

LITERARY.

ROBERT C. ALEXANDER.

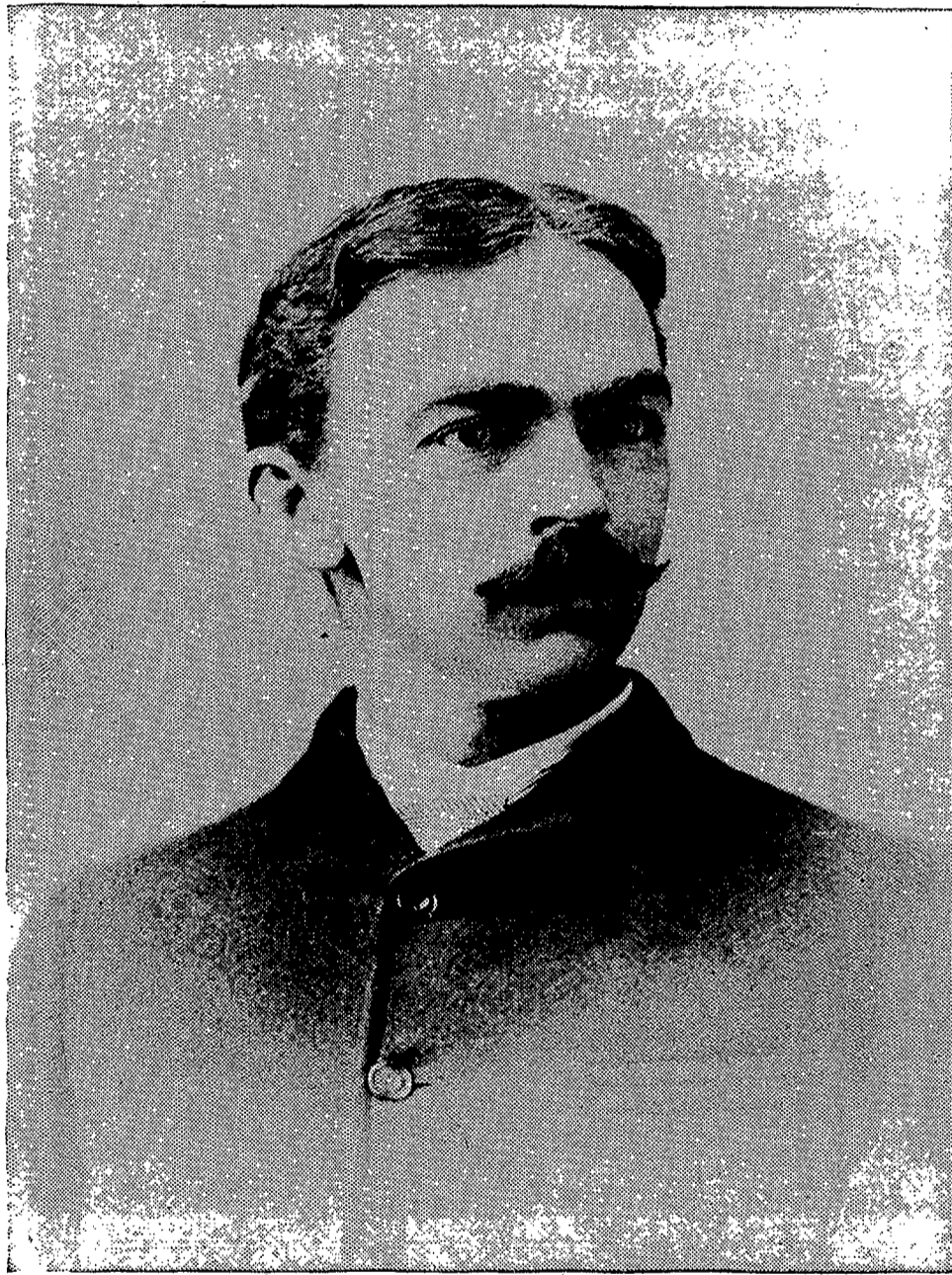
ROBERT CARTER ALEXANDER was born thirty-two years ago at West Charlton, Saratoga County, New York, of Scotch parentage. He worked on his father's farm till seventeen years of age. In 1876 he entered Union College and was graduated in 1880 in the classical course at the head of his class.

