines that in two days she shall marry Paris, a kinsman of the Prince. In despair she seeks the friar. He gives her a potion which will put her in a death-like sleep for forty-two hours. During that time of course she will be buried, and when she awakes Romeo will be at the vault to take her to Mantua. The plan works well. Juliet returns from the friar's

and tells her father that she will marry Paris. The wedding day being changed from Thursday to Wednesday, she takes the potion Tuesday evening. The preparations for the marriage feast go merrily on. Capulet seems to outdo himself in the energy with which he attends to every detail. Early Wednesday morning the nurse goes to call Juliet. She undraws the curtain, and calls, "Lady! lady! lady! Alas! alas! Help! help! my lady's dead!"

The scenes of mirth and festivity are changed to sorrow and wailing "instead of wedding cheer, is a sad burial feast; the marriage hymns are changed to sullen dirges, and the bridal flowers serve for a buried corse."

Meantime the letters which the friar sends to Romeo at Mantua fail to reach him, and he hears of Juliet's death through Balthasar, his servant. Not understanding the circumstances, and caring not for life if Juliet be dead, he procures a dram of poison, and sets out in hot haste for Juliet's grave. Arriving at the tomb, he finds Paris strewing with flowers that sad bridal bed where lies Juliet. Maddened by his grief, and enraged at the sight of a "vile Montague," Paris attacks Romeo. But Romeo is in too desperate a mood to be trifled with, and turns fiercely upon him. The struggle is short. Paris with his last breath gasps, "If thou be merciful, open the tomb, lay me with Juliet."

Dragging the body into the vault he sees Juliet, "and her beauty makes even that charnel house a feasting presence full of light." He bursts out:

"O, my love! my wife!
Death, that hath suck'd the honey of thy breath,
Hath had no power yet upon thy beauty.
Thou art not conquered; beauty's ensign yet
Is crimson in thy lips and in thy cheeks,
And death's pale flag is not advanced there,
Ah, dear Juliet, I will stay with thee,
Here will I set up my everlasting rest.
Eyes look your last!
Arms, take your last embrace!
And lips, O, you
The dews of breath, seal with a righteous kiss
A dateless bargain to engrossing death."

He takes the poison and drinks it to his love. In the meantime the friar, apprehensive of the consequences if Romeo should learn of Juliet's death from some outside source, hastens to the churchyard. He reaches the tomb about half an hour after Romeo has taken his life, and just as Juliet awakens. Calmly and sweetly she comes out of her long sleep, and asks the friar: "Where is my Romeo?"

"Thy husband in thy bosom lies there dead;
Come I'll dispose of thee
Among a sisterhood of holy nuns."

"Juliet: Go, get thee hence,
What's here? a cup, clos'd in my true love's hand?
Poison, I see, hath been his timeless end,
O, churl! drunk all, and left no friendly drop
To help me after? I will kiss thy lips;
Haply some poison yet doth hang on them."

She hears a voice,

"Then I'll be brief,
O, happy dagger!
This is thy sheath; then rest, and let me die."

The sad tragedy is finished. The "star-crossed lovers" have fulfilled their destiny. Sweetly they rest in each other's arms. No more obstacles now to their love; death unites them in loving embrace, and over their grave the family hatred is extinguished, and Capulet and Montague clasp hands in mutual sorrow.

It seems like cruelty to criticise this story of Romeo and Juliet. It is like putting the cold steel to one's own heart, to dissect their lovely characters. Juliet is a full-blown rose; how can we bear to mar its beauty by plucking out a leaf here, and a leaf there? Romeo is like a larch tree, with its drooping plumes of soft green. Each character is complete in its own beauty. All that passionate, yet constant love, child-like simplicity, yet womanly dignity and physical grace, and such sweetness can produce, is found in Juliet. She seems all the more beautiful in contrast with her haughty, imperious mother, and the vulgar, impudent nurse. We seem to be able to look into her heart and understand her hopes and fears even better than we do Romeo's. At first, Romeo is the forlorn and love-sick young man. We have no sympathy with his groanings and sighings. But after he meets Juliet, what a change! All the nobility of his nature is aroused. There is a certain dignity even in his most passionate words. His true manhood is seen when he hears of Juliet's death. No dilly-dallying now over the beauty of the morn, and the loveliness of the night. Such poetical effusions are set aside, forgotten in the depths of his anguish. Juliet also becomes the true woman when she learns of Romeo's banishment, and her woman's dignity asserts itself when the nurse reproaches Romeo, and counsels her to marry Paris. The skillful setting of the minor characters, the arrangement of the plot, and the tragic end of the lovers are all in harmony with the theme of the drama, passionate love. Every minute detail too, is made subservient to this. It is not a tale of terror and horror; even in the sad deaths of the lovers we feel the power of love's all-pervading sweetness. We would not have the end otherwise, although we can foresee the fatal catastrophe. Shakespeare can depict all kinds of passion, can por-

tray all kinds of characters, he can paint the stern, vigorous-minded, wicked Lady Macbeth, and he can touch our hearts with the simple, childlike sweetness of Juliet. He can show the intellectual keenness of a Hamlet, and can represent the ardent, passionate nature of Romeo. In "Romeo and Juliet" Shakespeare wishes to show the deliverance from a fancied to a real love. The whole drama is an outburst of youth, love, and poetical sweetness. Through it there runs a sad wail of blasted hopes and blighted love, which deepens the rich glow of love's passion.

The Study of the Constitution.

The reason why every citizen should have a thorough knowledge of our constitution is because this nation is a republic, and because citizenship is sovereignty. The people must make, interpret, execute and obey the laws.

