

THE CONCORDIENSIS.

VOL. XIV.

UNION COLLEGE, MARCH 14, 1891.

No. 11.

LITERARY.

COLUMBIA'S DEBT TO UNION.

IN the current number of *Lippincott's Magazine* that usually precise and always delightful writer, Julian Hawthorne, is betrayed into an inaccuracy by the enthusiasm of his plea for "An American Kew." He says:

"It was when the present century was hardly more than a score of years old that one Dr. Hosack marked out a garden on the land now confined between 46th and 56th streets, Sixth Avenue and the East River. When at length he departed to that paradise where botany and botanists have their apotheosis, he bequeathed his garden to Columbia College on certain conditions. They were to be allowed to erect their new projected college building in a corner of the garden, and in return for the grant were to see to it that the plantations were kept in good order and augmented as opportunity offered. I blush to say that the college, after taking the doctor's land, neglected to carry out his stipulation; they suffered the garden to fall to rack and ruin, until it became nothing but an unsightly wilderness; and then the real estate cormorants came and we see the result."

Not being a lawyer Mr. Hawthorne may be excused for attempting to "bequeath" real estate, instead of "devising" it, but the historical inaccuracy of the passage is much more serious. The real facts attending the acquisition by Columbia College of Dr. Hosack's Botanical Garden form an interesting narrative.

In 1801 Dr. David Hosack was Professor of Botany and Materia Medica in Columbia College. He was an enthusiast in his devotion to the former branch of his instruction, and made unsuccessful efforts to secure from the State aid in establishing a botanical garden on Manhattan Island. Finally he undertook the task at his own expense. He purchased from the city for an insignificant sum,

twenty acres of land near the Bloomingdale road, distant over three miles from the city of that day, and covering the territory now included between Fifth and Sixth avenues, 47th and 51st streets. This tract the doctor began to improve on a liberal scale, clearing up the ground, and enclosing the whole by a great stone wall of masonry, seven feet in height. A fine conservatory and two spacious hot-houses were built, rare plants and shrubs, both native and exotic, were cultivated, and a belt of forest trees planted around the limits. As the doctor probably anticipated, the botanical garden soon became a feature of public interest and professional utility, and in 1810 the New York Medical Society, the Common Council, the New York Hospital, the State Medical Society and many individuals united in a petition to the Legislature to purchase the garden for the State of New York. As a result, there was passed March 12, 1810, "An Act for the Promotion of Medical Science in the State of New York." The Act directed the Commissioners of the Land Office to purchase the botanical garden at a fair value of the land, without estimating the worth of the plants and trees, and, according to the usual custom of that day—a custom which, under the present dispensation, would have lodged our godly grandfathers in the lock-up—provided raising the necessary funds by a lottery.

The land was afterward appraised at \$2,500 an acre, or \$50,000. The building and fixtures were estimated to be worth \$24,300 more, while the \$12,600 worth of trees, plants, tools, &c., were not paid for. Thus, for a consideration of \$74,300 the title passed from the thrifty botanist to the State

of New York, and Dr. Hosack lived comfortably for a quarter of a century thereafter on the profits of the transaction. He died in 1835, at the age of 67 years. The property was placed by the State under the care of the Regents, to be maintained without further public expense, for the benefit of the medical schools and societies of the State.

In the legislative session of 1814 there were a half dozen or more educational or charitable institutions which were vigorously urging their claims for State bounty. The three colleges of the State—Columbia, Union and Hamilton—the latter then just organized, were all in financial straits. The College of Physicians and Surgeons, the New York Historical Society and other institutions had each before one house or the other its separate bill for financial relief. Union College, which nine years before had been granted a lottery of \$80,000, was now asking for another one of \$200,000. Columbia College asked no lottery, but simply asked the grant by the State of the Hosack Botanical Garden in New York.

