

UNION COLLEGE.

THE CONCORDIENSI

• VOL. IX. JANUARY, 1886. No. 3. •

THE CONCORDIENSI.

SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

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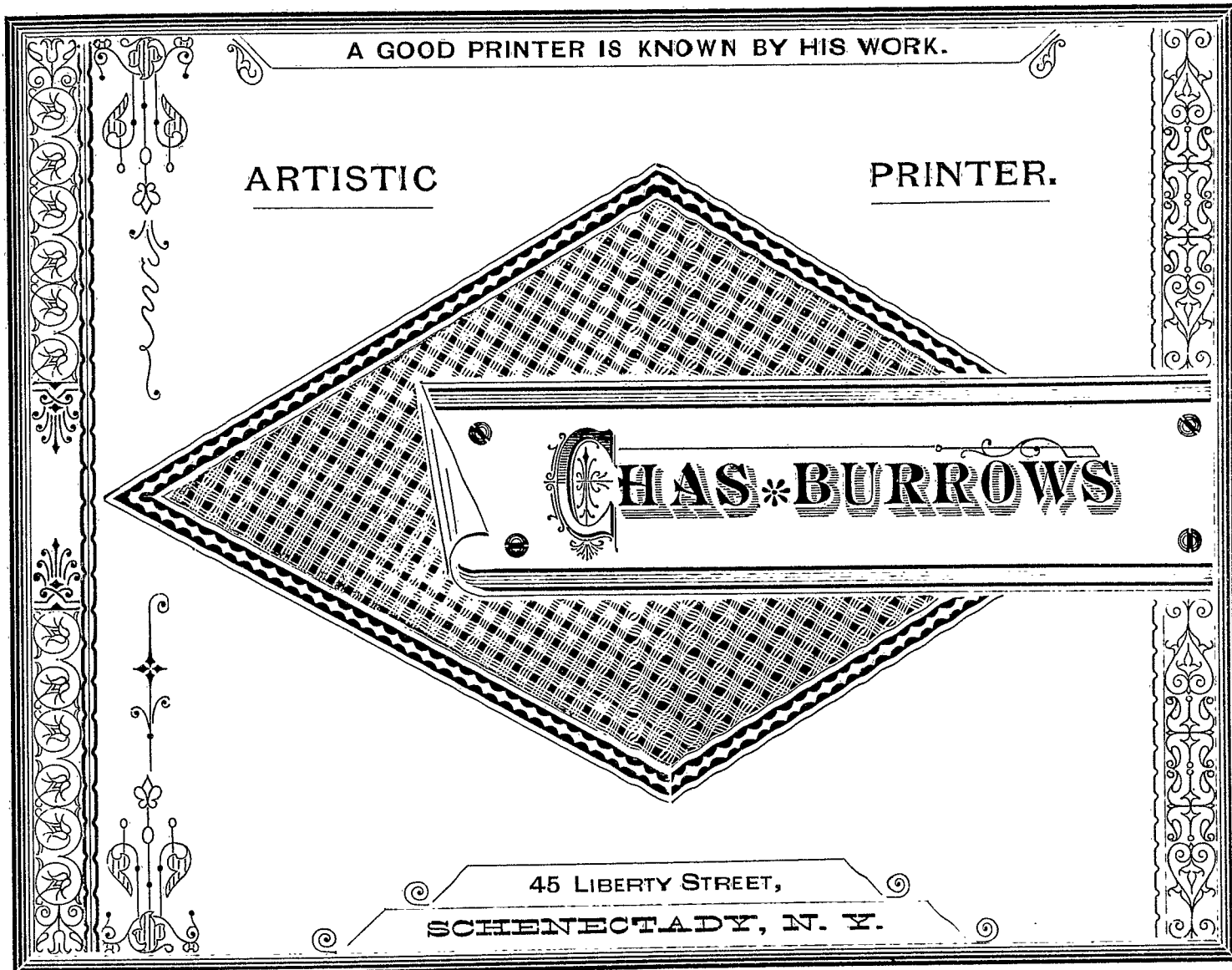
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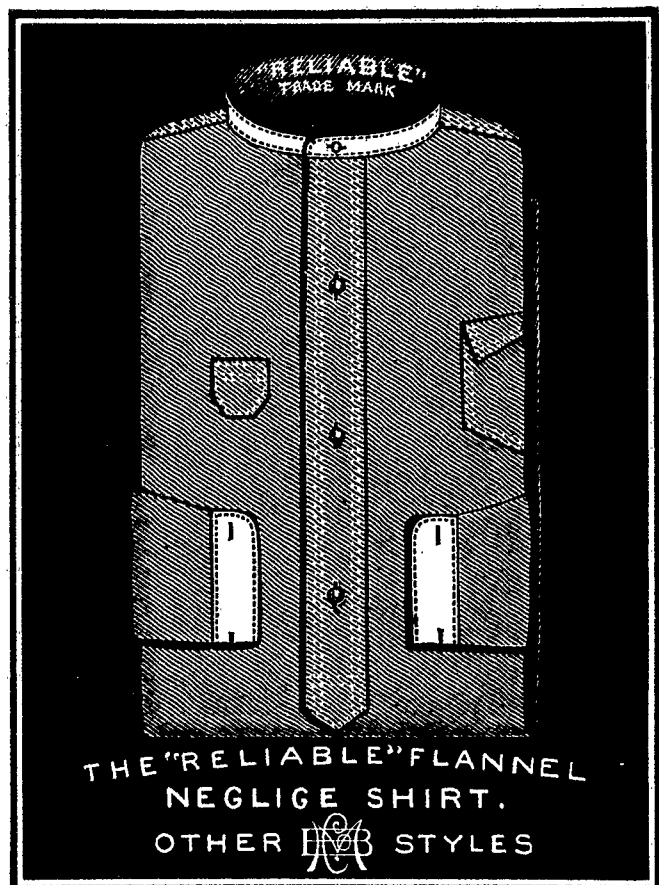
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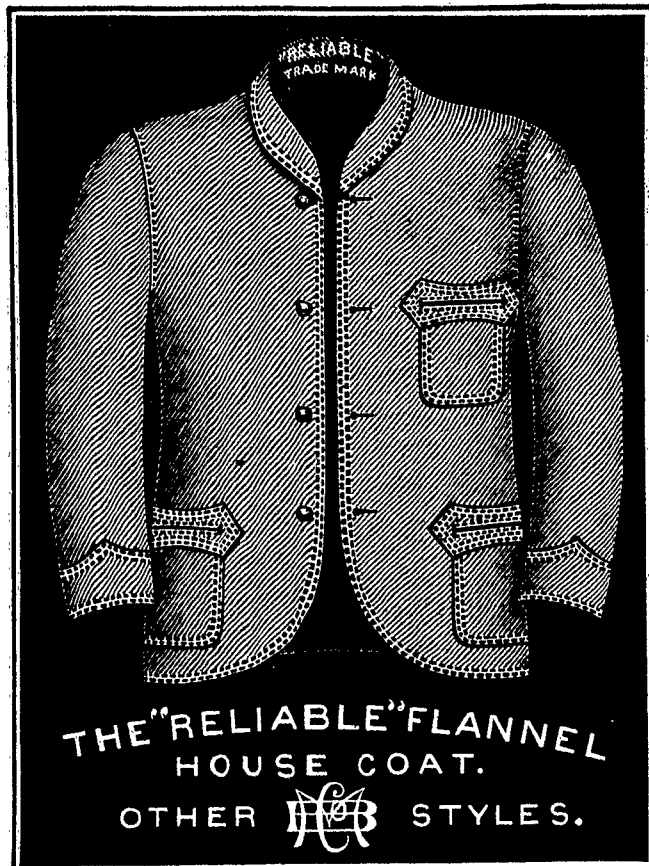
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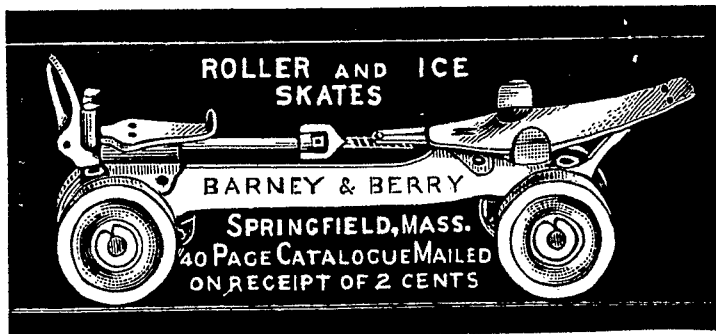
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THE CONCORDIENSIS