It is not sufficient for the maintenance of our institutions that the people be moral, thoughtful and industrious. They must also comprehend and embody the spirit of their government. Poets, philosophers, scientists, preachers, all educated men should be in some degree statesmen.

The fundamental principles of statesmanship are in the constitution. Men of business, farmers, mechanics and laborers should know their duties and responsibilities as citizens. The elements of such knowledge are supplied by the constitution. The ignorant and vicious must be taught to read, think and feel. They must be taught patriotism, loyalty and the constitution. The constitution is the fountain of our democracy, from which have sprung the honor and prosperity of the nation. It is the source of our laws, the expression of our liberty, the creed of our national faith. It is our political axis, designed and adopted by the people. It is their duty now to understand and foster their own work, that it may become still greater and more beneficent.

As the nation grows in population and prosperity, the functions of her government will be multiplied, and will require more wisdom and better judgment for their management.

The people cannot safely leave exclusive knowledge of government and the country's needs to men who are trained in politics for selfish purposes. In such a possibility lies the greatest danger to a republic, and it is the one which is always most imminent.

Our government especially must guard against ignorance and political apathy among the people, and inordinate selfishness among its officers.

The country is so broad, its interests are so diver-

sified, and its population is so various, as to make it very difficult for the people to grasp the mighty meaning of their trust. There is a strong tendency toward sectionalism. Our ideas of legislation are too likely to be limited by the interests of our own state. We see these so clearly that the interests of many other states, which may conflict with those of our own, are obscured. We are unable to see the justice of laws which do us an injury, though they may be very beneficial to the rest of the country.

This prejudice, selfishness and ignorance, in fact, every element which endangers the safety of the government, can be overcome by nothing less than devoted loyalty. This loyalty must proceed from a true comprehension of the aims and spirit of the government, and the basis of such comprehension is the constitution.

This instrument, a knowledge of which is so salutary to our institutions, should be taught in every school in the land. Its principles should be implanted in the minds of working men by the addresses of patriotic speakers. If the laboring classes could become possessed of a few sound ideas on political economy and constitutional law, there might be less inclination to the use of dynamite. It is possible that good sense might take the place of explosives, and react with sufficient force to shatter communism and socialism.

Aside from the necessity of the study of the constitution, it may be regarded as a model combining the principles of representative constitutional government. In this respect it is worthy the careful attention of every student of law and politics.

Liberty and justice, equality and protection, are so truly balanced and harmonized that jealousies have been suppressed, and the national idea has been developed to an almost invincible strength.

The practical obliteration of state lines and the gradual growth of a strong, national spirit is the glory of our country's achievements, and it is due to the marvelous adaptation and sufficiency of the constitution. When we consider that our country extends from the Arctic to the torrid regions and from the Atlantic to the Pacific, including in its population almost every race, with interests as diverse as its climate or its people, we may form some idea of the scope of the constitution which has blended such diversity into perfect harmony.

The constitution should be studied by citizens that they may become truer, more loyal and more intelligent. It should be studied by scholars as the embodiment of the highest and most perfectly adjusted principles of republicanism.

G. W.

NEWS.

The Sophomore Exhibition.

None of the contests in declamation of the sophomore classes has been a greater success than that of the class of '85 on the evening of May 17. Some members had been very loth to participate in the exercises, but the success of their exhibition must have convinced them of the uselessness of their objections. The audience room of the First Baptist church was filled with friends and students. Miss Henson sang well, and although she had met with a serious accident she determined to fulfil her engagement. The audience showed their admiration of her pluck by the enthusiastic reception they gave to her when she appeared. The exhibition as a whole was charming. The selections were well chosen and exhibited considerable variety. The speakers were almost entirely free from affectation and attempt at dramatic display. The restriction to didactic prose seemed to us to have been violated, and as a consequence there was less tedium than usual at these exhibitions and the audience showed no signs of weariness throughout all of the exercises. The first speaker, Mr. Newcomb, was at ease on the stage, and earnest in his delivery. His selection, "The Constitution and the Union," was one in which it was difficult to arouse interest. Mr. Newcomb was too lavish in the use of his voice. It was too high and sometimes harsh. If he had held himself in and evinced more reserve power the effect upon the audience would have been much better. Mr. Griffith has the qualities necessary for a good orator—ease, grace, a good voice, earnestness. He has besides been well trained, and his rendition of the "Scene at the Natural Bridge" could not have been better. He held the audience spell-bound as he described the danger of the adventurous youth. Miss Springer relieved the audience from the suspense in which the preceding speaker had held it breathless, and added variety to the exercises. She showed that she knew how to make "Brown Bread Cakes" in a charming manner. There were many opportunities for pretty little gestures. Her action was good, but she needs voice culture, and she lacked composure. It seemed to us that Mr. Hammond did not fully enter into the spirit of his selection, "The Bible." Mr. Hammond has a good voice and, with the exception of a little stiffness in his gestures, had a fine delivery. Mr. Brockway in describing the "Character of Henry Clay" did well. He needs training in order more fully to forget himself and move his audience. Miss Faulkner brought before us earnestly

and touchingly the wrongs and heroic sufferings of "Joan of Arc." The speaker was natural and graceful, and wholly without affectation. She has a good voice and seemed to be free from that embarrassing sense of self-consciousness which so many speakers exhibit. "The Curse of Regulus" was the finest selection of the evening. It gave opportunity for the display of biting sarcasm and indomitable Roman pride. Mr. Larned could not have chosen anything better adapted to him. He seemed the very personation of that proud Roman. The speaker showed much skill in the interpretation of the piece. The decision of the judges giving the first prize to Mr. Larned, the second to Miss Faulkner and honorable mention to Mr. Griffith was well received.