Among the master minds of that generation there was not a more skillful, adroit or effective political manager than the Rev. Dr. Eliphalet Nott, President of Union College. He understood men and the motives of human action. He was a character reader and a character molder. His influence upon not only his pupils, but every person with whom he came in contact, was universally acknowledged. No more skillful lobbyist ever frequented the capitol, and no more eloquent advocate ever confronted a legislative committee than President Nott. He never sought legislation in vain. He knew just what he wanted and just how to get it. Recognizing the value of Dr. Nott's experienced leadership, Hamilton College, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Asbury Church of New York, and the Historical Society, pooled their issues, withdrew their

several private bills, and urged Dr. Nott to incorporate their claims in the Union lottery bill. To this the president assented, and broadened his lottery scheme so as to give Hamilton \$40,000, the College of Physicians \$30,000, the Historical Society \$12,000, and the Asbury Church \$4,000. This huge gambling device the reverend lobbyist pushed forward so zealously that it was soon advanced to the third reading on the Assembly calendar, and was certain to go through.

All this time the Columbia College bill slumbered peacefully in committee. It was treated with scant courtesy by the members of the Legislature, especially those from the country districts. They were willing to authorize the drawing of lotteries, which conferred benefits upon literary institutions without any draft on the State treasury, and at the same time gave their constituents the pleasurable excitement of buying chances in the gambling enterprise, but to grant out and out a valuable property, worth at least \$100,000, was quite a different matter. The session was drawing near its close. In their extremity the Columbia managers swallowed their pride, sought out President Nott and besought him to take up their desperate cause. He hesitated not a moment, but declared that whatever was for the good of higher education would receive his hearty co-operation. Although realizing that it would imperil the success of his own measure, he consented to attach the absolute grant of the Botanical Garden to Columbia, as a "rider" to his bill to establish a lottery. The bill had to go back to the committee for amendment, and there, with all the generosity of his nature and all the eloquence for which he was so famed, the eulogist of Hamilton pleaded for Hamilton's alma mater in the same breath with the college to which his own life had been devoted. And he carried his point. The amended bill was piloted safely through both Houses,

signed by the Governor, and then, for the first time during the legislative session Dr. Nott went back to resume his college duties at Schenectady.

So general was the conviction that to Dr. Nott alone was due the passage of the amended lottery bill, that at the close of the printed act, in the session laws of 1814, appears this remarkable "NOTE—No bill before the legislature excited greater interest and attention than this act. Especial credit is due to the unwearied exertions of the able and eloquent President of Union College in promoting its passage." It is the only instance in the history of state legislation in which such an annotation occurs in the official volume of the session laws.

As if to suggest a graceful recognition of the services of Union College in securing for a rival institution so magnificent an endowment, the legislature voluntarily inserted in the bill another section, which provided that within one year from the date of the act, "at least one healthy exotic flower, shrub or plant of each kind in duplicate, with the jar containing the same," should be sent to Union College. The records of Union, however, do not show that Columbia ever made even this simple acknowledgment.

Thus the Hosack Garden became the property of Columbia College. The proceeds of Union's \$200,000 lottery were not received for a dozen years thereafter, and were spent in new buildings before they were realized, but Columbia's grant is to-day worth millions of dollars, and is its principal source of revenue. The Hosack Botanical Garden is to-day the center of the wealth and fashion of the metropolis. The magnificent residences upon it are built upon leases for a long period, and still greater revenue will be derived by the college when these leases expire. Under the act of 1814 the grant was made on condition that the college should be removed to the premises within twelve

years. But by an act passed February 19, 1819, this condition was released, and the grant was left without limitation.