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EDITORIAL.

THE base ball association to which Union belongs, meets in convention at Syracuse on the 29th. The schedule for the coming season will be made out, and other necessary measures will probably be taken. While it is the duty of the delegates, in convention assembled, to transact all business, and to introduce all measures, there is no harm in making a suggestion right here. That is, to make some provision for a case similar to the backing-out of Rochester last year after taking their trip and receiving their fifty dollars to pay expenses from the different colleges with whom they played. Perhaps to compel Rochester to pay what is due the several nines before entering the association again would be unfair, but what we advocate is measures to prevent any nine from doing the same thing in the coming season.

WE think the Seniors are justified in finding fault with the examination in parliamentary rules that was imposed upon them. In the first place it has been customary to have this examination at the end of the second term. Then again, it seems that a special endeavor was made to select all the fine points of the rules for the examination. This appears all the more out of the way when we consider that the member of the faculty, who acts as instructor in this department has not shown himself equal to such an examination, and that he was understood by the class when he announced the examination to say that it would be of an entirely different character than what it turned out to be. Again, it seems to us, to be hardly right to have the class spend an hour a week in the Senate and then have those who had not taken any interest in the work during the term, by a streak of luck, in an examination which in extremely few particulars contained anything bearing upon the work done during the term, obtain the highest standings. If it is the desire of the professor in charge to become familiar with the fine points in parliamentary practice we think arrangements could be made for recitations once a week in Roberts' Rules of Order.

THE Literary societies here possess two large, and to a certain extent, quite valuable libraries, yet they are, at the most, used but very little. It has been suggested that they should be combined with that of the college. Such a course would at least make them available to a larger number of students, besides securing their preservation, and we think that it would be more convenient for the members of the two societies themselves. We are informed that such action has been taken in a number of other colleges with success. We would like to have our societies consider this matter.

THE new resolutions made by the Faculty are, without doubt, beneficial to both students and professors. Too often have men left college in the latter part of the course on account of accumulated conditions. When these conditions must be made up within a short period of time it compels the student either to drop back one year or to keep his work up. So when Senior year comes round he is spared the tremendous task of making up three years conditions in one, and is thus encouraged to make the most of his last year.

WITHOUT regard to the merit or demerit of the marking system when impartially followed, we wish to call attention to the many defects of the system, as practiced in this college, and the need of reform in this particular.

In the first place an observer notices that no two members of the faculty mark alike, which would tend to show in itself that most of the faculty are not just in their marking. Again it is a prominent fact that the marks in some departments, then as a whole, are higher than those in others, so that the student that takes one class of studies has a great advantage over those who take another class, in the contest for honors at the end of the course.

Next to consider particular instances, we have here one professor who seems to totally disregard the work done by the student. One instance forcibly illustrates the character of his marking. Not long ago a student took a subject one term and then dropped it, but the class continued for another term. When this student received his report for the second term he found his highest mark was on a subject he had n't taken at all.

