THE

CONCORDIENSIS.

VOL. II. SCHENECTADY, N. Y., APRIL, 1879. NO. 7.

UNION UNIVERSITY.

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THE

CONCORDIENSIS.

VOL. II. SCHENECTADY, N. Y., APRIL, 1879. NO. 7.

THE CONCORDIENSIS.

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F. VAN DUSEN, '79. CHIEF EDITOR.
N. L. REED, '79. J. N. VAN PATTEN, '79.
F. P. S. CRANE, '80. F. T. ROGERS, '80. J. D. CRAIG, '80
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LITERARY.

SONNETS.

FATE.

There is a fate which doth forerun our lives,
E'en from the frailest origin and source;
An infinite, whence mortal breath arrives,
Foreshadows us, and shapes our onward course.
Two shall be born, wide as the earth's extremes,
Unknown of each, and strange in tongue and race
Shall stem the tide of lifes' prophetic dreams
Till lo! at some appointed time and place,—
Drawn by the silken thread of circumstance,
Their eyes shall meet and love's embassies run
To read life's meaning in each other's glance,
And aptly mould their bosoms into one.
Thus underlying nature runs the fate
Of fortune, love, and every man's estate.

What science shall unfold the vast design
That hangs between the cradle and the grave;
Or peep into the mystery divine,
That heaves life's bark upon a luckless wave?
For two within the beauty of one vale
Shall spring, commingling youth with every fair;
The same sweet melodies enjoy,—inhale
The fragrance of the same embracing air;
Yet shall some secret element forbid
Familiar knowledge to go hand in hand;
So shall they reach for something fate has hid,
But ever grounded be upon life's sand,—
With wishful eyes, and lips that ever wait;
Still never meet to love,—and this is fate.

E.

ACROSTIC.

*F*riendship, a word which hath meanings so many,—
*O*ften, alas, friendship only in name,
*R*oaming to-day amid lilies and roses,
*G*asping in death on the morrow in shame;—
*E*ver to me has a rythm and sweetness,
*T*uned with a melody angels might claim.

*M*emory enters and whispers anew,
"*E*ver remember and ever be true."

*N*ever, oh never, its notes would I stay,
*O*ne echo, rather, would I add to the lay,
"*T*rue ever, true though I am far, far away."

One life—of seasons four,
Each rolls around but once,
Then life is o'er.
Improve them every one,
Neglecting, wasting none,
That you at last,
When all are past,
May hear with joy,—"Well done."

THE LIBRARY, ALUMNI AND MEMORIAL HALL.

[The following facts are gleaned from the annual statements with regard to Buildings and Library.]

It was in the year 1812, the Treasurer states, that a central building or group of buildings was projected, the plans for which are still to be seen among the archives of the College. Accommodation for a Library was the first thing for which the plans made provision, and in adjoining apartments, or wings, other useful purposes were designed to be subserved. In pictures and engravings during many succeeding years, this large, lofty and domed structure presented the principal architectural attraction. Nearly half a century after the adoption of the plans and after materials for construction had lain long upon the ground, the work of building was begun. The foundation was erected in 1858 by means of subscriptions from the alumni. Nothing further was added for many years. The foundation was planned and built (as the structure stands on made ground and the Schenectady stone slakes somewhat on exposure), with great care under the direction of Prof. Gillespie, to whose competent successor the the subsequent work has been submitted before being "passed." In 1867, on the 23rd of July, the trustees authorized the finance committee to proceed with the erection of the building. On the 24th of July, in the same year, a resolution was offered to the effect that the trustees would appropriate twenty-five thousand dollars toward building the Alumni Hall, as planned by Dr. Nott, provided the Alumni would devote a like sum to that object; the resolution was passed, so amended as to bind the College, if graduates contributed twenty-five thousand dollars, to complete the building substantially in accordance with the plans referred to. Subsequently, to hasten matters, the College agreed to furnish twenty-five thousand dollars, provided the Alumni "advanced" an equal amount. The College through its Board and Alumni, were thus committed, after half a century of unsuccessful attempt to the prompt completion of the work. The above appropriations were made during the presidencies of Drs.' Hickok and Aiken. The building has been carried on from its foundation upward to its present stage of completion during the existing administration, and all the moneys expended upon it have been the gifts of Alumni and friends, especially interested in this object, Hon. R. M. Blatchford's gift being thus used for the time being. The sum of fifteen thousand dollars, for its completion and furnishing for Library and Art purposes, and the Jackfield tile floor, and the interior American marble walls, etc., are the unsolicited gifts of an English friend, who visited and admired the building while in this country. Like the memorial gift of forty thousand dollars by Hon. Clarkson N. Potter and Mr. Howard Potter, this donation from England, as is almost every thing connected with the erection and furnishing of the structure, was especially appropriated, and could only be used for these purposes.

Fire-proof construction is, of course, very costly, but in the end by far the most econ-

omical. Such a building attracts gifts, as this has already done. For the first time in the history of the College, there is now a permanent Library endowment, a nucleus amounting already to ten thousand dollars, which the character of this building will tend greatly to increase. The Library cases, tables, furniture, etc., will soon be completed. The steps and clear story are necessarily temporary structures, until questions connected with proposed adjoining buildings, etc., are decided; but the spire or lantern which is to crown the dome, was contracted for in the winter; to be erected the coming June.

The Librarian's annual statement makes valuable suggestions as to the removal and future use of the Library. It is thought also that a force of valuable assistant Librarians, for a more complete system in the new building, may be secured by the appointment of students who are aided by the indigent funds; the aid given this year being much larger then that of any previous year. The following figures are from the Treasurer's reports from 1871 to date:

1871	$ 1,972.35
1872	2,360.88
1873	2,169.00
1874	5,977.18
1875	7,798.24
1876	11,993.08
1877	12,775.08
1878	11,829.87
1879	13,046,50

The total for this year will probably be even larger than the above approximate amount, as estimated by the Treasurer. These gratuities, probably proportionately larger than those of any other College, and much larger now, also, than the total amount of receipts from students, cover not only tuition and room-rent, but also, as extended by the new endowments, include books boarding, etc. Especially noticeable in this connection is the John David Wolfe scholarship's foundation of fifty thousand dollars; the benefactress who gave this generous memorial having also made provision for the cost of the heating, lighting, etc., of the new building for Art and Library purposes, during several years to come. The building fund shows a balance of cash and land appropriated to it, available for use in the future.