R. C. ALEXANDER.

THE FORGOTTEN MAN

IT must have been in the month of December. All the afternoon the snow had been heaping the streets, and roofs, and yards, and in the thickening darkness the flakes, like petals, were dropping and swaying through the trees. It was just that sort of evening when a person feels indisposed to do anything but kill time, and when nature seems to be taking special pains to make men serious. Doctor Clayton, whom I knew very well in college, had lately come to town and launched out in the practice of medicine, a profession reputed to afford the beginner now and then a leisure hour. So I wandered around into Elm street, and a ring of the bell was responded to by a quick step, which I recognized as that of my friend. After the usual formalities we entered the office. In the fire-place two or three black logs were emitting fickle jets of flame and sparks, and there, comfortably bedded in a rocking chair, with his feet alighted on an iron above the fire sat—"Mr. Olney, my friend, Mr. Thompson." "Well, Mr. Thompson," began my new acquaintance, "such weather as this rather puts us on the shelf." From his posture I could not help thinking it was true in his case, and I replied that we were fortunate in having such snug quarters.

"Yes, Clayton," he resumed, "your college is a queer institution. The time is coming when people will acquire their education in the home by habit and association, as they now learn there all the simpler facts of life. As it is now we spend the first half of our days in learning how to spend the other half. Your college prepares a man to fill any position without preparing any posi-

tion for him to fill. Thus each man is left to create from the relations of every-day life and from nature a niche into which his individuality will fit. The collegian enters a world that is thoroughly equipped to do its work in the minutest detail without him. He is a new factor, a cipher, if you please, whose value will depend upon the attitude he takes relative to others."

"Olney," interrupted Clayton, "does'nt education make men restive?" "Restive! Why, from the beginning man has gained knowledge by losing Paradise. Every new fact comes to him with its bright side and its dark side. In acquiring new facts he acquires a thousand new wants, a thousand new susceptibilities, thus becoming a thousand times more a man. The essential difference between Henry Clay and the other swains of Hanover county, was that he was restive, aspiring, yearning to be great, while they were contented eating, drinking and sleeping. The only sufficient reason for any man being in college is because he is unsatisfied anywhere el-e."

"Excuse me, gentlemen," said Clayton, "I must introduce Mr. Thompson to my wife; I was married about a year ago." Entering the parlor, my friend introduced me to his wife, Gertrude, whom the limits of this article will not permit me to describe.

Olney, determined still to be spokesman, continued in the same strain. "Clayton, take a man behind the counter, following the plow, over the anvil, and only a small proportion of his thoughts are upon his business. The imagination wanders away from the man's vocation into fields of beauty, truth, or love. As romance, history, poetry have arisen from every-day affairs, it should be the aim of culture to put them again where they sprang from. Teach the farmer to see the burning bush of Horeb in the flaming foliage of autumn; bring beggars to appreciate Victor Hugo and he will trans-

form them into Jean val Jeans. The object of education is not so much to help a man get a better living out of his work as to enable him to put a better living into it."

This strange, philosophic being was somewhat older than either Cayton or myself, and, as I was afterward informed, was practicing law in a neighboring city. I have not seen him from that day till this.

It seems to me but yesterday when I heard the above conversation. It seems as if but a night, with its dreams and phantasms, intervened between that evening and to-day; but in the interval are the years with their deeds. Many and many a time since then have I ridden of an evening with Doctor Clayton on his missions of mercy. Now the Doctor has grown to be an old man and almost abandoned his large practice, and cheering his second childhood is another Gertrude, the very image of her mother.

A few evenings ago the Doctor and I were chatting in his office, when a message came asking him to call immediately at No. 118 Lexington Avenue. On the way we could not help commenting on the changes in the residences and streets since he started there the struggle of a physician. No. 118 was a large brown stone front, surrounded by trees and lawn of one green. There the form of a tall pine stood in bold outline against the canvas of the sky, and the Sabbath stillness of the hour seemed in sympathy with the occasion of our call.

The Doctor passed the reins to me, and seizing his satchel, was soon at the bedside of his patient. To my surprise, in a moment he came out on the piazza, and sending a colored boy to hold the horse, beckoned me to come in. With noiseless footstep I entered the solemnity and stillness that has pervaded such a spot since the world began. "It is he," said the Doctor, "It is Mr. Olney." I approached the bedside. The covering was motionless, the head peacefully

pillowed in its mound of white, for there in the dying twilight he had fallen asleep forever.