Another professor makes his marks depend on the amount of flattery and taffy that is bestowed upon him, while still another will raise or lower a student's mark in proportion to the amount of abuse that he receives.

In another department any amount of good work will not overcome the effect of a bolt. However, the defects of this system here do not depend entirely upon the faculty. It is a common occurrence for a hard-working, honest stu-

dent to find him marked below a student of much less ability and industry because the latter has successfully cribbed in the recitations and examinations, and on the other hand it is equally as common for a really able student who, at the end of the term, has a thorough knowledge of the subject pursued, to stand much lower than an almost stupid fellow who has the constitution to spend hours in getting up daily recitations.

In the face of these facts it is almost ridiculous to claim that the marks give a fair expression of the ability of the student, and yet upon these marks depend scholarship and the stage honors at commencement.

There should be some remedy for this state of affairs and it should be applied immediately.

WE suppose that many tender epithets have been showered upon us at the non-appearance of our December number, but please to spare your fault finding till you locate a worthier victim. Don't pick on a poor, distracted college editor; for if there ever was a man, worthy of the most honeyed expressions, and most pitying commiseration, you will find him seated, with blue fingers, in the cheerless sanctum of the CONCORDIENSIS, trying to elicit some little warmth from a stove, which has not seen a fire for many a day, except on occasional impromptu affairs built from old exchanges, so dry that they burn like tinder. And we think the economically minded student would forgive us this extravagance, did he reflect on the little comfort which lightens an editor's journey in the *thirsty* pursuit of knowledge. So please don't grumble at us. Though we are just conceited enough to hold that we render the best possible services in consideration of the remuneration received; never more than a poor, weak joke at the thought of such fellow's presuming to edit a college journal, though it was not an office of our own seeking, but one which our respective classes pressed upon us; and, indeed, their appreciation of our ability was so great, that they would not even listen to our declining a berth in the sinking ship. But we are not a sinking ship by any means; we have only laid up for repairs, and

now that they have been obtained we shall endeavor to pursue the even tenor of our way. The real, hard fact is that just one-twentieth of our subscription list has thus far handed in the needful. So, if you have received no December number, don't grumble at all unless you belong to that honorable twentieth, and if you do belong to this noble, righteous band, don't grumble at us, but rather at your fellow subscribers, the nineteen-twentieth who have *forgotten* to remit.

The work of the Literary Editors of the present volume is worthy of the highest commendation, and it has been successful in a measure warranting a more substantial appreciation.

The Business Editor has also done some work with indifferent success (with a most euphemistic rendering of the word indifferent). Yet it is really more than can be expected that one man should dun some three hundred and fifty men without seriously neglecting his college work. On the other hand, if subscribers do not pay up promptly the business editor does not feel like taking the responsibility of issuing a number for which there is no certain means of paying the printer's bill.

Many of our subscribers, when asked to pay, deny their having ordered the paper. But in a college paper we are obliged to use the same list as was used the year before, and unless subscriptions are discontinued, they are transferred from one year's list to the next.

If you do not wish the CONCORDIENSIS simply refuse to take it from the post office and we are notified of the fact, but by continuing to take it you acknowledge yourself as a subscriber.

So, if those who receive this number, who have not already done so, will remit their subscription at their earliest convenience or discontinue the paper, they will confer a great favor on those who are striving to edit the little sheet which now so unworthily represents its great alma mater in a creditable manner. So we ask your pardon for this seeming neglect on our part, and hope you all will overlook the omission of one of our numbers.

BUSINESS EDITOR.

LITERARY.

"Homer's Farewell to the Delian Girls."

A TRANSLATION BY PROF. TAYLOR LEWIS.

(From "Notes" of a former student.)

"And now farewell to all of you! Yet still in other days
Remember me when next shall come some roamer of
the earth;

Some wandering, much-enduring bard, one who, perchance may ask,

'Who is it, girls, that sweetest sings of all the minstrel race

That hither come, and who is he in whom ye most delight?'

Then promptly answer every one, with kindly voice and smile,

'A blind old man it is who dwells in Chio's rocky isle.'"

—*Thucydides extract from Hymn to Apollo, chanted by Homer at Delian Festival.*

Dynamite and its Uses.

The train was quite full when I boarded it at Albany, but I had the good luck to find an empty seat before I had looked through the first car. As I sat down I noticed in front of me a figure that seemed familiar, and a moment later recognized Allen Shepard, an old acquaintance and former chum in a boarding school. Shepard was in business somewhere down along the Hudson, and, like myself, had started for home to spend the holidays. We had no more than shaken hands and exchanged greetings when he noticed a thin, shabby-genteel-Col.-Sellers-personage coming down the aisle, apparently looking for a seat. Now, the only vacant places in the car were beside Shepard and myself, so it was evident that one of us must take him in. He settled on Shepard, however, and depositing his grip on the floor sat down with a self-satisfied smile.

For a while Shepard and I kept up conversation and the thin-Col.-Sellers-gentleman listened, evidently much interested in all that was said. This annoyed Shepard, and he soon relapsed into silence and began to study his time-table. The Colonel was just as much interested in the time-table as he had been in our conversation, and looking over Shepard's shoulder began to read aloud the stations.

"Syracuse, Jordan, Weedsport, Port Byron, Clyde—I get off at Clyde," said the Colonel.

"O, you do!" said Shepard, "well, that's nice. Hope you will enjoy yourself."