The Librarian's report states that by working through the summer vacation of 1878, and such time as could be spared from the duties of treasurer, the Librarian has newly stamped and catalogued 9,269 volumes, which together with 4,068 previously catalogued, makes 13,337 volumes, and he hopes before the Library is moved to the new building to have this work completed.

One of the first things to be done, to put our collection in fair condition for use, is binding. About 2,000 volumes are now unbound, many of which are the most useful of any in our collection.

Having made a complete inventory of all the articles belonging to the Library, and having arranged and classified them upon the shelves, the Librarian purposes first to make out a brief one-line catalogue of the best books in the collection for the use of the students, secondly to make shelf catalogues to be hung on each case showing the books contained therein and lastly, to begin a full card catalogue of the whole collection.

It is purposed immediately after commencement, and as soon as the requisite number of cases is ready, to remove the books to the new building and to devote the summer vacation to the arranging and cataloguing of them so that at the beginning of the fall term, they may be ready for use.

EDITORIAL.

THE remains of V. B. Brochleman, '76 who was brutally murdered last year in the Northern part of Texas passed through this city April 23 on the way to Germany, where his people reside.

NOW THE Sophs and Juniors are engaged in the same study, Chemistry, and as the former are a few lessons ahead, they talk learnedly before the Juniors of Hydrogen Dioxide, Potassium Chlorate, &c., while the Juniors retort by discussing pompously the questions, whether pseudopodia are found more abundantly in Gregarinidae or Thalassicollida; the advantages of a test for Echinodermata and whether any specimens of Blastoidea or Holothuroidea have been found in the Mohawk. To an impartial observer the Juniors are rather ahead—on words at least.

THE store-house for steamboat-boilers and private yachts, which was formerly known as the College Boat House, needs sweeping, and looking after in just a few other ways. Some of our particular friends have borrowed about five of the oars which belong to the paper-six, and all of the other fixtures, and have forgotten to return them. The cedar-six is dead, yes, dead and buried in about four inches of Mohawk mud. Those interested in boating have appealed to the President, Faculty and College, but in vain. Nothing has been done to remedy the existing evils. To whom shall we appeal next?

THE answers to the series of questions in the last issue of the CONCORDIENSIS have been pouring in with great rapidity but we are obliged to say that only one question has as yet been answered correctly. The correspondent signing himself "P.'s F." who answered the question No. 7, "To what use will Memorial Hall be put?" as "I don't know" will please call at our office and receive the first prize. As an answer to No. 3, one correspondent suggested Delta Q., but that is not deemed severe enough in the estimation of the committee. Instead of finding difficulty in obtaining Freshmen to act as judges it was on the other side, all of the Faculty declining on the score of being to busy, to likely to be partial, unfit for the great honor, &c., &c. So we were obliged to resort to the great minds of '82. Four Freshmen were chosen all of whom accepted the post readily excepting one gentleman who was backward at first; but finally we obtained his services in consideration of $1,000, of which he happened to be in need.

WE would administer a well-merited rebuke to the turbulent spirits who persist in entering recitation rooms by ways that are dark and, at times, which are divers. At present No. 5 seems to be the special object of these nightly marauders, and various are the marks of their frequent visitations. Bolts and bars are as superfluous as pants on tombstone cherubim. The recitation room has been "stacked" times without number. The smoke of the huge oaken chair which embraced generations of latin professors, had scarcely cleared away, and a new one substituted, when the room was again burglariously entered, and the seat of the new chair treated to a coat of yellow paint which would have sufficed for another stripe on the Chinese idol. Various other raids have been made upon this and other rooms, which we feel it our duty to condemn in the strongest terms. No student who has any regard for himself or his family would make a burglar of himself, especially when no possible advantage can accrue to himself therefrom. If the good influence of more orderly students is unable to effect a reform, we would advise the Professor of Astronomy to get out his big telescope again, and make a few terrestrial observations across the campus. We imagine his experienced vision, aided by his powerful glass, could penetrate even the shades of night. The suggestion is gratis. "*Sat sapienti verbum.*"

THERE are few things that can withstand the quick, noiseless march of a company of students bent upon having a little sport.

Locks and bolts are little better than so many tooth-picks, and even armories, with all their powerful implements of warfare, have been known to be taken and the guns scattered in all directions. *Big* Freshmen with able lawyers to assist them must submit, sometimes, to being put in their *little* bed, which often brings forth a strong desire to see home and mother. There is, however, one thing that seems to resist all the machinations of its enemies and that is our noble Flag-staff. How grand it stands forth, reminding one of the forest primeval, or of some noble martyr condemned to death by burning. Fire and sword have alike been fruitless in their endeavors to compel this grand old emblem of liberty to lick the dust. She won't lick. Of what great sin it has been guilty, no one seems to know; as it was never known to carry a flag or any thing more dangerous than a short piece of rope, and in the present state of affairs in the College it is not likely to hang anyone. Yet there seems to be an especial grudge against this towering giant. Why this is, we do not know, unless it be for the reason that some students have a great dislike for the lofty Engine House, or whatever you call it, that stands so near, and not being able to do much with stone and iron take their vengeance upon this poor, blackened, lonely pole that does no one any harm, or, at least, does not intend to. We sincerely hope that the next Sophomore class will treat it kindly, and will not destroy anything so valuable a monument of what man has done, and what certain young men have tried to do.

DR. DEEMS, of N. Y. city, paid our college a visit recently. He was the guest of Professor William Wells. He was present at two recitations of the Senior Class, and on each occasion delivered a short address. These addresses were excellent, abounding in happy hits and displaying a depth of thought which showed him to be a man of no ordinary metal. We can assure Dr. DEEMS that the impression which he made upon our students was such as ever to insure him a welcome from them. We append a few paragraphs which he wrote in the Sunday Magazine with reference to Dr. Lewis and his Library which he visited while here: "We commend to all thoughtful young men whatever Dr. Lewis wrote. We never saw him, although we had correspondence; yet we shall never cease to be grateful for the intellectual stimulus which we received in our early ministry from the writings of this remarkable man, notably from his Platonic Theology. Recently we spent hours in his library in Schenectady, in which are monuments in manuscript to his vast and accurate learning, and to his conscientious patience and painstaking. Some of those MS books should be published. The whole library should be purchased and kept together either in our University in this city (New York) or in Union College. He was an ornament to both institutions." Surely it would be a shame for Union College to fail of procuring this library, not alone for its value as a remarkable collection, but as a monument to him who, as a great scholar, did greater honor to his Alma Mater than any other man.