COLLEGE HUMOR.

WHAT kind of a paper resembles a sneeze? Tissue.—*Ex.*

THE latest mathematical question runs as follows: Two girls met three other girls and all kissed. How many kisses were exchanged?—*Ex.*

ONE Prep. in the Rockford Seminary to another: "If you could have three wishes granted, what would they be?" Second Prep. (quickly): "Health, wealth and a good-looking husband."

RATHER suggestive: An inefficient Detroit choir scored a hit the other day by singing a hymn, the closing lines of which were:

"Oh Lord, we 'give ourselves away,'
'Tis all that we can do."—*Ex.*

LECTURE on the rhinoceros: Professor—I beg you to give me your individual attention. It is absolutely impossible that you can form a true idea of this hideous animal unless you keep your eyes fixed on me.—*Ex.*

A MINISTER laboring in the mountain districts of Fayette county, West Virginia, gives the following conversation he had with a woman there recently:

"Is your husband at home?"

"No; he is coon hunting. He killed two whopping big coons last Sunday."

"Does he fear the Lord?"

"I guess he does, 'cause he always takes his gun with him."

"Have you any Presbyterians around here?"

"I don't know if has killed any or not. You can go behind the house and look at the pile of hides to see if you can find any of their skins."

"I see that you are living in the dark."

"Yes; but my husband is going to cut a window soon."

THE VOLANTE.

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UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, JUNE, 1883.

It cannot be denied that the advantages of attending college in a great metropolis are very much superior to those elsewhere, yet, if a student does not guard himself against an abuse of these opportunities, they will tend rather to distract than to expand his mind. Any student, and especially the city student, needs to use a great deal of discretion as to how he shall spend his leisure moments.

The city, it is true, is the centre of learning, of art and of industry. It is there that men of the rarest gifts in all departments of learning find the greatest demand for their services. Seldom do you find a man who has reached a climax in any profession who did not choose the city in which to gain his reputation.

There would be no incentive to the highest degree of excellence without an object in view, a reward to be obtained. The artist would not spend years of patient toil in painting a single picture, if there were no people to admire it and to appreciate the result of his labors. Milton and Shakespeare would never have been acknowledged as the best of poets if they had made themselves known only among the illiterate.

In like manner the orator or musician would be but second or third rate were there no people sufficiently cultivated to discriminate between the best and next best.

Where then do these men seek more than all other places to make themselves known? It is in the city. Far would we be from implying that people outside the city are not highly educated, but it is in the city that learning of all kinds has reached a culminating point. There you will find the highest type of excellence in all departments. It is in a city, and especially an American city, where is exhibited the greatest variety of human character.

People of different nationalities, of different de-

grees of refinement and education, of different beliefs and habits of thought, are continually before us.

It is then a great advantage for a student who wishes to rise in the world to be placed in the city where he can be eyewitness of what is daily occurring, both in public and private life, and to be in contact with so many different minds which are superior to his own. By this his own mind expands; and he is able to take a comprehensive view of life. And yet there is many a student, of right intention, eager to make the best possible use of his time, who makes a great mistake in attempting to avail himself of all the opportunities which the city affords without pausing to consider how well he is doing his regular college work.

If there is to be a popular lecture in the vicinity, he deems it of the highest importance to listen to it, even at the expense of some college duty. If there is to be some special theatrical performance, he deems it highly important to attend that, because it is a rare occasion.

These rare occasions become numerous, and before he is aware, he is cramming his mind with a great variety of subjects. That which he attempts to acquire tends rather to distract his mind than to benefit him; by attempting to grasp more than he has the capacity to contain, his mind becomes unfit for deeper thought and reflection. He becomes superficial; in attempting to know everything he becomes proficient in nothing. Though a student in the city has peculiar advantages, it is only by the greatest self-denial and the strongest resolution that he can make the proper use of them. If he wishes to excel in anything, he must be content to remain comparatively ignorant of a great many things. While he is in college, college work should be attended to first of all, and then, though there are opportunities outside the college which may be of inestimable value to him, they should be indulged in but sparingly. College life should be, to a certain extent, a retired life. If you wish to scale the height of a mountain, before reaching its base you may have hills to cross, thickets to penetrate, and a wearisome journey to go through.

So it is in life; if you wish to make your mark, before beginning to rise there lies before you a preparatory work, and while accomplishing this you must be content to remain secluded, to a great extent, from the outside world. The student who has learned to apply himself to the regular college work, and allows his mind to be drawn aside by outside attractions only so far as his best judgment dictates, has acquired such habits of thought and action as will insure to him success in after life.