Shepard said this with the same malicious twinkle in his eye that I had often noticed, years ago in school. The Colonel hardly knew what to say, so he just indulged in a particularly joyous smile, and then began to look as if he knew he had hurt some one's feelings and was anxious to make up for it. For twenty minutes or so we rode along without speaking, and then Shepard produced his "World" from an inside pocket and began to read. This just suited the Colonel; he had 'nt seen a paper that morning, and here was a chance to get his news cheap. So he read along for quite a while without even winking or resting his neck. I say resting his neck because he stretched that connective organ so in endeavoring to get a good square view of the paper, that I think it must have ached all the rest of the day. Finally he remarked: "Wonderful invention, those dynamite torpedoes." "Yes," said Shepard. "Tell ye we don't need any iron-clads to protect us while we've got them," the Colonel continued. "What electricity and dynamite can't do we needn't ask done. Now, there's electricity, powerful, majestic and destructive, when displayed in the clouds; just as powerful, but harmless as a kitten, when harnessed by man. Then there's dynamite, (here Shepard, who had looked resigned to a hard death till now, began to brighten up a little and listen to the lecture), terribly destructive in the hands of the ignorant and malicious, but when intelligently applied, more serviceable and powerful than Aladin's genie. Now, some people are afraid to handle it," he rattled on, "but there ain't no danger whatever if you are stiddy and don't loose your head. Ever seen any of it?"

"Well, yes," said Shepard, smiling happily, "now you're striking me where I'm at home. I'm engaged in the manufacture of dynamite cartridges over here in Massachusetts. We furnish cartridges for blasting oil wells and all such work."

"Do, hey?" said the Colonel, apparently with

less confidence in his knowledge of the subject; "Well, you ain't afraid of it, are you?"

"Great guns, no!" Shepard replied; "We throw it around like so much brick. Why, I've got some right here in my satchel. Shall I show you some?"

"Do, hey? O, ho! Got some right here, have ye? No! no! don't take it out! You don't suppose—of course not, no danger," and the Colonel moved uneasily in his seat. "Say, I guess I'll go in the smoker and take a smoke. Sorry my case has only one in it," tapping his upper vest pocket significantly, and with a sickly, scared smile he picked up his grip and tip-toed out of the car, as if he was walking on eggs at forty cents a dozen.

"Well, I've got rid of him, if I did have to lie," said Shepard.

Tobogganing.

DOWN the slippery chute we glide
On my toboggan. 'Tis with pride
I sit behind her here and guide
My speedy racer.
Away we rush, as swift as sound,
And as we reach the level ground
She turns her dainty self around,
And so I face her.

Her cheeks are red, her eyes are bright,
She's fairest of them all to-night,
And as a proof of her delight
She sweetly smiles.
I wish we might go on just so
And didn't have to stop below,
I'm sure I'd be content to go
This way for miles.

But every slide must have an end,
We reach the bottom, where I lend
My arm, and as we re-ascend
She says, demurely:
"I had a chance to ride with Hugh,
But then I couldn't, for I knew
That if I stood and waited, you
Would ask me surely."

With what a joyous thrill I start!
The shaft has reached my very heart,
And now, transfixed by Cupid's dart,
And growing bolder,
I make report, and she adopts
It, every word; for when it stops
Her head in affirmation drops
Upon my shoulder.

Civil Service Reform Versus the Spoils System.

In the early days of our Republic, the civil service was so primitive in its composition and so simple in its working, that it presented none of the difficulties with which it has become entangled in later years. In those days, the officers having the power of appointment, used it solely with the aim of filling offices with men of high moral rectitude and of special qualifications for the duties to be performed. In fact, so well was this power directed, and so highly esteemed was faithful performance of duty, that for the forty years preceding Jackson's administration there were but 100 removals from office, and those for valid reasons.

But, with the advent of Jackson, a new theory was introduced into American politics. "To the victors belong the spoils" became the cry, and so it has continued until the present day. This phrase has, for more than half a century, served in numberless capacities,—as a premise, as a conclusion, even as an axiom, so great is the endeavor of interested motive to create a semblance of logical right for its actions! According to the code thus laid down, a party does not consist of men united by the patriotic intent of enforcing what they conceive to be correct principles, but of a band of fortune-hunters, more eager than the soldiers of Pizzarro to turn public power into private gain.

Of course there are appointive offices under government requiring men in perfect sympathy with the Executive. But how few are these compared with those offices which, it has been claimed, should undergo a complete change of incumbents at every change of the administration,

Omitting the few mentioned, a sound policy would dictate a maintenance in office of those who, by long experience, have qualified themselves for the able performance of their duty. It is not denied that there are thousands of persons out of office just as well able naturally to perform those duties; but why try the needless experiment of selecting one, and then the needless trouble of instructing him, when the man already in the place does the work in a satisfactory manner?

It is said by those favoring the spoils system that, in a republican government, one man should not hold office for life, but should give place after awhile to others, that they too may in turn enjoy the sweets of a public position. But is this a patriotic view to take of the matter? Does it not indicate that the office is rather to benefit the man than the man the office? Where matters of policy are concerned, a change of policy necessitates a change of the men who are the exponents of the policy; but this change should not be so sweeping as to remove those officers whose duties are merely of a routine character.

Again, offices as spoils tend to corrupt the whole political system from the primary caucus upward. For what more alluring bribe is there than the promise of a desirable office? And it is a bribe that costs nothing to the giver!

This leads to another evil, the production of a superfluous set of incumbents whose chief duty consists in drawing their salaries; and this number is largely swelled by those appointed on grounds of relationship or personal friendship.

It may be asked: "What means, then, shall be adopted to rid the civil service from the evils of the spoils system?" The following rules would I think, if carried out, fully answer the question:

First. Let appointments be made

1. On grounds of ability.
2. On grounds of merit.

Second. Let appointees be retained in office so long as they satisfactorily execute their duties.

Third. When a vacancy occurs in a higher grade, let it be filled from the grade next lower, if there is an incumbent in that lower grade who has ably and zealously performed his duties, and who has sufficient ability for the higher office. Thus, promotion would act as an incentive to industry.