PERHAPS there is no other college in the country where there is less "hazing" done than at Union. Perhaps there is no other college where Freshmen are treated better than at Union. Perhaps there is no other college where this is appreciated less than at Union. When a man comes to college, he is supposed to be willing to comply with college customs, and generally does so comply. Now when a man gives good reasons for refusing to acknowledge Old Union's laws, even though it be so trifling a matter as the "setting up of cider," and his excuse is

accepted, and the custom passed over, it is not at all expected that this will be afterwards advanced as proof conclusive of the want of spirit in the Sophomore class, or that it will generate anything but a feeling of gratitude towards them; least of all should it be regarded as a fit triumph to boast of.

Just some such misunderstanding as this gave rise to an affair which has created some little excitement in our midst. Some Sophomores, thinking that a certain Freshman was too loud in his expressions of contempt for their class, went one night and put him in his little bed. One of the Sophs. who was so unfortunate as to be left behind by his companions, was set upon by the enraged Fresh., severely beaten, and ejected from the room. Now one would think that this would have satisfied any ordinary man, but it seems that the insult to his freshship had been so grievous that nothing would soothe his wounded spirit but $1,000 cash. A suit for damages to that amount has consequently been brought against the disabled Sophomore, and the countenance of the bereaved Fresh. has assumed its wonted serenity. We have nothing to say. Carry all your college matters into court, be sure to bring them under the head of civil actions, and who knows but that we may all become rich?

It is the prerogative of editors to ask questions of, and take issue with all powers, great and small. Now on the approach of commencement and the skirmish which ushers in the life battle of another class several old questions assume a new importance.

Why should the Blatchford prizes be restricted as they have been for the past two years? Our catalogue states that these medals are to be awarded "to the two members of the graduating class who shall deliver at commencement the best orations." Was it the founder's intention to exclude from competion for these prizes all who were below a certain general average? Or was it his intention that they should be given to the best speaker and writer irrespective of his rank in other respects? We think neither these nor the other awards for literary proficiency, should be accounted College honors. They give no certain index of scholarly culture or faithful performance of collegiate duties. We ask with all respect if it would not be fairer to make the contest for the Blatchfords an open one and conduct it on the same plan as that for the Sophomore and Junior prizes.

If the prizes mentioned above are properly honors, would it not be more equitable if they should be so distributed that one man could receive but one, or two at the most, instead of, as is usually the case, more than two-thirds of the prizes falling to a single person? We expect the reply to this will be that all these prizes are restricted and the method of their award prescribed by the various founders. Still if the powers that be are able to interpret the words of the Blatchford as they do, we think they are equally powerful in the handling of the others. Another reply, more difficult for us to cope with, is that if a man is best in all the contests he deserves all the rewards. The question arises here, what purposes are prizes and honors intended to subserve? If they are to give proof of the regard which an institution has for the members who most faithfully perform the assigned work, then they should certainly be distributed; for in every class of thirty or forty there will be half a dozen between whom there is little choice in respect to the work they have done. If these honors are given for the purpose of placing the best men of a class under increased obligation to the institution to which they have belonged, then it is much more important that these compliments be extended as far as possible.

Every man who wins a prize next Commencement will feel as much beholden to Union College as though he should carry off the laurels of a half dozen successful conflicts.

The stimulus to exertion would also be much greater could the change suggested be made. Men now have no ambition to compete with one that they feel confident is their superior with the pen. Four years serves to point out to any class its best writer or writers—and one usually stands far in advance of the rest. If he could succeed in but one contest, the chances of success for others would be proportionately increased.

Now in reference to the Phi Beta Kappa keys. These are, in the truest sense, honors. The number of candidates for this society cannot, we believe, exceed one-third of the classical division; and is usually less. Some years this plan admits men with a standing below 9; in others it excludes those with a graduation perhaps two or three tenths above that. This causes the alumni of this society to rank among its members some of ordinary scholarship, and to exclude others who have fairly earned the prestige which it gives.

If in any of the above cases the criticisms are valid, the remedy must be within reach of the proper authorities; and it cannot be too soon applied. But if they are questions of fancied errors, then will some one please dispel the illusion under which we labor?

JUST as we go to press we have to record that "that fence," so facetiously referred to by our contributor, "Random," has "gone to that burn whence no fence returns." The immediate cause of the disappearance seems to have been some mischievous students. We can hardly believe that this was done so much with any malicious intent as with the hope that the old fence might be replaced by one more worthy of our grounds. Yet, while their action may in a degree be excused on this supposition, it nevertheless cannot be justified and deserves hearty condemnation by all who like good order. All underhanded attempts to gain even good ends are unmanly and wrong. But the thing is done, however much to be regretted, and cannot be undone. We hear that a new wire fence is soon to be built. We trust that the report is true. The grand old row of elms with Dr. Potter's beautiful lawn and flowers in the background will present a sight to fill the breast of every Union man with a feeling of pride for the beautiful grounds which have hitherto been shut in by an ugly old fence.

THE NEW catalogue of the college is an improvement on the one published last year. It has the merit of stating the truth, a merit which many college catalogues do not possess. Few things are held out as inducements that are not living facts, capable of being realized by all who enter Union College. The faculty-roll, as published, presents only the names of those professors whose instruction may be had in actual classroom work. The feature most to be remarked is the new curriculum. We cannot discuss all the changes that have been made, but only a few of the more important. Chemistry will hereafter embrace one term's work instead of two as formerly. This is peculiarly gratifying to us inasmuch as it is a change we insisted upon in a former issue. Our reasons were given there. We understand that it had already been projected by the authorities, but we were not aware of it, and naturally say, *post hoc, ergo propter hoc*, whether it be true or not.

Prominent among the new features is the study of English which is prescribed for the entire Freshman year, two terms of the Sophomore year and two of the Senior year. Add to this the studies of Rhetoric, Logic,

English Literature under Dr. Coppee and Philology (also under Dr. Coppee,) which will come in the intermediate terms; then bear in mind that this course is in the hands of so able and accomplished a scholar and instructor as Professor Alexander, and it will readily be seen that Union College has an English course which has long been needed, and of which we may well be proud.