THE best teacher, the one whose instruction is the most beneficial to his students, is the teacher who is ever devising some new plan or method of work. No matter how earnest and determined a young person may be, he is apt to give way to his natural inclinations and not apply himself more studiously than he finds necessary to maintain his position in the class-room. If the student knows that the professor will begin with Mr. A's end of the class, and he himself will have a certain portion, it is impossible for him not to slight other portions of the lesson, if not as a general thing, at least occasionally, when outside attractions are very strong. But if the teacher is wide-awake, always devising some new and instructive exercise for the recitation, the student naturally catches the enthusiasm, and is obliged to be active and wide-awake likewise. One new method is being introduced to some extent at the present time in our western colleges, that is the lecture system, and it is one which is not fully appreciated by our students, we have thought. Too little care has been taken in the preparation for this exercise, and too little attention given to the lectures when delivered. In the opinion of the writer, the best way to pursue many of the studies of the college course, especially in the junior and senior years, is by lectures. Many of the text-books we use are so narrow, necessarily so, perhaps, and treat the subjects considered either without clearness and conciseness, or without the enthusiasm and spirit which the subject demands. Lectures delivered by a competent professor, preceded by a careful reading on the part of the students, and followed by a discussion in the class-room, are at once the most instructive and most interesting method of pursuing many of the higher studies. A few examples may illustrate this point. Take the subject of psychology. The text-book now used in the college, Porter, is acknowledged by the instructor, not a most excellent one but the best for the purpose that can be found. Clearness and conciseness, two essentials of a good text-book, are sadly wanting in this work, and we have often said to ourselves, as the able teacher in that department by a few of his clear sentences was able to remove the difficulties of his students, "would it not be better if the lecture system were adopted in this department?" Perhaps that would not be the most advantageous method, but we are sure of one thing, the subject would be more clearly presented than in the book now in use.

English literature is one of those studies in which the text-books are entirely inadequate to furnish any true knowledge of the subject. It is the inspiration

which comes from being in contact with a living teacher, who is thoroughly imbued with love for the noble works of his mother tongue, that will make a true student of literature. The dullest student cannot but be enthused by such subjects as our literature affords. First awakened by the words of admiration or censure of a competent critic, the scholar almost unconsciously learns both to appreciate and to judge of the merits of great authors, and to express his thoughts clearly and forcibly. During the past year the lecture course has been adopted in this department to the great delight and profit of the few who have been permitted to enjoy its privileges, and we hope that those who are to come after, having had enough drill in this method to become accustomed to it, will appreciate still more than the class this year has done, the great opportunity that is afforded them. One of the most important parts of this system is taking notes, and because practice is necessary to do it effectively, some neglect this part of the work, which decreases the benefit in a great degree.

The discussion of the topics by the class is the most important and most profitable exercise of all. It is the studies we have discussed most carefully with one another that we remember with the greatest pleasure. A few years ago the class under Prof. Olson, reading the "Antigone" of Sophocles, was very much interested in the characters of the drama, and considerable discussion arose among the scholars, both in and out of the class-room. What was the result? Those students always remember that study as one of the most delightful exercises of their course.

MR. F. R. SWARTWOUT and Mr. E. Dillard will go as representatives of the Young Men's Christian Association of the University of Chicago, to the Twenty-fifth International Convention of the various associations of the United States and Canada, to be held at Milwaukee, Wis., May 16-20. In connection with this convention will be held the Fourth International Conference of the Young Men's Christian Association. Should the delegates return before this goes to press, we will try and have an account of the convention in another place.

At the last meeting of the Student's Association the Managing Committee for the Washington Supper reported \$10 in the treasury. The Association generously voted this amount into the treasury of the Oratorical Association. A resolution was offered to unite the two Associations, but failed to pass. The Association then came to the term's election, when it reelected the same corps of officers.

COMMUNICATIONS.

The editors are not responsible for opinions expressed in communications.
May 21, 1883. ELLA F. HAIGH, Chairman of the Staff.

Dolce Far Niente.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE VOLANTE:

"I think I never before listened to such fruitless conversation as you and your boon companions did regale yourselves and the neighbors with to-night!" Thus had my dear Babbette spoken, with solemnity in her tone and the hair brush in her uplifted hand.

I had attempted to turn the tide of her thoughts by bending, with (literally) touching anxiety, towards the mirror, and, lifting one of the "raving ringlets," had inquired of Ariel and his legions, "if I didn't have the bulge on the 'Langtry.'"

Babbette had seated herself on an ottoman, and in silence had brushed her withered maple locks. "Posing for the Lorelei?" I had ventured. She was mad. "Dearest Babbette," incidentally experimenting with David Swing's method of chasing up and down the gamut. "Dearest Babbette, that lofty, memory-stirring converse is desirable when youth meets youth, is open to debate, but that it is possible is by no means evident."

Her reply contained (besides much that was uninteresting) an elaborate disapproval of the unprofitable staples in my *marché de mots*.

Now as I sat in the sunny kitchen, beside a basket of apples and a knife (brought to this *rencontre* by a praiseworthy and unavoidable inclination to make dumplings), this hortative invitation to sport henceforth amid the mental deeps of society recurred to me, and I pondered deeply. I tried to convince myself that feminine giddiness and "gushousness" in conversation were "separable accidents" (logically speaking), lightly floating about the mind in all the delicate glory of a "coa vestis," imparting a providential shading to the intellectual graces which might otherwise bewilder.

That I was becoming desperately frivolous and light-minded, I could not believe, as I looked almost tearfully into the vista of pantry, and beheld each shelf spread with the most tender, new-peach blow-potato shade of paper which hung from the edge like a founce of rich lace. By my paralyzed thumb, the ingenuity required to make most exquisite Puleto di Venezia is to that which I expended forming on that paper, with geometrical exactness, circles, parallel lines, parallelograms, parasols and unparallelled monstrosities, as the skill needed to make pretzels is to that which is indispensable in the preparing of—apple dumplings.

I seized the knife in one hand and an apple in the

other, when suddenly I saw a fly, an enormous fly, a fly the size of our most honored Greek professor's rage (when he gets blue-Monday mad), stepping with an improved Newmarket march along the confines of my apron. I was horror-struck! There was a big drop of honey on the vine-strewn surface of my pinafore, which in my store-room peregrinations had become lodged there, and which I had contemplated enjoying when I should have a knife to remove it neatly. Now, like an Israelite trooping to Canaan, this fly, with an Anna-Dickinson-as-Claude-Melnotte stride, made for the honey. I had always an uncanny desire to observe the expression in a fly's eyes, and here was an opportunity. Evidently dreading lest he might be the Moses of his generation, he took a flying leap into what must have seemed to him like a Grimm magic well.