Fourth. Upon reaching a certain age, let the incumbent be retired upon a comfortable pension to run the remainder of his life. This is but just, and suitable laws could be enacted to prevent persons near this age from entering the

office, as their services would not be great enough to entitle them to a pension when retired a few years later.

There would at first, possibly, be some difficulty as to the best method of carrying out these rules, but a little experience would soon remove it.

The Civil Service Commission, as it now exists, is probably as good a body for the purpose as could be formed; better than the Executive, who cannot devote to the subject a moiety of the time it requires.

There may be some question as to what constitutes ability for admission. A person who is able to pass a good examination on general subjects may be supposed to have sufficient qualifications to master the duties laid upon him.

This is certainly a much better test than a record as a political heeler, which, a few years ago, constituted a passport into many a lucrative position.

The test of ability for promotion should be like that for admission, but more technical in its character, treating of the duties to be performed in the higher office.

The tests for merit will present a much more simple problem than those for ability. The applicant should possess a good moral character, and if, in any capacity, he has rendered good service to the country, it should be taken into account. The other rules would, I think, present no difficulty; a little experience would demonstrate the best methods for their execution. The benefits evolving from a sweeping reform of this kind would be great; the difficulty of making it, slight; the glaring evils of the spoils system would be eradicated, and the country could by that means be brought nearer that ideal political purity so earnestly desired by every true American.

N. M. R.

The Harvard library contains 184,000 volumes; Yale, 115,000; Dartmouth, 62,000; Cornell, 53,000; Brown, 52,000; Columbia, 51,000; Williams, 18,000; Princeton, 49,000; Michigan, 45,000; Iowa, 18,000; Oberlin, 16,000, and Minnesota, 15,000. Amherst college has received 600 skins of birds, the remnants of the collection of the celebrated J. J. Audubon.

An Elizabethan Drama.

There is something peculiar about Elizabeth. Whether it is the coal-ash color of her eyes, or the marked assertion of her left shoulder toward the corresponding ear, I will not pretend to assert, but as she gently wobbled into a Sophomore's room the other day, she made, in fact, an impression. The literary man of the room, immediately recalling the fact that many weeks had passed since the last sweep-out, opened upon her something like this: "Excuse me, Elizabeth. I would not for the world disturb your gracious equanimity, but I feel it my duty to remind you that although your eyes have that blue, crystalize translucency that raises my soul into cerulian bliss, you have not swept out yet this term." Slowly did Elizabeth comprehend the thread of his discourse, and at its termination signs of a gathering storm appeared upon her countenance, but he hastened to avert it. "Do not mistake me," he said, "homage to beauty is never an insult. If I remark that you have a shell-like ear, which the purest diamond would but mar, it is only that I may better incline that beautiful organ to listen to my plaintive cry—Oh! Elizabeth, sweep out!" Elizabeth was debating within herself whether she could get out of the room in safety or not, when the poet broke out in the following:

"O! thou of charming grace,
With sweet, angelic face;
O! thou the fairest of the fair,
Listen to my tearful prayer—
Oh! Elizabeth, sweep out!"

"Dost thou not remember
How, in last December,
You promised——"

How long he would have kept it up is unknown had not Elizabeth suddenly bolted for the door, followed by a coal-hod, two dumbbells, five books and a blacking brush. And the collegiates were again lost in study.

G. U. F., '88.

The America's cup was harder to capture than a jack-pot. Even four races *did* not take it.—*Ex.*

Tramping in the Helderbergs.

Our nineteenth century civilization has not quite driven the customs of our forefathers from the heart of New York State. Within sight of the Albany Capitol, the busy housewife still spins yarn and knits stockings for her family in the same simple way in which her grandmother did before the invention of the machines which now embody in steel the swift hand and ready brain of the mythical fairies of the olden time.

While camping on the Helderbergs last summer, I walked over not a small deal of country. In one of my tramps, stopping at a farm house to get a drink, I saw what I had always thought I never could see, except in my mind's eye,—an old woman spinning. For a long time I watched her at work, as she skillfully drew out the yarn, and talked with her about her life on those hills. She told me, in excuse for spinning in summer, that her supply of yarn had been drawn upon by one of her neighbors, who was kept, by the sickness of her husband, from spinning for herself. It was a true example of country kindness begotten by dwelling at a distance from stores.

From her talk I gathered that their life was very quiet; and, although the place was delightful then, during the summer, I wondered what they did in winter, when the snow, many feet deep all over the hills, had swept down into the hollow in which the house lay and had shut them out from the rest of the world. To my question, the good woman said that she and her husband, and their three sons, made little wooden pill boxes, and that if they worked hard, they could earn about thirty cents a day. It was small pay but then they lived in a small way.

Again, on another day, I went with a friend through a farm yard, prompted by the same desire for drink. In satisfying my thirst for water, it often happened that my thirst for knowledge was aroused and then slaked. Passing by a woodshed door, we saw a very old man bending over, and a small boy—perhaps ten years old—standing behind him and cutting the little hair that was left on the lower part of the man's head. He came outside and gave us a hearty welcome, and then said that he had

been cradling oats, and as he had become somewhat tired and had come into the house, his little grandson was cutting his hair. He added that he was eighty years old and therefore could not work so hard as he once could. As we were talking, the short, sharp barks of a dog came up from the meadow some distance off, and the old man, as eager as the little boy by his side, cried: "Shep's got a woodchuck; come on, let's go and get it." Now, some of the men at the camp had set a trap for woodchucks, and used to go out regularly every morning with a gun, and come back as regularly in an hour or two with the gun and wet feet, but no woodchucks. So we thought it would be great luck and an eloquent commentary on our fellow campers' skill if we could bring back one without the aid of gun or trap, but only with our own attractiveness (and the farmers' hoe and dog). As we trudged through the field, the man informed us that he had always lived within a mile of that spot, and had never been away, except with loads of farm produce to Albany and once to Canajoharie, and was then gone only over one night. With great precaution lest the animal should escape us, we and the dog dug it out; and after the dog had taken his pay out of it by giving it a thorough shaking, we carried it up to the house.