He took one of the prizes at the Sophomore Prize Speaking contest, and at graduation took the first Blachford oratorical prize and the Ingham essay prize. He was also first on the list of Phi Beta Kappa members elected from the class. He was elected president of the Class of 1880 in the Senior year and held the office till 1890, when he declined an unanimous re-election. At the decennial reunion of his class, in June, 1890, he was presented by his class mates with a gold watch and chain with a unique pendant in massive gold, representing the Chinese idol which stands on the college campus.

After graduation Mr. Alexander attended the law department of Union University at

Albany and was graduated in 1881 with the degree of LL. D., being admitted to the Bar the same year. Two years later Union gave him the degree of Master of Arts. Shortly after he entered the law office of Lucius and D. C. Robinson, at Elmira, N. Y., becoming, a year later, managing clerk of the firm. In

1884 he came to New York and engaged in the practice of his profession with Saml. Marsh, and later with F. F. Van Derveer, Esq. Previous to 1888 he had become the personal counsel to Col. Elliott F. Sheppard, and on the purchase by the latter of the New York *Mail and Express* became the attorney for that newspaper and one of the directors and the Secretary of the *Mail and Express* Publishing Company. Two years ago he first established in the *Mail and Express* a department devoted exclusively to college interests and college



ROBERT C. ALEXANDER.

news, a feature which has since been adopted by the *Tribune*, *Times*, *Post*, *Cincinnati Commercial*, and other leading dailies of the country. He is also a frequent contributor to the editorial columns of the *Mail and Express*.

Mr. Alexander has made a special study of

the law of corporations, and has organized several manufacturing and other corporations in different States. He recently organized the International Boiler Company, of New York, and the Stirling Manufacturing Company, of Illinois, and is a director and the attorney for both. He is a director and Vice-President of the Fifth Avenue Transportation Company, of New York. He is a director of the Burgess Gun Company of New York, and of the Mohawk Valley and Northern Railway Company, a new company just organized to run a railroad north from Herkimer into the Adirondacks. He also organized the Adirondack League Club, a sporting association owning 100,000 acres of forest lands in the Adirondacks, and is a trustee of the club.

Mr. Alexander, notwithstanding his journalistic and business predilections, stands deservedly high among his legal brethren. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association, of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, and of the Lawyers' Club. For the last two years he has been Chairman of the Committee on prizes of the State Bar Association to award the annual prize for the best legal essay. He was one of the Centennial Committee in charge of the Judiciary Centennial in February last, and the Secretary of the reception and entertainment Committee on that occasion. Mr. Alexander exhibited his extraordinary ability as an organizer, when he attempted to bring together the graduates of Union College, resident in New York City, in the form of an Alumni Association. No one before in so short a period of time (less than two years) has been able to accomplish such a result. The Association now comprises over 500 members, and has through its operation been materially beneficial to Union College. At the annual meeting of the Association in January last, Mr. Alexander begged that he might be relieved of the Secretaryship, as the duties of the office made serious inroads upon

his time, but the nominating Committee unanimously presented his name for reelection, and the Association by acclamation confirmed the choice.

At the Commencement of Union College, June 24th last, he was chosen by the Board of Trustees of Union College, a life member of the Board, succeeding the late Judge Van Vorst. He had become eligible only the day previous, the rules requiring that no Union graduate shall be chosen a trustee until at least ten years from his graduation. He is probably the youngest member of the board ever elected. Thus the Trustees showed, in their appreciation of the services of the subject of my sketch, a progressive spirit which, if continued, will, with other wise action, place Union College in the foremost rank of American institutions of learning.

WM. CLEVELAND ROBERSON,

Union, '77.

CONCERNING MECHANICS.

THE following is a review of a book on Mechanics written by Professor T. W. Wright of Union College, and just lately published. This review appeared in a recent number of *Nature*, a magazine published in London which is very good authority on scientific matters. It will be interesting no doubt to the students to read what an outsider has to say of a book written by one of Union's most popular professors.