He looked up at me appealingly, and the pathetic misery was worthy of Mrs. O'Leary on the ruins of Chicago. "Eat thy way, thou Titan!"

He cast down his eyes, sighed, and began. From sheer sympathy I took a bite of the apple.

Now, if somebody would only come with whom I could begin the reform advocated by that Robespierre in banged hair and petticoats.

"O, for the realms of childhood as of yore," wailed the prisoner, sweetly.

"Mehercules, oi have an oideya!" I proclaimed, striking the knife into the skeleton of what was once a yellow harvest apple. Hercules scratched his ear in derision. "I will reform! I'll begin this very night. But I must rest my brain now. You shall be company."

This seemed to strike him favorably. He evidently harbored the fancy that company could depart when it so chose. "Who'll you be?" and at the same moment I hurled my apple core, with some skill and much vigor, in the direction of the coal scuttle. Immediately there arose upon the morning quiet a noise and confusion which might attend the explosion of a Cati(n)line conspiracy, and forth from behind the stove in solemn procession marched M. F. Ossoli, Philina, Mignon, and bringing up the rear Barbarossa and Brignoli. I did not heed their apparent craving to have me "transmogrified" into a saucer of milk, with designs of a penal nature.

"Oh, let me be that charming girl that lunched with you the other day, when you got so mad at me for being in the sugar-bowl."

"Just the digit! Now say something, you myriapod—sexiapod," I wheedled.

"But what shall I say? I have nothing to say," he buzzed, hopelessly.

"Couldn't be better; that's the first requisite," I said, to reassure him.

"How too sweet! Dear me!" Silence.

"Say on, or I'll trundle you into Nirvana."

"Dear me."

"Poor dear."

To be continued among ourselves.

EDITORS OF THE VOLANTE:

A few days ago the request came to me to write a "long" communication to the VOLANTE. I am always glad to welcome the old college paper to my western home, as it takes me back to the old associations of the years gone by, and I shall therefore make the attempt to comply with the request. The first question that naturally arises in our minds when we think of any of our friends who have gone to distant lands, or to a distant part of our own land, is, "I wonder what sort of a place it is out there." This question I will answer in part at least. Nebraska, like all the western states, has a soil and surface peculiarly its own. It is not like Iowa, Missouri, nor even like its near neighbor, Kansas. One of the peculiar features is the buffalo grass, a short grass that grows rapidly for a few weeks in the spring, and then apparently dies. It furnishes, however, excellent cattle feed, not only all summer, but all winter as well. Large herds of cattle are wintered upon buffalo grass alone. It is short, fine, and covers the ground more thickly than ordinary grass. Horace Greeley once said of it, "a sort of fuzz covers the prairies." Buffalo grass, like the animal from which it derived its name, and like the noble red man, disappears before advancing civilization, and is supplanted by the prairie grass of Iowa and Illinois. Prairie fires are the real thing here, and are no longer seen as in a geography dimly, but too often face to face. They run for miles over the land, burning the grass, timber claims, hay stacks, and occasionally houses and barns. Speaking of houses and barns calls to mind another peculiarity of Nebraska. The houses are sometimes dug out of the side hill and covered with a sod roof. Sometimes they are made of sod entirely. The sod is cut out in pieces about one foot square, and laid up as bricks. This year and last year have seen many frame buildings taking the place of the sod huts. The country in the Republican valley is broken, and is quite rough for seven or eight miles north or south of the river, and then you reach as beautiful prairie land as Illinois or any other state can boast of. Crops are better on the prairie than in the valley, as the soil is deeper there and less sandy. Broom corn is raised exten-

sively in this immediate vicinity. The climate is healthful, the atmosphere light, dry and clear. Sudden changes of temperature are the rule, rendering colds and those ills immediately dependent upon colds the prevailing diseases. The winds are nearly constant, and are from the northwest or southwest. During the months of July and August there are usually a few days when the "hot winds" blow. These must be felt to be understood. If you are near a stove on baking day and chance to open the oven door, the hot air that rushes out is no higher in temperature than Nebraska hot winds. These winds injure crops very much. They are, however, becoming less frequent as the country is settled and the rain belt comes further west. Water is quite plentiful in the valleys, but on the prairie wells are usually from 180 to 240 feet deep. This is a great stock country, owing to the small amount of capital required to prepare stock for market. I hope my showing of our state will not discourage the agriculturally inclined from obeying the old injunction, "Go west, young man." Crops were bountiful last year, and promise well now. I hear some one say, Can't he write about anything but land, cows, hogs, etc.? I might tell you of the churches, schools and politics, but it would render my letter too "long." I am obeying the example of my *Alma Mater* "work." I teach six classes in the academy, preach twice every two weeks, correspond for two educational papers, run an educational column in our town paper, scheme in politics a little, because of the old habit formed by three years in college. I worked up and got on the programme of the state association this spring, having been in the state but six months. Cheeky? well, yes. Where did I learn it? In Chicago University. Long may she wave triumphant over insurance companies and all other enemies. In closing I will say to young men who desire to grow, Come west. Schools need you, churches need you, all good causes need you. Society is refined out here, and you need not think you are to come as missionaries to the heathen; better stay away than come with that idea. Come determined to do the best you can, and you will find less competition and a better appreciation of your services than in the East. People are hungering for just what you can give them. Come, make yourself useful, and make for yourself a name.