The gathering clouds warned us that we must make haste, and as we bid our host good-by, we placed in his hand that offspring of modern corruption—a tip. He drew back and said, "O, pshaw! I don't want that," but as we insisted that he did, he, with a kind of guilty smirk, put it into his pocket. His warmth of manner, however, was, if possible, increased; and he several times insisted that we should come again. In returning we were overtaken by the storm, and walked three or four miles in a pouring rain, but were well satisfied with our experience. We had a mighty good meal off of the woodchuck; although some people don't like the animal, we do. For some time instructions on the method of catching woodchucks were given in camp, free of charge, and were even pressed upon the pupils, though desiring to be left alone.

Lest anyone should think that all of the good people of the Helderbergs are as simple as those described, I would say that the majority are just as well informed as those of any other farming district, and that most of them are a little more greedy of gain; but when you go away from the main roads, you occasionally find a family strangely behind the times.

LOCAL.

Attend the college fair.

Have you been mesmerized yet?

What has become of the college dances?

No more conditions, under the new resolution.

Two new men have entered the Freshman class.

Freshmen have military drill only twice a week this term.

Miller, '87, and De Long, '88 have, returned to their respective classes.

Many students are attending Prof. Bass' dancing assembly Wednesday evenings, at Stanford hall.

The Freshmen are making preparation for a class supper. Albany has been chosen as the place for the repast.

The meetings of the Union college senate have been discontinued for the term, for what reason the Seniors only know.

It is rumored that the ball nine of the class of '88 are intending to challenge the nine of the same class at Hamilton, early in the season.

Senior C. in Psychology: "If the first man possessed rational intuition, what did the previous man have? Applause from the gallery.

Dorwin, '86, while performing in the gymnasium, suffered a sad sprain, but, with the doctor's aid, he was saved any permanent injury.

Beautiful Classical Institute girl, watching the Freshmen "marking time" with that peculiar shuffle which only Freshmen can execute, says: "I wonder what makes those poor Freshmen so nervous—they can't stand still?"

Prof. Truax says that the Sophomore examination papers in rhetoric were as good as he ever expects to receive from any college class.

Professor in Engineering: "Can anyone tell me how syenite received its name?" Senior S. quickly respond: "From cyanide of potassium."

Geological Professor to Senior S.: "Now, Mr. S., where is the current in a river the swiftest?" Senior S.: "Where the water runs the slowest."

The Freshmen having at last finished their primary English grammar, are now struggling with, "How to Write Clearly." Remarkable progress!

Student (who has just come in late) in Astronomy: "Professor, do watches keep mean solar time?" Professor: "Yes, some keep very *mean* time.

The public debate, between the Philomathean and Adelpic societies, has been postponed from time to time, until now it is uncertain when it will take place.

Professor in modern languages: "What word in that line is common to both the French and German?" Student (with great glee): "Billy (*billet*)."

Professor in Geology: "Now, Mr. H., if I put this little ball of shoemakers' wax on the table, what will become of it?" Mr. H.: "I will go right through the table."

Prof. Hoffman recently addressed the members of the Adelpic Literary society on "Observations Concerning Orators." All present listened to his remarks with much pleasure.

Two Freshmen are standing by the section entry, when one remarks: "Say, you ain't got that interpolation example yet, have you?" Passing Sophomore: "Better go in-ter-poll-it, then, Fresh."

Prof. Van Derveer has a very large class in the gymnasium every afternoon. Many are candidates for the base-ball nine. From present indications we will be well represented next season on the campus.

Student going down street, to charcoal vender:
 "Have you got any charcoal in your wagon?"
 "Yes sir." "That's right; always tell the truth and people will respect you."

Professor (complaining that too much time has already been consumed in correcting Latin sentences) called on Mr. W—— to recite, who has written on the board "*Nihil est quod festinemus.*" Mr. W—— rises and says: "There is no reason why we should hurry."

The Philomathean Literary Society elected the following officers at the last meeting of last term: President, Courtright; Vice-President, Bennett; Secretary, P. H. Cole; Treasurer, Furbeck; Board of Directors, Marvin, Dillingham, Merrell; Curator, Gillespie.

The last division of the senior class who delivered orations in the chapel were as follows: Jackson, subject: "Popularity;" Mosher: "Why we should be First;" Ostrander: "Martin Luther;" Randall: "A Retrospect;" Skinner: "Change;" and Vedder: "National Aid for Education."

The Sophomores have been required to deliver an oration in place of the usual declamations for the term. The subject for the essay is, "The Effect of the Norman Conquest on the Civilization of England." The oration being due at the end of January, and the essay is due at the end of February.

As an effect of the general bolt taken after the termination of the Thanksgiving vacation, a resolution was passed by the Faculty, making it necessary that all students be back on the required day and register. Without the registration certificate, no one was allowed to enter recitations. What next?

Among the many improvements in the English department of the college, that of the critical study of the English language and literature is one of the most important. The subject runs through a large part of the course, and each author of consequence is taken up separately and made the subject of special study. Prof. Truax is making it not only a profitable but a delightful study.

President Allen has announced the following senior committees:

Cards—Felthousen, Courtright, Lawler, Randall, Little.

Music—Woodbridge, Lawler, Franklin.

Ball—Jackson, Foote, Dorwin.

Pictures—LaMonte, Little, Blessing.

Supper—Harris, Randall, Cole.