"Text Book of Mechanics" by Thomas Wallace Wright, is a most excellent treatise on the science of mechanics, and systematically places before the student the principles which underlie the subject. The differential calculus for the most part is used only when a clear understanding is gained by it, and in the earlier chapters of the work, two courses are open to the reader, one with and the other without it. The author in a note rather regrets that words for unit velocity and unit acceleration have not been proposed, as

these would simplify matters. The Rev. J. B. Lock in his late book on "Dynamics for Beginners," has proposed and used two very good words, "velo," and "celo," for unit velocity and unit acceleration, respectively. On the whole the practical parts are treated more fully than is usual, and the examples throughout are of a very practical and typical character, and not mere numerical illustrations of formulae. Many examples the author has treated by the graphical method of solution, but he adds a word of warning to the students against making it a complicated weapon for attacking all sorts of problems which are more easily solved in other ways. Another important point alluded to is the use of approximate formulae; the rigorous formula always preceeds the approximate one, the latter being reduced from the former, so that the degrees of approximation can easily be estimated. The last two chapters deal with the statics and kinetics of fluids, or, as they are more generally known, hydrostatics and hydrokinetics. Besides numerous examples there are plenty of figures and wood cuts, and scattered here and there are a few historical notes which give a lively interest to the subject.

SONS OF OLD UNION.

IN THE *University Magazine* for October, appeared the following list of names, names which represent Union's most distinguished alumni. There is not another college in the United States which can present such a list of distinguished men. Each name is the name of a man noted in his particular calling, and arranged as the names are into groups, they make a list which is extremely valuable for reference. Well may Old Union, pointing with pride to these, her sons, say with the Roman matron, "Haec mea ornamenta sunt."

AUTHORS: Roswell Park, Lewis A. Morgan, John Bigelow, "Eli Perkins," Edward Bellamy, Homer Greene, Joel S. Headley, Mansfield Tracy Walworth.

POETS AND SONG WRITERS: John Howard Payne, author of "Home, Sweet Home," Fitzhugh Ludlow, author of the "Song to Old Union," Alfred B. Street.

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SLEEP.

AS SHADOWS of the solemn night,
 Replace day's shimmering flood of light,
 And stars, like sentinels, appear,
 To light their watch-towers far and near,
 The hum of weary toil and strife
 Is hushed where'er was active life ;
 The field, the shop, the mart, the street,
 No more resound to busy feet ;
 Day's carking cares from every breast
 Are laid aside for peaceful rest.
 The poor forget their wants and woes,
 The rich their pride in sweet repose.
 Whate'er their station, birth or place,
 Sleep folds them all in one embrace ;
 Regards alike both young and old,
 As children of a common fold.
 With magic talisman and skill,
 It soothes to rest the active will,
 E'vn for a season brings relief,
 To minds distraught and racked with grief ;
 Smoothes wrinkles from the brow of care,
 And leaves, instead, composure there ;
 Subdues awhile to peaceful rest
 Those base-born passions of the breast—
 Hate, envy, jealousy and pride,
 And fierce desires that ill betide ;
 As gently weighs the eyelids down,
 Of those who weep, or laugh, or frown,
 Youth, manhood and decrepit age,
 The saint, the sinner, and the sage,
 The statesman, savage, king and boor,
 The high, the low, the rich, the poor,
 Equals by night, if not by day,
 All yield alike and own its sway.
 Sleep conquers all, but leaves as breath—
 The living prototype of death !

And yet we fear nor dread it nought,
 Though it suspends our will and thought,
 Although one-third of life, its cost,
 To consciousness and memory lost,
 Nor do we strive to shun its thrall,
 Nor sigh those moments to recall ;
 Rather as if we sought to give
 So great a boon to cease to live—
 For without consciousness and thought
 Life seems a blank that values naught,
 Yet search all nature through, we see
 Nothing was made in vain to be ;
 Nature's demands are so impressed,
 Our minds and bodies needs must rest—
 Rest to regain new will and power,
 To start afresh at waking hour—
 Rest that each organ may take on
 New vigor for the day begun.
 Sweet sleep, then, gives this needful rest,
 That makes us mortals truly blest.
 Not all the gold of Croesus, king,
 Nor jewels that Ghanishid could bring,
 Would value with one hour of sleep,
 To one condemned and doomed to keep
 A life-long vigil, though 'twere spent,
 Mid mirth and song and merriment.
 Sing Io haeans, then to sleep,
 Let those who must their vigils keep.
 All hail this boon to mortals given,
 That serves them as an earthly heaven.
 Now gentle readers, each and all,
 I trust I may have here let fall,
 Some worthy thought that may requite
 Your time and patience, so Good Night !