Another departure from the old system is one which will meet a requirement long desired by many students, viz: that, under the direction of the faculty, five recitations a week throughout the Senior year may be chosen from a list of Elective studies, such as Ancient and Modern Languages, Analytical Chemistry, Zoology, Physics, Mineralogy, Botany, Lectures on Law, etc. We understand that even greater scope in the choice of elections may be allowed on further consideration. We believe that this change is highly commendable, but with certain restrictions. One restriction is that the elective studies be such, and so taught, as to call out good, solid work from those pursuing them. This would be an effectual veto to that sort of college loafing into which the elective system has degenerated in other colleges. Make the elective course *thorough*; the results will be salutary. Make it a *farce*; it will *end* a farce. We rejoice to see a degree of liberality in our course; but at the same time we must recollect that thoroughness must be maintained, if Union College is to reach the high standard to which she is surely tending. Other changes have been made which may be noticed hereafter.

GREEK-LETTER SOCIETIES.

An interesting little volume entitled "The Greek-letter Societies," by A. P. Jacobs, a member of the Psi Upsilon fraternity, of Michigan University, lies before us. It is a statistical compendium of the Greek-letter fraternities which have become noted in collegiate annals, and evidences much diligent research. The author gives a brief history of the establishment of each of the principal societies, their chapter dates, and the aggregate membership of each chapter. A list of the prominent members of each society is also appended. The first of the Greek-letter fraternities, the venerable Phi Beta Kappa, was founded at William and Mary, Dec. 5th 1776. Of this society eighteen chapters are yet existing, Union being one of the oldest. Long before 1825, however, when the earliest of the modern societies was founded, Phi Beta Kappa had ceased to be a secret organnization, and soon became what it now is, a mere honorary society, to which the best scholars of each graduating class are admitted. Of the ten fraternities enumerated by Mr. Jacobs as being largely confined to the eastern colleges, six trace their origin to Union College, thus confirming the title she has so often received as the "Mother of Secret Societies." Mr. Jacobs' recapitulation, omitting the number of living and deceased chapters is given below.

Society.	When founded.	Origin.	Membership.
Kappa Alpha,	1825,	Union,	(1874) 816
Signa Phi.	1827,	Union,	(1876) 1,448
Delta Phi,	1827,	Union,	(1875) 1,575
Alpha Delta Phi,	1832,	Hamilton,	(1876) 4,499
Psi Upsilon	1833,	Union,	(1879) 4,928
Chi Psi	1841,	Union,	(1878) 1,894
Delta Kappa Epsilon,	1844,	Yale,	(1874) 5,245
Delta Psi,	1847,	Columbia,	(1876) 1,606
Theta Delta Chi,	1847,	Union,	(1875) 1,419
Zeta Psi,	1847,	N. Y. U.,	(1874) 1,889

CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. Editor:

Among the inquiries in the March issue of THE CONCORDIENSIS, we notice a request to know "Who is Octavia?"

> Ah! marry, sir, my friend, and winnow out
> The better meaning of my simple rhyme;
> If logic then prove true, there's not a doubt
> But thou mayst solve the mystery in time.

And yet,

Where in the barren exile of my mind
Shall I essay a copy for this page?
When if her beauty were half sung, mankind
Would deem the song as but a poet's rage.
A woman, weigh her qualities—a grace
Belonging to high blood and purest type;
A chastity that lived upon her face,
And breathed a look in life so fair and ripe.
And ah! methinks the rhetoric of her eye
Still beams to throw a thousand subtle arts;
A hand whose mould and taper overlie
The very craft of nature's hidden parts;
Whose sum of looks frame beauty more divine
Than Limner's art, or Poets' golden line.

CONCERNING THAT FENCE.

The student-mind here seems to have taken offense at a fence extending from South College to the blue gate, marking the boundary between the terrace and what has been termed the "quarter-deck." The student's antipathy for it has been evinced in sundry ineffectual attempts to demolish it. Perhaps these vandals consider their architectural tastes to be outraged by having to pass such an unsightly object so often, with empty stomachs, on their way to breakfast. Certainly, as a wretched architectural design it is only excelled by the inanimate edifice that obstructs and defaces the campus. I have thought that the object in permitting it to remain might be to preserve a valuable article of bric-a-brac, which for intrinsic ugliness might vie with the worst genuine Pompeian vase ever manufactured in Boston. But this can hardly be, since several errant boards have already been replaced by very modern ones that have been painted with a lighter shade than that of the original antique so as not to be even good imitations of it. At all events a reverence for age ought to prevent any further assaults upon it:—Unmistakable marks of antiquity appear in it enough to show, that the fort in the town, fired in 1698, would, if in existence now, be an affair of to-day as compared with the venerable old fence. Doubtless it was erected by the indigenous indians, to practice vaulting over, long before Columbus anticipated by coming over here the indians' design of discovering Europe. If the boys find it necessary to meddle with it at all, to retain their aesthetic equilibrium, let them saw off the tops of the boards that go to make up the taller portions or splice the less tall ones until a uniformity in height is attained. Then let them forego a few paintings of the idol and apply the same material to the fence and thus give it a utility in scaring "towners" away when we want to play a home-game of ball on our own grounds.

It may be objected to this plan that the idol will get rusty from such neglect, but how does that concern the average student? There are only two persons in this neighborhood who worship there, and if they want a fancy God, let them paint it themselves. It is my candid opinion that more time and trouble have been expended, by the students, in keeping that idol in repair than the thing is worth. Let some of this effort be put upon the fence in question, and much good may be done. It is barely possible that the lesson I have herein striven to inculcate will go unheeded and the periodical raids upon it will still eventuate. If this *cannot* be avoided I have but one word more of advice, viz: that the next assault be made to result in such a complete demolition of the venerable structure that not a single splinter shall remain to reproach the perpetrators of the crime with their vandalism.

RANDOM.

P. S.—From recent advices we learn that the next move in the construction of the "what-is-it" will be to give it a coat, inside and outside, of the yolks of humming birds' eggs. Why might not a portion of the funds that are to go for this seemingly unnecessary decoration be expended advantageously either in repairing or removing the fence?

R.

LOCAL.

—W. J. Sweet has left college.

—A freshman denies that his mouth is a cellar, as there is something under it.