THE committee on the union of the Oratorical and the Student's Associations are as follows: F. R. Swartwout, Geo. E. Newcomb, F. J. Walsh, T. B. Collins, C. L. Geiger.

PERSONALS.

- '82. S. B. Randall is settled at McLean, Ill.
Mr. John Forward is settled at Lexington, Ill.
'81. Mr. D. B. Cheney is settled at Stillwater, Minn.
Mr. L. D. Temple, of N. Y., will graduate with the class of '83.
'83. Mr. C. V. Thompson has lately sustained the loss of his mother.
'83. J. E. Cornell will graduate from Ann Arbor University in June.
'85. C. A. Pratt is in Stephens Polytechnic Institute, Hoboldt, A. J.
'83. Mr. E. W. Dickerson will graduate from Rochester University this year.
'80. W. H. Alsip is attending to the brick manufacturing business for his father.
'8-. Minnie Paynter is seen once in a while on the muddy streets of the Garden City.
'81. Wm. Naylor will go to the Psi Upsilon convention held at Albany, May 23d inst.
Messrs. Geo. Wright and John Russell are proprietors of the Metropolitan Press Bureau.
'85. Mr. Charles Henson expects to go to New Jersey to take a course in civil engineering.
'80. Mr. Calvin Johnson is preaching at Somanauk, Ill., and may go to Dakota this spring.
Mr. W. M. Corkery, of Komoka, Canada, Woodstock College, will also cast in his lot with '83.
'85. Mr. Hammond will go as a delegate to Albany from the Omega Chapter of the Psi Upsilon Fraternity.
'82. Mr. O. P. Seward graduates at the Law School this June, after which he will go to Europe, where he will study for two years.
'85 and '86. Mr. Frank Walsh and Mr. Ted Hammond are going to Dakota for the summer vacation at which time they will take a tree claim.
'85. Johnny Crawford was up to see some of his old chums a short time ago. He is now in a wholesale hardware store on Randolph street.
'81. Ora P. Seward and '82 Lucius Weinschenk are charter members of the newly organized chapter of Phi Delta Phi at the Union College of Law.
'84. The junior class of the Union College of Law will banquet at the Sherman House about the 1st of June. Tickets may be had from Lucius Weinschenk, chairman of the committee.
Before departing on his European trip, Prof. Fraser will finish two articles for the Encyclopædia Britannica. The articles are on the respective subjects "American Universities" and "Utah."
'82. Mr. A. W. Fuller preached a sermon before the First Baptist church of Burlington, May 6. That church is needing an assistant pastor, and it is possible that Mr. Fuller will be the assistant for Mr. Spinney.

Again two of Professor Griffith's pupils took off prizes in speaking. It is unnecessary to comment on Prof. Griffith's success in training pupils, if they will only come to him in time, and then do a little work themselves.

We are interested to see that Prof. H. M. Dickson, who has given our University students much good and faithful elocutionary drill at times, is to give his Sixteenth Elocutionary Recital, to be participated in by his pupils, May 21st, at the Academy of Fine Arts.

'81. Mr. Wm. M. Ege made a call on the University boys last week, on his way to the Y.M.C.A. convention at Milwaukee. We were all very much pleased to see Mr. Ege and have an old-fashioned chat with him. William is the same loyal fellow to his *Alma Mater* and to Christian work.

'86. Mr. J. M. King, brother of R. S. King, was recently married to Miss Etta Olmsted, of Waterloo, Iowa. Many of John's old chums are surprised that he should thus early have broken away from all the endearments of college life, but they send him and his their kindest wishes, and say they are hastening to follow in his footsteps.

LOCALS.

- MOSQUITOS!
SOPHOMORE Ex!
SENIOR Vacation.
SENIOR essays all off.
JUNIOR orations taking off the *bun*.
It takes Harper and Fuller to ride the bicycle.
WHAT has become of honors for commencement?
WHAT is affecting the plaster in Prof. Howes' room? The attraction of the ladies.
FOUR French maidens all in a row. When this plaster came tumbling about them, did it hurt them? No.
PREP to a Junior.—"What do the Seniors do during their vacation?" Junior—"Play 'jacks,' of course."
THE K.K.K. Sepulchre has just finished a serial, a very thrilling story, entitled "Rescued by a Kiss," in five chapters.
PROFESSOR in Constitutional Law.—"Please give the 10th amendment to the constitution." Student.—"I did not learn them in *their order*." Prof.—"You should learn them *in order* for us to be sure you know them."
PROF. HOWES would convey the impression that courtship in France, though more restrained than in America is not on that account more desirable, but on the contrary the American free and easy, off-hand manner of courting has the more salutary influence on matrimonial life.
It is a remarkable fact that one of the most interesting and impressive orations given at the Seminary Commencement was by a colored gentleman. By many of the audience he was considered first. This

shows what possibilities there are for this race so long kept in a state of degradation.

TRI KAPPA has changed the date of its anniversary exercises to May 22. The only changes in the programme will be that in place of a declamation by Mr. J. Elsdon Miss Lizzie Heinemann will recite. And instead of music by the Tri Kappa Quartettes, it will be by Miss Ross, an old Tri Kappa member.

THE Athenæum Literary Society will hold its anniversary exercises May 29. The following will be the programme for that occasion: Declamation, Mr. W. L. Burnapp; Essay, Miss Ella F. Haigh; Oration, Saum Song Bo; Paper, Mr. T. Hammond; Debate, F. Larned vs. F. Walsh; Music by the Quartette and Misses Browning and Tanner.