Class Day—Mosher, Skinner, Ostrander.

Reception—Cole, Veeder, Dorwin.

The college has been favored, through the enterprise of some of the members of the Y. M. C. A. organization, with the presence of Mr. Studd, of England. Mr. Studd is a graduate of Cambridge University, where he took a high place in athletics, as well as in studies. He was a leading member of the cricket team, and also an excellent foot-ball player. Mr. Studd held meetings, throughout the entire period of his stay of nearly a week, with those results which only a genial, whole-souled, thoroughly Christian man can produce. Although his meetings were not as well attended as they should have been, they were of marked benefit to the college. Mr. Studd is now at Cornell.

At a meeting of the faculty, a few days ago, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That hereafter no student of the freshman class shall be passed into the sophomore class who has any conditions unsatisfied at the close of the college year; nor any sophomore with the junior class; nor any junior into the senior; and that no senior student who has not made up all his work of every kind by the end of the second term of the senior year shall be admissible to a recommendation for a degree, excepting by a unanimous vote of the faculty.

Resolved. Further, that in the case of students of the three lower classes, an opportunity to regain their position may be offered to deficient students at the entrance examinations in September following their failure. If a student fails to avail himself of this opportunity he shall be excluded from his proper class; nor shall he be restored thereto excepting by a unanimous vote of the faculty.

PERSONALS.

'23. Gen. Robert Toombs died at his home in Washington, Ga., on Dec. 15. He was born July 2, 1810. After graduation he studied law at the University of Virginia, and practiced in his native place. In 1836 he served with Gen. Winfield Scott as captain of volunteers in the Creek war. He was elected to the Georgia legislature in 1837, and, with the exception of 1841, continued a member. From 1845 to 1853 he was a member of congress, and was then elected a member of the United States senate, served a term and was re-elected, but the State of Georgia having passed its secession ordinance on Jan. 19, 1861, Gen. Toombs withdrew from the senate on the twenty-third of that month, and on March 14th following he was expelled. He was a member of the Confederate Congress which met at Montgomery, Ala., was subsequently for a short time secretary of state of the Confederate States, and was also a brigadier-general in the Confederate army.

'37. Henry J. Carter, of Stockbridge, Mass., died Jan. 1st, 1886.

'51. Dr. Wm. Frothingham, who was a resident of Washington Heights, New York, accidentally shot and killed himself in that city a few weeks ago. He was born at Johnstown in 1830. His mother was a niece of Washington Irving and a daughter of Gen. Richard Dodge who married the author's sister, Anne Irving. After graduating from Union he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons, graduating in 1854. For three years afterward he worked at Bellevue hospital, and then went abroad and studied medicine for two years at Paris and Berlin. He entered the war as surgeon of the Forty-fourth New York Volunteers, but before its termination he contracted typhoid fever and was honorably discharged. Upon the restoration of his health he settled in New York and continued the practice of his profession. He was one of the physicians who attended Charles O'Connor when his life was so long despaired of. His wife and two daughters are living.

'59. Dr. Normal L. Snow died at Albany, Dec. (?) 1885. He was of English ancestry on his father's side and Swiss on his mother's, and was born at Root, Montgomery county, N. Y., in 1839. He attended the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York city, graduating in 1861. In 1862 he entered in the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Regiment, New York State Volunteers. In August of that year he was appointed assistant surgeon in the army, and in 1864 surgeon, which position he filled until 1865. Subsequently he settled in Canajoharie, where he maintained a large practice. In 1875 he removed to Albany, and there continued his practice. He was a member of the Montgomery county medical society, the Albany medical society and also the state medical society of New York. In April, 1884, he was elected alderman-at-large on the democratic ticket. He became president of the common council, and served in that position up to the time of his illness.

'84. R. B. McCown has been elected president of the class of '86 Albany law school.

'84. George F. Allison was married on Nov. 25, 1885, at Oswego, N. Y., to Miss Charlotte L. DeWitt, daughter of Dr. Byron DeWitt of that city. The wedding took place in Grace church at 11 A. M. The ushers were Foote, '85, Barney, '84, Bridge, '87, Kitts, '84, Haslett, '85, Bates, '88, and F. J. Patterson, of Cleveland. After the bridal trip, Mr. and Mrs. Allison went to Brooklyn, N. Y., where they will hereafter reside, the groom being engaged in business with Barney in New York.

'85. Sweetland has been elected historian of the class and Wakeman, '88, was elected marshal.

'—. Dr. Isaac G. Collins died recently at Sing Sing, N. Y., of nuralgia of the heart. He was fifty-three years old, was born in Greenville, Greene County, N. Y. He was a graduate of the Albany Medical College, and at the time of his death was the attending physician upon all the injured men on the new aqueduct in the vicinity of Sing Sing.

CLIPPINGS.

Where it was Needed.

A BOY threw his hat on the floor,
 And was told he must do so no more;
 But he did it again,
 And his fond mother then
 Used her slipper until he was sore.
 The boy then looked up askance,
 And his mother cast down a mad glance:
 "Do you know now," said she,
 "Where your hat ought to be?"
 "Yes," he answered, "inside of my pants."
 —*Columbus Dispatch.*

Summary of News.

THE patent outside enterprise has come to be such an important factor in the life of the ordinary newspaper, that we see no reason why the scheme might not be utilized in college journalism. We offer the following as illustrating the possibilities along this line in the Inter-collegiate department for example.—[*Eds.*

WILLIAMS :—There are now 902 books in the library, including almanacs, catalogues of stars, marine charts, Dutch logs, missionary reports, and the librarian.—The Congressional Records are reserved for members of the faculty.—A society for improving the condition of the chapel is being organized, the object of which is to assemble in chapel an hour before prayers and disseminate heat by the natural method.—The college has subscribed \$500,000 this year for the support of its nine.—Professor Pratt has been elected president in the absence of Dr. Carter.—Every man in college pays for three copies of the *Fortnight*.