—Prof. Webster made a trip to Washington recently on business connected with the department of Natural History.

—The Honorable John K. Porter, LL. D, of the class of 1837, has been appointed to deliver the Chancellor's address at the coming Commencement.

—The Freshman class, without doubt, possesses the largest baby of which we have any knowledge. And hereafter one of the attractions of the college should be to see the "B B." (big baby.)

—B. H. Ripton, '80, is out of college this term. He will, however, keep up his class work and return in the fall. Meanwhile he will be missed by his friends of whom he has made many.

—A Junior in Zoology defined a sponge as the skeleton of an animal, composed principally of holes. Another defines the canals traversing the sponge as long holes. They were both wholly wrong.

—Are strong feet great helps to a man on a tug of war team? If so one of the Juniors would make a very good person for that business as we have the word of a Prof that he has these things about his person.

—It is understood that arrangements have been made for heating and lighting Memorial Hall. This is all very well, but still it is just as far from the fourth floor to the pump at South College as ever, and it is just as in convenient to go to the city for oil as formerly.

—It is rumored that as soon as the snow is gone the engineers will survey the boundaries of a piece of ground about the idol which will be call *Potter's* field or the *God's acre.* J. H. says the report is without foundation and pronounces it an *idle* joke.

—Prof.: "You know that the angle inscribed in a semi-circle, is a right angle. This angle is inscribed in a circle, and is a right angle; what is the part of the circle which measures it?"

Flunkist: "I don't recall the *technical term* for it, but."———(Dust rises.)

—"But then," said he, "if a man picked up nothing, save what is in the curriculum his College course would do him but little good. It's the things that one picks up outside that help one along." (And then he went outside and picking up an armful of wood glided on to his own room with the far-away look in his eye of a philosopher.)

—A Freshman who's mind runs considerably on Shakespeare, exclaimed, "What is this I see before me?" Just at that moment another Fresh. who had evidently been reading Richard the III, exclaims, "A horse, a horse." Here they were interrupted by a Prof. desiring church reports.

—It has been stated on pretty good authority that the Memorial Hall is to be used as a zoological garden. It is peculiarly well adapted to this purpose, as, when heated by ordinary means, the temperature will be so varied at different altitudes as to accommodate animals from all parts of the globe, from the tropics to the poles.

—All will be pleased to learn that the Rev. Charles F. Deems, D. D., pastor of the Church of Strangers, New York city, and the gifted editor of that excellent periodical, Leslie's Sunday Magazine, has been selected to deliver the annual Baccalaureate sermon before the Senior Class on the Sunday evening preceeding commencement

—One of the most ingenious ways yet practiced for eluding the collection plate at the evening service, was that indulged in by a bright Soph, who when the plate was passed to him, calmly dropped his ten cent piece on the outside of the plate, and after the collector had gone put it back in his pocket, ready for the next time.

—At the regular meeting of the Adelphic Society, April 19th, the following officers were elected for the present term: President, who also acts as Respondent for the Society at the June anniversary, Robert C. Alexander, '80; Vice-President, John Ickler, '80; Treasurer, A. H. Dougherty, '80; Advocate, F. P. S. Crane, '80; Engrossing Clerk, D. F. Glover, '80; Curator, J. A. Kemp, '80; Secretary, L. J. Hull, '81.

—The Freshmen are not the only ones able to invent proofs for the laws of nature. In a school, in this State, one of the students in giving some proofs of the revolution of the earth, said: "First, when we are riding along in a train of cars every thing seems to go by us. Second, when riding in a steamboat all the objects on the land seem to be passsing by." That student has evidently a glorious future before him, if he lives.

—Have you seen our new steps?

—How much was the old fence insured for?

—What color do you want it? (The Idol).

—Bring out your spring suits. The idol has his.

—The Freshmen have a temple not made with hands.

—You cannot look at a Freshman now for less than $250.00.

—Lawn tennis is being played on the campus this spring.

—Why do not the Sophomores do something? Can't afford it.

—Now is the time to think of moonlight walks, lovely maidens and June bugs.

—Who said that Queen Elizabeth called Sir Philip Sydney her "Bright Jewel?"

—A Senior has decided, so he says, to pursue an original science this term—*gynecology*.

—1st. Soph. What is the meaning of the Greek word *Eureka?* 2nd Soph. The word means "hurrah."

—A Freshman wants to know if we have read "Revelries of a Bachelor." No, but we have heard of them.

—So far only one Fresh has broken his cane, but several valiant men have been nearly broken by their canes.

—Arrangements are being made to meet the Syracuse University, Cornell and Hamilton College Nines the last week in May

—The Nine have begun practice on the campus. The spring is late and every day should be employed in systematic practice.

—The only thing that marred the singing, at the cremation of algebra, was that the orchestral accompaniment was a little too loud.

—Since the printing of our article concerning the liberty-pole, said pole has collapsed and disappeared from the scene of its late conflicts.

—"Mr. M. explain all about the syllogism." "Passed that up." "Well, you ought not to have been allowed to do so." Emotion among the boys.

—Perhaps the worst insult we have received was when, upon asking to see some canes, the salesman produced a lot of black ones to select from.

—Just about now the amateur base ballist goeth forth to exhibit his proficiency in capturing the wary ball—also the druggist layeth in a full stock of Iodine.

—J. L. Perry, W. J. McNulty and F. C. Avery are the Union delegates to the annual convention of the Psi Upsilon fraternity, to take place soon at New Haven, Ct.

—The Trustees of the University recently conferred the degree of D. D. upon Rev. Samuel McKean, of Fort Edward, brother of the late Judge McKean, of Utah.

—The activity displayed by the fire department, on the night of the cremation of algebra, was noticeable. The Freshmen should return them a vote of thanks.

—According to "Stude" in the Gazette, the first question with which the Union student is greeted after vacation is, "Been getting married lately?" Well, hardly ever.

—Professor Isaac Edwards, LL. D., a prominent member of the University and Dean of the Albany Law Department, died recently at Albany. His death is deeply mourned.

—Owing to unavoidable circumstances this issue of the CONCORDIENSIS appears rather late. We trust our readers will overlook the delay. We will be on hand early next time.

—If any of the boys wish to see the finest cactus in this city in full bloom, it will pay them to call at the Y. M. C. A, coffee-room. Mr. Burk understands the management of plants as well as how to make coffee.