An elderly gentleman, a stranger to us both, called the Doctor and myself into the parlor. "Did you know him," he said, looking at Doctor Clayton; "it was his order that you be called." "We were once quite intimate," replied the Doctor. "Well," continued the stranger, "I thought I was the only real friend he had. His career was an unusual one. He was a thinker, and in early life possessed more than an ordinary amount of good nature. He gave himself up to the practice of the law with the one design of making money, and coined everything, his time, his talent, his friendships his fondness for beauty and truth, into dollars and cents." "Does he leave any children," inquired Doctor Clayton, "No, he never married. To-morrow several of the important stores of town will be closed as a token that half a million has changed hands, and in a few weeks, on the greenest knoll of sweet Auburn, a tall white pillar will perpetuate his name in mossless marble. I said he left half a million. I would modify that statement. The lots he owns were there before he was born; the railroad stock existed before he did; he left nothing—no thoughts to quicken others, no impulse to gladden them, no individuality to mould them."

"The same story," mused the old gentleman, his eye brightening with a tear, "'Once a man, twice a child.' In his closing days, as in childhood, he slept half his time; his voice changed again to childish treble; his head took on the tow of boyhood, and later the baldness of infancy, while his form bent forward as if he would again, as when a child, walk upon his hands and knees." Abruptly we bade the stranger farewell, the Doctor quoting in an undertone as we left the room:

"What shadows we are, what shadows we pursue."

W. A. JAYCOX, '87.

PERSONAL.

'43. It may not be generally remembered that Leonard W. Jerome, the well-known New Yorker, who died at Brighton, England, on the 3d of March, was a member of the class of '40 at Union College for three years before he went to Princeton, where he graduated. He was also a member of the Sigma Phi society.

'60. Wm. H. McElroy, representing Union College, delivered a speech at the Annual Banquet of the New York Alumni Association of the University of Rochester.

'80. The United States Commissioner of Education is about to issue, in his admirable educational series, a volume upon "Higher Education in the State of New York," containing a history of the oldest and most important educational institutions in the State. The illustrated history of Union College, contained in this volume, was by request prepared by Robert C. Alexander of the class of '80.

'87. William Van Wie has taken a position in the draughting room at the Schenectady Locomotive works.

'87. James Long, who has been living at Utica since he left college, has moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he will practice law.

'87. I. P. Johnson has lately returned from Oxford, where he has been devoting his time to the study of the English Church. He has resumed study at the General Theological Seminary in New York city, from which he will graduate in May.

'88 L. A. Darey is now in South America acting as civil engineer on the Panama railroad.

'90. F. L. Comstock is now at work in the draughting department of the Edison works.

THE CONCORDIENSIS.

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STUDENTS OF UNION COLLEGE.

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EDITORIAL.

OUR attention has been called to the fact that some of the students are abusing the privileges of the college library. Certain books are taken out by students in direct opposition to the rules of the library, and what is more to be regretted, in some cases the books are never returned. We admit that at times it is a great temptation to take a book from the library to one's own room, where it may be read at leisure, but the students should remember that this is a reference library and not a circulating library, and when the former begins to change into the latter, it loses all of its usefulness as a place where books of reference may be found and consulted. Lately there have been numerous complaints about this promiscuous borrowing of books, and unless this is stopped, and stopped at once, it is not at all improbable that the library regulations will be made more strict than they now are.

It would not be very agreeable to have the rules changed so that, whenever any book was wanted, the librarian would have to be asked to unlock one of the cases and hand you the book, and then take it from you after you had finished using it and lock it up again. Still this very thing may happen unless the present privileges of the library are appreciated, and the books used as they should be by the students. If the students have any complaints to make concerning the library, for instance, as to the hours during which it is left open, or as to certain periodicals which they believe ought to be taken, we feel sure, if a proper request were made by the students to the proper authorities, that it would at least receive their respectful attention, if it were not granted.