THE Oratorical Association met May 11, and received reports on finances. Mr. Geo. Newcomb, chairman of the committee, reported progress, and had the cash to show for it, but he wishes those members who still owe, to feel no reluctance in paying up any of their back dues, for he has not quite enough to square the bills of the Association yet. He kindly requests the treasurer to solicit all dues possible, and thus help him square all accounts before the close of the term.

THE Phi Psis gave Miss Bessie S. Faulkner a surprise at her home on the evening of the 18th. The company came together about 8:30. There being some ten couples present, a very happy evening was passed (such as Phi Psis can have) in spite of the inclemency of the weather without. Providence be thanked, however, the storm ceased, the clouds broke away and the silver moonbeams shone down upon every loyal son and daughter of the Phi Psi as they homeward "bent their way."

In consequence of Professor Fraser's leaving for Europe before the summer vacation should begin, and therefore having to part with the Junior class before its term of work had expired, he saw fit to make amends for his early departure by favoring the Junior as well as the Senior class, with a formal farewell address. In this address he gave us his idea of the relationship which should exist between student and professor. He considered it to be much the same as that between child and parent. He considered that the class should be on intimate terms with one another and with the professor, and that this intimacy should approach as nearly as possible to that which exists in the family circle; that there should be no reserve, but a perfect freedom in criticism, marked by that common courtesy which pervades the best regulated household. He sought to impress upon us in very appropriate and touching language, the debt of gratitude a class owes its *Alma Mater*; but that the student's work has only begun when he leaves the college walls. He urged the pursuit of original investigation and topical reading as the best means to a symmetrical development of him who would become a proficient student. It would not be enough to say that the classes were pleased with his fervent address, but were greatly en-

thused and inspired. We all wish the professor a very prosperous and happy trip, and hope he may return to us well and rested next year.

THE Y.M.C.A. Convention at Milwaukee, May 16-20, was international, made up of delegates from all the States and the Canadas, with a few from England. And with about 500 who are engaged in such an inspiring work, the meetings were a source of inspiration. This work through the organization of Y.M.C.As. is one of the wonders of our time. It is embracing everything. Y.M.C.As. have had existence for about thirty years in America, and now in the compass of their activity, comprise organizations for young men in general business, for commercial travelers, for railroad men, for college students, for the colored men in the South, and lastly for the lumbermen of the North and the young men in the wheatfields of the Northwest. Such missionary effort was never put forth before.

There are in the United States 172 college associations, comprising 9,000 students, and in their work reaching 40,000 of the students of America. In the past year 1,500 conversions are reported from these associations. Many are reported to have decided to give their lives to the Christian ministry and to the foreign missionary work, directly through the meetings and work of these associations.

So much has been done and the work is going on. Illinois is the banner state in having nineteen college associations.

May the recitations be so arranged throughout the coming year, that our daily and Bible meetings can be held with best results.

TRI KAPPA held its annual Alumni exercises on the evening of May 5. The essay of the evening was read by Mr. S. B. Randall on the subject "Pyramids." The subject, though an old one, was handled in a pleasing and able manner. Prof. F. L. Anderson delivered the address of the evening on the familiar but abused subject "Politics." He handled the subject in a vigorous and able manner, at the same time relieving it of much of the unpleasantness which generally accompanies the treatment of this subject. Mr. Robins S. Mott delivered the oration on the subject "Pulpit Politics." Mr. Mott was quite himself in the independent treatment of the subject, giving the clergy some very plausible advice. His delivery was graceful and pleasing. Mr. L. Weinschenk read the Society Paper K.K.K. Sepulchre. The debate of the evening was between Messrs. G. W. Hall and E. T. Stone. Question: "Admitting that O'Donovan Rossa is the leader of the Irish-American agitations, and guilty of aiding and abetting the recent Irish outrages, should he be extradited upon demand from England?" The debate was interesting, animated and instructive and all will agree in calling it one of the most able debates delivered at the University in a long time. Prof. Stuart participated in miscellaneous debate and favored us with a good speech. The recitation was given by Miss Salina Seckendorf. The hearty applause on the part of the audience testified to the

merit of the rendering. Miss Stella Riordon entertained the audience with the music of the occasion, which met with a very generous appreciation.

EXCHANGES.

The editors of many of the college journals seem to be agreed that whatever unpleasant or burdensome duties editorship may have imposed upon them, the exchange department is an unfailing source of delight to every one who has any share in discharging its duties. We feel this to be true in our own brief experience at least.

The pleasure and profit we draw from perusing the pages of our visitors is akin to the delight we experience in conversation with a genial friend. The usefulness of college journalism is an indisputable fact. Its advantages are numerous, too numerous to be enumerated here; one particular advantage is the powerful influence it exerts in creating and fostering a feeling of sympathy for one another in all the colleges of the land. It gives the students of every American university and college that deserves the name, an opportunity to know what is being done in all the rest, and the enthusiasm that springs up in one institution is carried to all the rest, as the college paper is the medium through which the electric current flows from mind to mind and from heart to heart among all the aspirants for the higher education throughout our land.

Being a comparative stranger we would like to shake hands with all of our friends, but as time is short and space is wanting, besides our exchanges being numerous, we shall be obliged to be satisfied with a mere glance at many whose acquaintance we hope to make more intimate at another time.

It seems to be the opinion of some exchange editors that their columns should be devoted to abuse, sharp criticism or bitter sarcasm. We shall, however, simply endeavor in a friendly way to criticise faults, correct mistakes, resent injustices, and be exceedingly grateful for kind words.