—The new catalogue shows a membership of 468 in Union University. The membership of the different departments is as follows: Union College, 251; Medical Department, 153; Law Department, 64.

—*Cannot* some philanthropic Alumnus be induced to give a thousand dollars to be used in making a respectable pavement in front of the Colleges in the place of rough flag-stones which now disgrace the grounds?

—The man who bought a second hand "trig." because it was "cut down" has invested in a new one, which he carries into class room, because, as he says, his conscience reproved him. Truly "conscience makes cowards of us all."

—The Senior Engineers took tea with Professor Staley on the evening of March 19th. They report a pleasant evening with the genial Professor, who always seeks, by the

way, to do the fine thing by the students both in class-room and outside.

—A Sophomore electrified the class in Latin a few days ago by remarking with reference to a mythological personage, that one of the principal reasons for his being sent to Hades was "because, after he died, he told his wife not to bury him."

—Score one! As we expected, the game of chess with Cornell University resulted in an easy victory for Union. Cornell resigns on the twenty-second move. Two games are being played with the University of Pennsylvania with little odds, as yet.

—What possible antipathy to algebra induced the townies to throw stones through the windows of No. 4, on the night of the cremation, is not exactly known. None of *them* were "stuck." The Freshmen should have resented such an usurpation of their rights.

—The use of the M.E.Church has been offered and secured for the Commencement exercises in June. Heretofore commencements have always alternated between the Dutch Reformed and Presbyterian Churches. But the M. E. Church is eminently fit for the purpose and deserves its turn.

—The first game of base ball was played on our grounds Saturday, April 26, against the Alerts, of Schenectady. The College Nine won by a score of 12 to 9. If arrangements can be made, our Nine desire to play either the Troy Polytechnics or the Williams College Nine next Saturday.

—At the last meeting of the Philomathean last term, J. S. Perry was elected Valedictorian, and W. W. Childs was elected Alternate. The regular officers for the present term are: President, R. T S. Lowell; Vice-President, J. V. L. Pruyn; Secretary, E. B. Waller; Treasurer, E. M. Watkins; Librarian, J. M. McMasters; Curator, E. C. Murray. The membership of the Philomath. has been greatly increased and its prospects are bright for future usefulness and honor.

—We would call the attention of the students to the advertisement of the Notman Photographic Co. This firm has patronized your paper liberally, and fair play would demand that you should patronize it in return. The contract rates for students are very low and may be seen at the rooms of the chief editor. If you wish to get photographs equal to any produced in the world, of every size, and style, and at a low price, give them a call. Satisfaction guaranteed in all cases.

—Scene in a railroad car. Father, (who is just about to leave town, having taken just a little of the intoxicating beverage): "I am glad to (hic) leave this town, and am never coming back again." Daughter, (who has been trying hard to persuade him not to go): "What! father, never?" Father: "Well, as Shakspeare says, 'hardly (hic) ever.'" Some may be glad to know just where this saying came from. We hope this settles the matter.

—All of the evidence that can be procured concerning the late fire is decidedly circumstantial; yet we are forced to entertain some suspicions when we learn that one member of the Faculty is known to have returned to his room after 2 o'clock Tuesday night; that another did not arise the next morning till after 10; that another bought five gallons of oil on the preceding day, and that another was seen prowling about the college after midnight. Alas! that it has come to this.

—The concert of the Lady Swedish Quartette Monday evening, April 21, was in the main very good, but not good enough, in our opinion, to justify the great enthusiasm of some people regarding them. The bass singing in the quartette was quite remarkable, to be sure, for a lady, yet we see no reason for going wild over a bass inferior to what we may hear almost any day simply because it is rendered by a lady. However, the alto solo, "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep," was very finely rendered by the same lady, and was, perhaps, the best thing of the concert.

—The Athletic Tournament given under the auspices of the Mohawk Boat Club at Union Hall, April 18, was the first entertainment of its kind we have ever seen in the city. In the tug-of-war a Union College team who had not trained for the event were beaten by the Troy Athletic Club after a sharp struggle. The club-swinging by Buffington, of Troy, was very fine, as were also the trapeze performances of the Lawrence Bros., of Troy, and the Claire Bros., of this city. Perhaps the greatest interest centered in the heavy-weight sparring match between W. J. McNulty, of Union College and Carr, of Troy, in which Carr (a fine boxer, by the way,) "was knocked out of time by his antagonist" on the last round The hardest hit was made by McNulty

on the second round, Carr falling heavily on his hands and knees.

—We are in receipt of the following from President Potter. It is of interest to both student and alumnus. We give it in full:

NEW YORK, March 24th, 1879.

DEAR SIR:

You are cordially invited to join the Century Club of Union College. With gentlemen who have joined and with others who are becoming connected with it, we believe you will find it pleasant to be associated in the interest (as indicated below) of education and the College.

Very sincerely yours,

JOHN K. PORTER, ANDREW KIRKPATRICK.
JOHN T. HOFFMAN, DANIEL M. STIMSON,
HENRY C. POTTER, BRADLEY MARTIN,
HOWARD POTTER, JOHN WALLACE,
WALTER R. GILLETTE, CLARK BROOKS,
EDWIN EINSTEIN, FRELING H SMITH,
GEO. SCHERMERHORN, and others.

The Century Club is an Association aiming to procure a membership of at least one hundred persons, contributing one hundred dollars per annum, or some other specified sum toward the annual support of Union College.

The College, unlike most of its peers, has not heretofore appealed generally for aid: The depression in its real estate having greatly diminished its educational income, and many of the new endowments being for scholarships, the library, buildings, etc., the Club contributes towards salaries and other ordinary expenses, and alms, in view of the progress and sound condition of the College, to enlarge the extent of its permanent support and usefulness.

Persons may also become members by forwarding contributions or by the contributions of others in their name. Acceptance of membership is indicated by filling out and signing the accompanying paper and forwarding it to the College. Remittances should be drawn to the order of JNO. PEARSON, Treasurer. Communications should be sent to PROF. WM. WELLS, LL. D., Union College.

The annual meeting of the Club is held during Commencement week, or at the pleasure of the Club upon the call of the President of the College.

THE CENTURY CLUB OF UNION COLLEGE.