E. D. HELM, A. M., M. D.

Quincy, Ill., Class of 1850.



THE CONCORDIENSIS.

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY BY

STUDENTS OF UNION COLLEGE.

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EDITORIAL.

LAST year THE CONCORDIENSIS offered a prize of \$25 for the best college song written by an undergraduate. Although some good production were presented, there were not enough to fulfill the condition of the offer, which required at least ten productions by as many authors. On its becoming apparent that there could be no award, the prize was not withdrawn, but the nature of the competition was so changed that an award was certain, that is, it was offered to that member of the college base ball team who should make the greatest number of base hits in the championship series. This offer stirred up a lively competition, and was no doubt one of the causes which brought the championship of 1890 to Old Union's campus. The prize, as is remembered, was awarded to M. H. Begley, and was well deserved.

THE CONCORDIENSIS now for a second time offers a prize of \$25, for the best college song

—the best *Union* College song. The conditions are the same as last year, to wit:

1. At least ten productions must be offered in the competition.

2. Each production shall be not less than 12 or more than 24 lines in length, exclusive of the chorus, if one.

3. The songs must breathe the spirit of Old Union, that is, they must be so far unique or local in sentiment as to render them inappropriate for any other college.

4. Both words and music may be original, or the words alone be original, and be adopted to some familiar air.

5. Each song shall be signed by a fictitious name, and be accompanied by a sealed envelope containing the true name of the writer.

6. All songs submitted shall become the property of THE CONCORDIENSIS, or of the person the editors shall interest with the publication of a new song book.

On February 1, 1891, if the requisite number of productions shall have been submitted, the editors will examine them, and award the prize by a majority vote of the editors. The envelope accompanying the successful song will then be opened and the prize paid the writer, and the song itself, with the true name of the author attached, will be printed in the following issue of THE CONCORDIENSIS. In making the award, consideration will be taken of poetic merit, rhythm, and adaptability to the music accompanying the song, or air selected, and also of the character of the sentiment expressed in the verses. We earnestly hope that there will be a competition sufficient to justify an award. We may not have in college a John Howard Payne or a Fitzhugh Ludlow, but we do believe there are more than ten men in college who can write a creditable song. We cannot afford to allow college singing to fall into disuse, or neglect to make frequent addition to our collection of Union songs.

WE ARE indebted to the *University Magazine* for the cut of Robert C. Alexander, which appears in this number of THE CONCORDIENSIS. It is a very pleasing likeness of Mr. Alexander and we are glad at being able to present it in this paper: of which paper, by the way, he was one of the first editors, being very instrumental in founding it in the Fall of 1877. Mr. Alexander, although a comparatively young man, having graduated in the class of '80, is very prominent among the Alumni of Union College, and his recent election as a trustee of that institution bears witness to this statement. But it is among the undergraduates that perhaps his greatest popularity exists. Ask of the students, of the foot ball manager, of the base ball manager, of THE CONCORDIENSIS editors, what alumnus, by spending both his time and money in their interests, helps and encourages them most in their several undertakings; ask this question and the answer will come with the greatest of unanimity, "Bob Alexander!"