YALE :—The report that Yale lost her head over her defeat by Princeton is emphatically denied.—There is talk of moving the fence nearer the sidewalk so that the Freshman can expectorate in the gutter without spoiling the dresses of the young ladies who pass by.—Under-classmen are now allowed, by vote of the faculty, to appear in the hall of their dormitories with neckties on.—Yale spirit(s) can be procured at

the co-operative store.—There are 143 Aztec Indians in the Freshman class.—The new catalogue shows that the total number of students in attendance at the college is over 13,000. This includes three Turks who were not admitted.—The Law School now embraces women.—Hockey is practiced at the Sophomore eating club.—It will be added to the required studies.

HARVARD :—The *Advocate* has been adopted as a text-book in the English Lit course.—The Faculty are at present sitting on the new petition for voluntary prayers.—A Freshman has been suspended for cutting his teeth.—Beside small-pox, several cases of anglo-mania have broken out. The *Crimson* has them well under way, however.—Efforts are being made to remove Boylston Museum and Francis street to Cambridge.—The conference committee have voted that (h)ashes must not be slung on the slippery floor in Memorial Hall.—*Williams Fortnight.*

Rebuked.

ONCE on a summer day
 Far from the beaten way,
 Some fairy bade me stray—
 Cupid, mayhap.
 Under a leafy tree,
 Whom should I chance to see,
 Whom, but my Rosalie,
 Taking a nap!

There in a lovely nook,
 Screened from intruder's look
 Near her neglected book,
 Slumb'ring she lay.
 What could a fellow do?
 Tell me, sir, wouldn't you
 Kneel and take one or two
 Kisses away?

Ah, but I broke the spell!
 Opened her eyes and—well,
 Could I do else than tell
 How it was broke?
 Humbly for grace I plead;
 Sternly she shook her head;
 "Couldn't you wait," she said,
 "Till I awoke?"

—*Harvard Advocate.*

The College Fair.

At a chapel meeting Jan. 19th, a committee composed of Messrs. Skinner, Dorwin, Little, Angle, Johnson, Ransdell, Radliff, Bates, Brennan, Towne, Hunsicker, Culver and Conover, was appointed to superintend a college fair. The proceeds of the fair are to go into the base-ball fund, and the event will probably take place about the first of March. From the fact that Schenectady has already had several fairs this year, and that one or two more will be held before the first of March, it would seem at first impracticable to attempt to raise money in that way. However, nothing pays better in Old Dorp than a fair, and with an energetic committee, good entertainment, and the aid of the ladies down town, (who, we understand, have kindly consented to help), there is no reason why the fair can not be eminently successful. It is hoped that every student will give what assistance he can, and that each one will do his best to make the affair a success.

GENERAL COLLEGE NEWS.

Gymnasium attendance is to be made compulsory at the University of Pennsylvania.—— Johns Hopkins is to have a new \$100,000 Physical laboratory. ——The Senior class at Columbia propose to raise \$100,000 for a gymnasium.——Harvard students are circulating a new petition for voluntary chapel.——Amherst has established a House of Commons.——Oberlin has lost by fire a \$50,000 dormitory and Hobart a \$25,000 library.——It is rumored that President Gilman, of Johns Hopkins, will be called to the chair at Yale.——Columbia Seniors are to receive no marks this year.——Williams has a toboggan slide.——Sixteen colleges are without presidents.——Princeton is to be a university within five years.——The Harvard faculty have decided to allow the students to play foot-ball. ——Semi-military discipline is to be introduced at Vassar.——It is said that the Bostonians want Gen. Francis A. Walker for president of Yale College. A student of Yale recently gave \$650 to have the

Athletic grounds of that college improved. Yale has representatives from thirty-five States, four territories, and eleven foreign countries. ——Princeton is expecting a salaried trainer, who will have the entire charge of the athletic sports. One half the salary coming from the alumni and the other half from student association. The Seniors at Princeton expect to have a memorial for their class. Princeton has beaten Yale at Lacrosse, Base-ball and Foot-ball in the last two years.——Thirty thousand dollars has recently been donated to Syracuse University. ——At a recent meeting of the Trustees of Cornell University, the salaries of the professors were raised to \$2,500. and those of the instructors to \$1,200.——Tuft's College is to have bronze statues of all its Presidents.——Moody is holding revival meetings at Dartmouth.——It is said that Jesse Seliquau has endowed four fellowships at Columbia College.——University of Pennsylvania has compulsory gymnasium exercises.——This Year, for the second consecutive time, a Rugby foot-ball team from London, has defeated a joint team from Oxford and Cambridge.——Five colleges have been established in Dakota within the last year.——Harvard's annual, the *Index* is out.——Probably the largest literary prize ever offered is that of \$1,000,000, to be given in 1925 by the Russian Academy for the best work on the life and reign of Alexander I. In 1825, shortly after the death of Alexander I., the sum of 50,000 roubles was offered by one of his favorite ministers, to be given as a prize a century after his death, and this at compound interest will amount in 1925 to \$1,000,000.——The law library of the late Merritt King has been purchased by the Trustees of Cornell University, and is said to be the finest private law library in the State. It contains 4,100 volumes, particularly relating to the early history of Jurisprudence. The purchase was made to establish a law school at Cornell, which the President thinks can be made a success at Ithaca. A medical school is also to be established, and its foundation will be made within a comparatively short time at Cornell.

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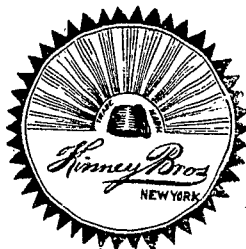
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