The undersigned will contribute to Union College the sum of..... dollars per annum upon call of its Treasurer, with the *proviso* that the contribution is not to continue for more than three years without renewal and may cease at any time after the first annual payment upon written notice to the President of withdrawal from the Club.

Signed,

—The cremation of Bourdon, that event to which the eager Freshman looks as a relief from a tedious study and as an opening into a new world of canes and plug-hats, occurred on the night of March 26. It would seem that the spirit of the departed is at least powerful enough to influence the state of the weather since, for three consecutive years the night of the ceremony has been exceedingly unpleasant. This year there was a blinding snow storm but in spite of all the unfavorable influences the Freshmen successfully carried out their programme. The procession formed at the Blue Gate and made a short parade through the streets of the city. During their absence some very industrious Sophs blockaded the gate in a highly artistic manner. However, they received little for their trouble for the Freshmen marched straight past the gate and reached the college grounds by another entrance. The exercises were held on the race course and were very interesting, at least so we were told, for though we stood quite close to the orator and glee club, the same industrious Sophs made a deal more noise with horns than the Freshmen did in speaking or singing and we were unable to hear a word. But something was said for we all saw the lips of the orator part in the most eloquent manner and his gestures, too, were very forcible. The conclusion of the matter was the uncalled for serenade (?) of their instructor, which showed conclusively that they were lacking in many things—respect for him and for themselves, and is one more proof that freshness will cling to the class for some time yet, in spite of the canes and beavers. The most praiseworthy part of the procession were the costumes and transparencies, the latter, particularly, being well made and highly suggestive.

—The Official circular and catalogue of the college is out. The numbers of this little volume hitherto issued have been unsurpassed as works of fiction This last number lacks some of the charms that its predecessors have possessed, since many of the pleasant little tables they contained have now been omitted. Still, this furnishes pleasant reading. What a pastoral inspiration creeps over the wearied student when, at the close of a day of hard work, he picks this up for a half hour's light reading and comes upon the paragraph devoted to the "Department of Agriculture" and there reads of the "College farm." Why couldn't the boys at the next field-day be treated to a trip to this farm. Maybe one day would not suffice for a trip there and back (supposing it a part of the college property in Hunters Point or on Long Island) but then the boys have been working hard all winter and two or three days' holiday for such a purpose, ought not to be grudged them. One error we are sorry to notice—the distance between the different departments of the University it is proposed to

reckon *in time*. Seniors in their third term, having had astronomy, grasp this idea readily enough but it only serves to bewilder under-classmen. However, a foot note promises modifications in a later edition and this will doubtless be rectified. We trust the editor will pardon a suggestion from us relative to future issues, viz: that a trifle more plot than this present one contains will be, of necessity, introduced, if this little publication is to maintain its reputation as a leading work of fiction. If the proper authorities will open its columns to capable contributors we can promise them some gems in the way of fables and short novelettes.

—A crazy Senior (we will not mention the causes of his lunacy) entered our sanctum. His wild appearance terrified us to silence while he spake as follows about a recent trip around the Colleges: "I found the flagstones in front of South College are just as slippery as ever, and quite as hard. I went around to the Museum. The first thing that strikes one on entering is that it is fearfully cold, and the second thing that strikes him (this time on the shins,) if he is not careful, is the tail of the fossil dog, supposed to have been the lap-dog of Noah's wife. It is plain he was a lap-dog. His cast of countenance indicates that his favorite lap is to lap milk. Mr. Benedict has added a stuffed duck to the collection. Several oyster shells have been placed in the cases and a few more worms and bugs have been induced to take to alcohol. Some of them look unhappy, but, Mr. Editor," (here he became excited and fairly shrieked,) "if they only knew it, there are multitudes of men who would be only too happy to swim around in alcohol. Some suppose the Professor has a hard time collecting, thinking he digs around with a big scoop-shovel. But they are mistaken. He merely digs around till he finds a good place to sit down and, having spread his umbrella, brings out his clay together with matches and his Ben. Payn. As the blue rings ascend he stares around. Pretty soon along wriggles a little wriggler, hurrying on to slide down the cellar-door with his best girl. He suddenly becomes aware that something's wrong about the landscape and starts off. But the Professor calls out, 'Come here, you——' (hurling a name at him long enough to go around the umbrella three or four times). Recognizing the utter uselessness of attempting to escape one so well acquainted with the family, he turns back, meekly crawls up and plumps himself into the bottle-pointed out to him. 'What's in a name!' Why, sir, if the Prof. hadn't got out these long names, he wouldn't have worms enough to fill a pill-box. Among the additions to the Geologist's table, I noticed a broken pavement stone and a portion of one of the Chapel steps; also a piece of the hitching post. I next looked into "Memorial Hall." It looks as if it would be a good place for the Nine to practice in. They could lay out an excellent track for walking or running. The second floor might be successfully turned in an art gallery, if the boys——" (here his ravings became so terrible and incoherent that we cannot attempt to report them). "Crossing the campus I called on Prof. Staley, and taking a chair, chatted away quite cheerily. The fire getting low and there being no wood in the box, he opened a case and taking out a number of his celebrated specimens of wood, fed the fire. On my expressing surprise, he told me with a knowing look, that out of a six-foot stick Pickett could bring him 17 or 18 specimens of different wood. A label does the business, with a few chemicals Science is mighty and will prevail. Passing into the Chemical Department I found that some old railroad spikes, a piece of lead pipe, and chunk of hard putty were among the recent additions to the collection. I found the Professor instructing some of the boys how to turn a Jesse Oakley soap-box into a rosewood dressing-case. I *rose* and *wood* have '*dressed* him, but seeing 'twas a hopeless *case* I departed." This last sentence was too much for him and *us*, and we had to put him out—with the aid of several others in the section. There is no hope of his recovery.

INTER-COLLEGIATE.

The annual convention of the Inter-Collegiate Athletic Association was held at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York, April 3d. Nine colleges were represented by delegates—Union, Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, College of the City of New York, Williams, University of Pennsylvania, Lehigh University and Rutgers. After electing officers for the ensuing year and transacting some financial business it was decided that the Fourth Field Meeting be held on Friday, May 9th, 1879, on the grounds of the New

York Athletic Club, Mott Haven, commencing at two o'clock, P. M. The programme embraces 17 events, which, in our humble opinion, are poorly arranged.

THAT PEACOCK.