A few of our exchanges make themselves ridiculous by stepping out of their legitimate sphere to offer comments and criticisms upon leading magazines of the country. This absurd conduct has been justly criticised already by our contemporaries, but still there are some who do not heed this friendly advice.

The "Ariel" greets us with the announcement that it will have a special edition issued containing the orations of all the interstate contestants at Minneapolis,

and all important news from the contest, and that copies may be obtained by forwarding fifteen cents.

The "Monmouth Collegian" comes to us filled with good things. The literary columns are graced with J. M. Ross' first-prize oration, subject, "The Political Mission of Puritanism." We extend our hearty congratulations to Monmouth on the victory which it has gained, and we hope that there will be no further occasion for dispute concerning the merited honors.

The "Round Table" is around again and proves to be a good square paper this issue. The oration of Mr. Kellogg, the second-prize orator, appears among the literary columns. In one of the editorials Beloit sets forth some of the disadvantages under which her representative was obliged to struggle. "What might have been done under more favorable circumstances, etc., etc., is of course left for the noble patriotism of Beloit's sons to suggest each to himself." The article "A Night's Experience" displays a very vivid imagination.

The "Campus" discusses in one of the editorials the well worn and much abused subject, "The Marking System." While we are somewhat in sympathy with the position which he takes, yet we think that he is a little too radical when he declares that "The marking system as usually conducted is a standing injustice, a prolific cause of fraud and deceit, and a certain destroyer of all true scholarship," this sounds a little too much like the resentment of a personal injury.

The "Notre Dame Scholastic" is on hand with its usual "Lists of Excellence," "Rolls of Honor," "Class Honors," etc. The "Scholastic" would be improved very much if those long lists of empty names were omitted from its columns. Such lists would be very becoming in a monthly report of a public school for the children to take to their pas and mas, but much out of place we think in the columns of a college journal.

The "Sunbeam" sparkles with many bright and golden thoughts. In the article entitled "Turning Points" we think the points are well taken and illustrated. "Reading" is also a well written article, and full of good suggestions to all thoughtful readers.

Hereafter the "Campus" will contain no exchange department. Thinking that there is a lack of interest in the exchange columns and wishing to follow the example of some few eastern colleges in this respect, it has abolished this department. The "Campus" does not, however, deny itself the right of answering any strictures that may be indulged in by other papers at its expense.

COLLEGE NEWS.

THE "Ajax" of Sophocles has been rendered at Cambridge University.

NOTRE DAME will produce the "Antigone" of Sophocles soon. The librettos are now in print.

THE colleges of Tennessee have organized an oratorical association. The first contest was held May 4.

THIRTEEN young men and women were indebted to Hon. Alex. Stephens for their education. To each of these a check was sent each month.

THE editors of the "Bates Student" and the "Niagara Index," are excused from regular work in rhetoric, on account of their editorial duties.

AMERICAN colleges derive two-fifths of their income from their students, while English colleges derive only one-tenth from the same source.

THE students of Knoxville, Tenn., refused to admit a colored student in one of their societies. Twenty-three have been expelled and fifty more have left.

AT Oxford and Cambridge a student is a Freshman only two months. Another peculiar feature of those institutions is the fact that examinations are held but twice in three years.

THE Yale College faculty has declared that hereafter, when Seniors or Sophomores injure a Freshman, the guilty parties shall be punished just as if they had injured a human being.

HARVARD has the largest library in the United States. It contains 185,000 volumes. Yale has 93,000, Dartmouth 60,000, Brown 52,000, Princeton 49,000, Cornell 40,000, University of Michigan 29,000, New York 20,000.

THERE has been a "non popery riot" at Oxford. About the end of February a band of students ejected from college the representative of a Romish propaganda, who had been making converts among them. The affair was planned by English high church men, and shows what liberty of conscience is allowed at Oxford.

A PENNSYLVANIAN boasts that he makes a soap that would "wash a politician's character white as snow." There must be a great deal of lye about that soap.

On spring, bee-yu-tiful spring,
You dear, delightful, muddy thing!
You've come again with your balmy breezes,
You've brought your mud, and slush, and rain;
Dear spring, every one's glad to see thee again,
Even if with every other breath he sneezes.—Rockford Sem.
(Iambic dimeter catalectic.)

Practical Education.

THIS is a commercial nation—90 per cent of the graduates of our literary colleges carry their talents into commercial life. The university best adapted to the requirements of our mercantile civilization is the university where commerce is studied as a science. Chicago, which is the centre of the commerce of the nation, is, appropriately enough, the seat of the greatest mercantile university of modern times, H. B. Bryant's Chicago Business College. Business men can always be furnished at this institution with stenographers, type-writers, book-keepers, bill clerks, etc. The prospects for the coming season are excellent.

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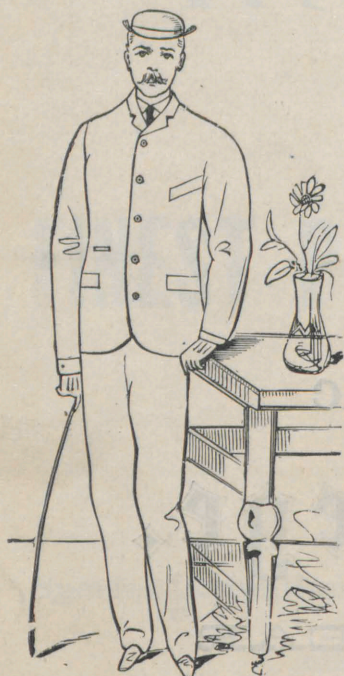
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