* * *

"PATRONIZE our advertisers" is a request which the students of all colleges have often heard expressed in the columns of their college papers, nevertheless we wish to make the request once again. It is true that most of the students do make it a point to make their purchases of men who advertise in their college papers, yet there are a number of men who do not take any particular pains about the matter, and it is to them we address our remarks. The merchants who advertise in this paper are just as reliable, and in many cases more so, than those who do not, and by thus advertising they show that they have some interest in Union College, and, indeed, it is this very interest which goes a great ways toward making it possible to publish the CONCORDIENSIS. For these reasons, at least, therefore, the students should see that these men retain their advertisements in this paper, and they can bring this result about by patronizing these particular men whenever they can. If the students will pay a little attention to this they can make it a great deal easier for suc-

ceeding editors of this and other Union College papers when they start on that exceedingly arduous work of getting "ads."

* * *

THE editors of this year's *Garnet* are now, or ought to be, hard at work preparing the material that is to make up the college annual, and we hope they will not take it amiss if we offer a few suggestions. The editors should always keep in mind that their book will be widely dispersed among the students of other colleges, and that these students' ideas of Union College will in a great measure be determined by the character of the *Garnet*. Let us, therefore, have a *Garnet* that will in every way be worthy of Old Union, and have it as original as possible. If you must have a number of old college annuals to refer to, and in a certain measure to copy from, don't get a stock of old *Garnets* and set to work to make up your *Garnet* from that. Rather get the publications of other colleges—the more the better—and from them you will be able to get ideas, when worked over, will be newer and more interesting, at least, to all Union men than will old *Garnet* jokes that may be brought to life, even under a new guise. Now, a word as to the "Grinds." Don't have them too personal. Don't make fun of a man for things which he cannot help unless you are sure he will not mind. Call attention if you will to a man's feelings, which he can remedy if he chooses, as that may bring about some good result, but the former method of "grinding" him cannot possibly do any good, and may do a great deal of harm. Ninety-one's *Garnet* was an excellent one, but we believe, although the senior class may not believe with us, that it can be improved upon, and with the good of Old Union at heart, we hope the present junior class will make this improvement.

IN *Outing* for March one of the most interesting papers, "Across the Great Divide" is a tale of a cowboy's night of peril, drawn not from a fertile brain, but from the living experience of an adventurous youth who spent years on the plains. Even the iron horse ploughed its fertile acres to make adventures less rare and racy.

To the Editor of the Concordiensis:

In reply to your request for a contribution to your college paper, some reminiscences may be allowable, after more than thirteen years, of the establishing of THE CONCORDIENSIS. In 1877, when the class of '79 entered its junior year, the college was without a periodical to represent it. The *Union College Magazine*, which had maintained for several years a very respectable literary character, and which was ably conducted by Joseph R. Davis, Homer Greene, J. B. Robertson and others of the class of '76, was discontinued after that year. The *Spectator*, having run a somewhat skittish career as the college paper, had recently expired. The number of students in college at that time being large, and college spirit strong, it was felt that Union ought to have a paper, and some of the class of '79 began to agitate the subject. In order to give the enterprise the desired strength and standing, it was determined that the three lower classes should be interested. Class meetings were accordingly arranged, at which the project was favorably received, and editors were elected.

One of the first things to be done was to select a name for the paper. For a week or more names from all languages—humorous, barbarous and ambitious—were tried and rejected. The present editors and their successors will never know the impending fates from which they were delivered. From Besom to Unionian, objections were found for every name. The latter was considered

not bad, except for its lack of euphony. Finally the Latin synonym was suggested, and as soon as we became used to it, met with favor and was adopted.