"Where, oh where is the squalling peacock?" Thus does North College lament the absence of its late companion, now deceased. For a long time did the Prof.'s peacock rend the air with agonizing screams until patience ceased to be a virtue and the North College men declared war against the gaudy fowl. Fourteen rounds from as many revolvers only served to amuse the animal, for he only expanded his lungs anew and redoubled his efforts. Finally one inventive genius produced a shot gun, loaded it nearly to the muzzle, fired and immediately scared the bird to death. The marksman has not yet been heard from. The fowl was picked up, dressed, and yesterday one of our boarding clubs had a splendid roast. Peacock is, as the local editor of the *Madisonensis* would say, "*uncommon good.*"

EXCHANGES.

—We surely have no ill feelings toward the *Madisonensis* It has some good qualities, but in the interest of respectable English we feel bound to say that its local department is utterly discreditable to a college journal. We might overlook such expressions as "aren't," "won't," "t'aint," &c., although we think *scholars* ought not to use them in writing; but the following are too bad: "The Principal's address to the class was *uncommon* good;" "To Hymen's altar he *lead* a bride;" "We don't *council* revolutionary measures, but we say, *learn* the juniors to be respectful." That a man who writes thus is to be found in a College is surprising indeed, but that he represents the scholarship of such an institution, as expressed in its literary publication, would seem to be a sad comment on the culture of its students. We hope he is not a representative man. In all honesty, fellow-editor, we *counsel* you to buy a small English grammar, and study it quietly.

—A new duty devolves upon us with this issue, and by no means an unpleasant one, —that of making a review of the first number of the *Hobart Herald*. This paper, according to its own statement, "was ushered into this vale of tears and sorrows on the twelfth day of March, 1879." Its first issue is exceptionally good both in its subject matter and outside appearance. The editorials are pointed, though they seem to be principally occupied in setting forth the evils of their college. "The New Spartacus," was evidently written by an aspirant for honors now held by the Burlington Hawkeye man or Mark Twain, although the editors disdain any such intention. The article contains a number of good hits at topics of the day, but one might justly find fault with the tendency shown for slang. The "Eulogy on Our English Department" advances some very sensible ideas in regard to this much abused department. The author claims that Hobart stands unrivaled in this respect. We will not enter into a controversy by disputing this point. The columns headed Campus, Clippings and Exchanges are well filled with creditable matter.

—Another new Exchange is the *Pennsylvania College Monthly* published at Gettysburgh Pa. "Reminiscences of College Life" contains some very amusing incidents in the college life of the author. He seems disappointed that no more of the Alumni take enough interest in their Alma Mater to write of their experience, and indeed this lack of interest forms another subject of discussion in the same issue. In "*Verbum Sat*" the advantages of an Alumni Association are set forth with great clearness. The appearance of the paper is highly complimentary to the college.

—We like the last issue of the *College Argus* extremely well and perhaps the best article in it is the one on Devotion to Alma Mater. Though written especially concerning Wesleyan and addressed to Wesleyan students, yet the idea embodied in the piece may well be studied and the advice given ought to be followed by the students of any college of small repute—that is, small in comparison with Harvard or Yale, yet by no means insignificant. The author thinks that devotion to Alma Mater can be shown in two ways. First, by attending fully to her mental requirements, taking physical

training to the extent of keeping a sound mind in a sound body, and secondly, by recommending it to others and prevailing upon them to make it their Mater also. This last idea is impressed with great forcibleness and is summed up by the following advice: "Write, talk, preach your college. Make all whom you meet believe as you do. Cram yourself full of unanswerable statistics and facts concerning it, and be ready to use these at all times." The other departments of the paper are equally good.

—As an illustration of the adage, or rather as an exception to the adage that "Great (?) minds always run in the same channels," we add a few of the criticisms upon the editorials of the CONCORDIENSIS:

"THE CONCORDIENSIS devotes too much space to editorials and is decidedly dull."—*Ex.*

"THE CONCORDIENSIS, with the exception of the *Chronicle*, contains more honest editorial work than any other exchange we receive. The editorials are well written and forcibly expressed."—*Ex.*

"The claims of the CONCORDIENSIS rest not alone upon its hand-ome appearance. The editorials in particular are good."—*Ex.*

"The editorials of the CONCORDIENSIS show that its editors are doing good solid work and in this respect are worthy of praise."—*Ex.*

PERSONAL.

'27. Peter Clarke, who was graduated from Union College in 1827, died in Brooklyn, February 28. He was a lawyer of some prominence and was a partner in his profession with General Ward and the late Chief-Justice Campbell, of New York. He was an intimate friend of Secretary Seward and was one of the incorporators of Packer Institute, of Brooklyn, a prominent member of Trinity Church, and the first Superintendent of its Sunday School. He is said to have been influential in the organization of the Freedman's Bureau.

'28. Honorable Elijah Ford, the oldest lawyer of Buffalo, died March 9, 1879. He had been a member of the State Legislature and of the City Council and was a highly respected man.

'28. Mr. Justice Hunt, of the United States Supreme Court, who was stricken with paralysis early in January, is improving, although there is no hope of his entire restoration to health. Within a few days he has been able to sit up, and can articulate a few words but not connect sentences.—*Ex.*

'36. W. W. Theobalds, A. M., is editor and proprietor of the *Yolo Mail*, Cal.

'36. E. Ware Sylvester, A. M., M. D., of Lyons, N. Y., died March 29, 1879.

'37. Hon. L. A. Mackey is Member of Congress from the twentieth district of Pennsylvania. He graduated with the highest honors of a class of one hundred and eight of which he was the youngest member. He is President of the Bald Eagle Valley Railroad Company and of several other corporations and is serving his second term in Congress. He resides at Lock Haven.

'76. Craig A. Marsh is a student in the Law Department of Columbia College.

'77. W. J. DeTreville and J. H. LaRoche are Professors respectively of Mathematics and Natural Sciences in Claflin University, Columbia, S. C.

'78. E. N. Anable is at the Columbia Law School, N. Y.

'78. Mr. Charles Culver, of Union College, delivered an excellent address before the club, on Monday night last, on the subject of alcoholic drinks, from an analytic and physiological standpoint. The matter showed careful research and thought, and was made entertaining by sparkles of wit and the manner of delivery. It was one of the ablest lectures of the season. *Hillsdale (N. Y.) Herald.*

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