

Union College Schenectady Nov 7. 1822

My Dear Friend
Sunday has once more returned to I presume you are
about this time repairing to the sanctuary of your own native Village - instead
of following your example I have concluded to remain in my room
during the day to employ my time in writing several letters & accordingly
commence with addressing you a few lines - I have long expected the same
attention from you but I presume you have forgotten me at this time

After I parted with you at Pekskill I succeeded without any difficulty
in getting aboard of the Steam Boat - but I had a very disagreeable passage
up - for it was extremely stormy & caused me a good deal of sickness - but
of this I have now entirely recovered - Since I have been here - College
has been remarkably tranquil - until a few nights since - I was waked
by a very violent noise - soon looking out of my window - I beheld one
wing of the College all in a flame - I was very much surprised & terrify'd
I immediately cried out - "Fire Fire" - who waked the Pres. & Students who
after a considerable effort succeeded in extinguishing the flames without
any great damage - had it not been discovered, some the President's house
our part of the College would have been wrapt in flames - The fire
seems to have originated from this source - Two or three fellows had got offend'd
with the bell-ringer & they for revenge - contrived to blow up his bell - they
placed a huge cracker consisting of a bomb two pounds of powder, in the bell
& suspended with a string - who burning in two or three seconds exploded this
powder - but it fell under one corner of the roof & carried it clear away - The circumstance
has caused a considerable agitation here: The perpetrators I believe are discovered
I expect will be soon sent off: Suspicion was first cast on me in consequence
of my first discovering it - Considerable prejudice was bred by one of the Faculty
to be excited against me - But my character was so fair in the estimation
our worthy President - that I was rescued from all suspicions - but vacation
commences soon - where I shall spend it I have not yet determined - See but
your boy in gallanting the young Ladies - I advise you to be cautious
in one place - lest you get served as Seiel - A Dish-cloth - in your
face - you must remember to call the good folks - particularly Mr. Thistle
& Mr. Donalds - I shall expect your answer soon - informing me
of the state of affairs - My best respects to your Mother & Sister.

Yours much obliged
Friend
J. Amble

W. Williams Wilson

Forwarded by the Witness of W. Hatfield

W. William Wilson

Bedford

West Chester County York



ack

GEORGE P. COOPERNAIL, M. D.
BEDFORD, NEW YORK

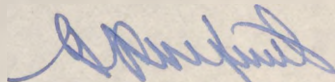
April 27, 1936

President, Union College
Schenectady
N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I am sending you a letter dated November 17, 1822, written by a student in the college, which may be of interest to you to keep. He describes the discovery of a fire in one of the buildings.

Yours very truly



G. P. Coopernail, M. D.
A. M. C. 1900

GPC/GS

file

Isaac Ambler

1823

Thoughtful friends send the College now and then letters written years ago by undergraduates. They are often most interesting, partly because their language is so different from current usage, containing, as they do, ornate and, to the modern mind, stilted phrases. But the nature of youth remains much the same and we note that young ladies play an important part in the thoughts of boys a century ago, just as they do today. This interest finds expression in a romantic language the presentday undergraduate would never think of using; but the interest is just as keen.

U. A. M. 1823 ambler. 1-0004

Sometimes these letters give us a bit of history not otherwise recorded. Such is the case in one we have just received. It was written in 1822 by Isaac Ambler (class of 1823), who records:

"Since I have been here college has been remarkably tranquil until a few nights since I was waked by a very violent noise. On looking out of my window I beheld one wing of the college all in flames—I was very much surprised and terrified. I immediately cried out 'Fire-Fire' which aroused the Pres. and students who after considerable effort succeeded in extinguishing the flames without any great damage. Had it not been discovered, soon the President's house and our part of the college would have been wrapt in flames. The fire seems to have originated from this source—Two or three fellows had got offended with the bell-ringer and they for revenge contrived to blow up his bell. They placed a huge cracker consisting of about two pounds of powder, in the bell and suspended with a string—which burning in two a little too soon defeated their purpose, but it fell under one corner of the roof and carried it clear away. The circumstance has caused a considerable agitation here: The perpetrators I believe are discovered and I expect will be soon sent off. Suspicion was first cast on me in consequence of my first discovering it. Considerable prejudice was tried by one of the faculty to be excited against me. But my character was so fair in the estimation of our worthy President that I was rescued from all suspicion."

is a proper one.

It's in the mail now. It's full of interesting reading, facts about yourself that may come to you as a surprise. We've sent the Guides out at the request of the organization which handles a large part of the advertising that goes into your alumni magazine. They're interested in making a survey of our buying habits; so help them along, won't you, and return the envelope which they've included with the guide.

All we see these days as we run over the newspapers or bury our nose into the magazines which come our way are travel notes. The virus has finally taken hold and so we are going to publish a travel note of our own. It appears that the Hudson River Navigation Corpor-

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UNION ALUM

All prizes, scholarships, and the like are announced on this date except the Commencement oratorical prizes which are competed for at that time. We save the announcement of all until the Commencement issue of the *Monthly*, since that brings the record together in one place.

NONE but the ill-informed think names unimportant. Witness the event we call Spring Night. The mere mention of it calls up freshness, hope, and the sweet scent of the lilacs. Our own guess is that the name alone keeps this event alive; anyway, it hobbles on.

This year out of twenty-one fraternities, only four, and they more or less unprepared, gathered in the garden on May 11 for the song contest. It threatened rain, but otherwise the weather was better than we are wont to have in our uncertain spring. Psi Upsilon won, with Delta Upsilon in second place. A goodly group of townspeople came to see