We then set to work on the first number. The faculty encouraged us, and the college inserted a paid advertisement. We canvassed Schenectady and Albany pretty thoroughly and secured enough advertising and subscriptions to make our finances solid. Greene, '79, was a practical printer, and took an active interest in the typographical make-up. We went to Weed, Parsons & Co., of Albany, and they furnished us with as pretty a dress as the CONCORDIENSIS ever appeared in.

The paper succeeded from the start. Van Dusen, '79, who became chief-editor soon after the first organization, labored faithfully and well, and gave the management a distinctive tone which it has never lost. The class of '80 furnished editors who had a special ability for such work. R. C. Alexander, with whom all readers of THE CONCORDIENSIS are acquainted, became chief-editor the second year, and his class, and afterwards the class of '81, supported the paper nobly and established its position in college journalism. Its history since then has justified the expectations of its founders. It is gratifying to observe from year to year the new talent it develops and the vigor it displays. The alumni may well show their appreciation of so able a representative by increasing its subscription list and contributing to its columns.

With best wishes for the continued success of this and all other interests of Union College, I remain,

Yours cordially,

EDWARD P. WHITE.

AMSTERDAM, N. Y., Feb. 23, 1891.

OF INTEREST TO STUDENTS.

—The term examinations begin Tuesday, March 24.

—William S. Cassedy, a former member of the class of '90, has re-entered college and will graduate with '91.

—'93 has been strengthened by the acquisition of two men from Union College, Messrs. Cooper and Lochner.—*Rutgers Targum*.

—B. C. Little, who has played short-stop on the college nine for the last three years, has been elected captain of the team for the coming season.

—T. H. Reddish, '92, and Edward Gillespie, '93, attended the opening of the new Phi Delta Theta Chapter house at Syracuse, Friday, March 6.

—The Senior Engineers have taken several trips to the Dudley Observatory in Albany, and have been doing some practical work in astronomy.

—The executors of the Fayerweather will have decided to give to Union College \$100,000 of the money that was left to them, according to the will. It is to be hoped that the will will not be broken.

—The members of the Beta Theta Pi society have been in almost constant attendance upon Reynolds, '93, a member of that society, during his severe illness, and the Psi U's have been just as zealous in the assistance they have afforded Professor Truax during the time his little daughter has been ill.

—In a late number of the *University Cynic*, a University of Vermont publication, a writer suggests the plan of having a college banquet, and calls attention, as an argument in its favor, to the rousing college banquet which the students of Union College held recently in Albany.

—The Senior class of the department of Pharmacy, connected with Union University, held their graduating exercises in Albany, Tuesday evening, March 10. J. B. Gilmour, '87, was a member of the graduating class.

—The President of the Senior class has appointed the following additional Commencement committees:

Music—Briggs, Fiske, Clements.

Pictures—McDonald, Edwards, Burr.

Class-day—Cassedy, Walker, Preston.

—The following games have been arranged by the base-ball manager: Cornell, at Ithaca, May 9; Colgate, May 1, at Hamilton; University of Vermont, at Schenectady, June 15. The game with Wesleyan will be played May 19 instead of May 10, as was misstated in the last CONCORDIENSIS.

—The attractions at the local theatres are: At State Street Opera House, "An Irishman's Love," Mar. 17. Mar. 20, Gillett's Colossal Gaiety Girls. April 1, Rip Van Winkle. Centre Street Opera House, Mar. 21, Hoyt's Brass Monkey. April 1, Evangeline.

—Lucius C. Rice, David D. Cassidy, Jr., and Edwin W. Daley received their classmates of the Theta Delta Tau society at the Alpha Delta Phi rooms, on Friday evening, March 6. Refreshments were served, and a very enjoyable time was had by all present. The thanks of Theta Delta Tau are extended to their friends in Alpha Delta Phi.

—The Astronomy class wish to express their thanks to Professor Boss of the Dudley Observatory for so kindly allowing them the use of the Observatory and instruments on the occasion of their visits to the Observatory, and they also wish to express their appreciation of the time and work which Sidney J. Lochner has devoted to the class on those occasions.

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—A copy of the Rochester *Campus* has been received which contains a very amusing editorial concerning Union College in general, and the CONCORDIENSIS in particular. It makes quite interesting reading, and may be seen at any time at our editorial rooms. We would, however, advise anyone who has now a good opinion of Rochester University to hesitate before reading the article in question.

—Some members of the class of '94 have organized a Whist Club, and elected the following officers: President, Milton Crandall; Vice-president, R. Roy McFarlin; Secretary and Scorer, Edwin W. Daley; Treasurer, Harris L. Cooke. The members are as follows: Campbell, Cassidy, Cooke, Crandall, Daley, Gilmour, McCowatt, McFarlin, Miller, Perkins, Rice, J. W. Veeder, N. I. Veeder, Updegraff, White.

—Following is a list of the Chapel orations delivered in the past two weeks:

SENIORS—(Feb. 27.)

- Briggs—"Genius shown in the Life of Bancroft."
 Ferguson—"Progress of National Liberty."
 Fiske—"Value of a College Education."
 Little—"One Evil Arising from Elections."
 McDonald—"Use of History."
 Preston—"Latent Patriotism."

JUNIORS—(Mar. 6.)

- Doig—"Charles Bradlaugh."
 Dougall—"One of God's Great Men."
 (Abraham Lincoln.)
 Dougan—"The Possibilities of Life."
 Furbeck—"The Decalogue in Politics."



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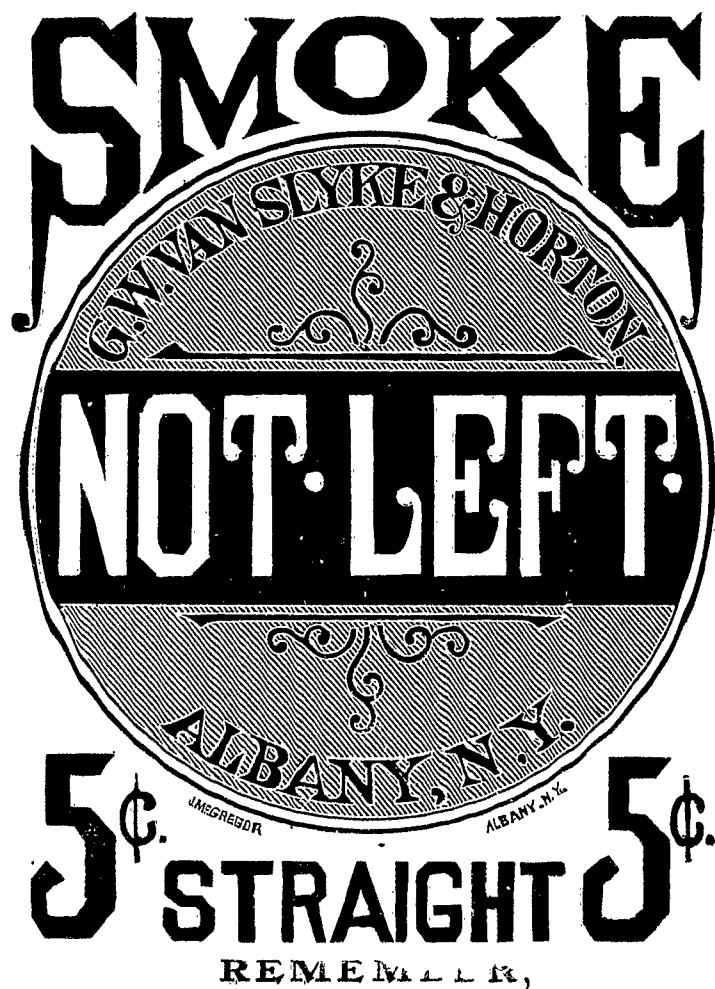
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