* * *

WOULD it not be an excellent plan to have some system of lights through at least a part of the college grounds? This question naturally arises when it is noticed that so many other improvements are going on in and around the college buildings. Although there is no spot that presents a more beautiful appearance on a moonlight night than do the Union College grounds, yet on nights that are not moonlight, this beautiful appearance fades away, and it is an extremely unpleasant duty trying to pick one's way across the campus; especially is this the case on dark, cold, winter nights when one stumbles blindly across the terrace or perhaps over to the library, seeking in vain for the path, plain enough by daylight, yet woefully obscure in the darkness of the night. Yes, evidently to light the campus at night would be an improvement, and THE CONCORDIENSIS

is wondering, together with many others, if this improvement will soon make its appearance. This is not offered at all in a spirit of complaint, but merely as a suggestion: whether it is a good one or not remains to be seen.

FOOT BALL.

UNION 0. RIDGEFIELD 51.

On the 16th of October, Union was defeated, and badly defeated, at Albany, by the Ridgefield Athletic Club. There was some excuse for the defeat, however, for Union had only four of her regular team in the field, the rest, for several reasons, being unable to play, and, as the Ridgefield men had already postponed the game once, the Union manager thought it his duty to go on with the game, no matter how many of his regular team might happen to be unable to play.

In the first half the Union men played a very plucky game and Ridgefield scored only 18 points. In the second half the college team did not play so strong a game and their opponents made 33 points, making the total score 51 to 0. The features of the game were Clute's splendid tackling and a long goal from the field, kicked by Cox.

UNION 26. HAMILTON 10.

The first of the New York State Inter-collegiate League foot ball games was played at Clinton last Saturday, Oct. 25, and although the grounds were in a terrible condition, being covered with mud, water and stones, both teams played a very good game. Union started with the ball and soon had it down near Hamilton's goal, and then on a pretty play by Clute and Daley, the latter succeeded in making the first touch-down of the game from which McCowatt kicked a goal. The ball was taken out to the centre of the field and soon it was once more dangerously near to Hamilton's goal, but by an unfortunate fumble of one of the Union men, Hamilton secured the ball and in a very short time, by

some splendid running and dodging by Lee, the ball was brought down to within a few feet of Union's goal line. Ward was then sent through the centre and Hamilton had a touch-down from which Mills kicked a goal. For the next ten minutes neither side seemed to gain anything, but finally Lee secured the ball and made another good run of nearly half the length of the field. Ward was again forced through the centre and Hamilton had another touch-down, but Mills failed to kick a goal this time. The score was now 10 to 6 in Hamilton's favor, and the Hamilton students shouted themselves hoarse. The Union team now began to play more carefully and gradually worked the ball towards Hamilton's goal line. When within a few yards of the line, Mc Queen acted for the moment as quarter back and giving the ball to Clute got behind the latter and pushed him right through the Hamilton rushers and across the line. Score 10 to 10. The ball was punted out and Hamilton secured it. In the next scrimmage, Judson passed the ball to Ward who fumbled it and Babcock, seizing the opportunity and the ball, soon had another touch-down, and McCowatt kicked another goal. Score 16 to 10, in Union's favor. Time was called soon after this, and the twenty two men rested for ten minutes. For the first twenty minutes of the second half, neither side seemed to have any advantage, then McCowatt punted the ball well down the field. Mills tried to catch it but failed, and Briggs, who was on the spot, picked up the ball and started for Hamilton's goal with all the rest of the men behind him; it is needless to say he succeeded in making a touchdown, and again McCowatt kicked a goal, making the score 22 to 10. Union made one more touch-down in this half on a good run by Peckham. This time McCowatt failed in his attempt to kick the goal, and the score remained 26 to 10, for soon after time was called. In the last part of this half, Coons

and Budd were disqualified for slugging, although neither of them deserved the disqualification. Kinny and Orsler took their places. In saying that Daley, Babcock and Briggs played the best game for Union, no one is to think for a moment that the other men did not play well, for everybody played very well, blocking and tackling in good form, and Clute's passing was excellent. The two teams lined up as follows:

UNION.	POSITIONS.	HAMILTON.
Mc Queen.....	Left End.....	Budd
Briggs.....	Left Tackle.....	La Rose
Van Valkenburgh...	Left Guard.....	Frasure
Coons (Capt.).....	Centre.....	Wood
Van Voast.....	Right Guard.....	Mason
Stewart.....	Right Tackle.....	Adams
Babcock.....	Right End.....	Curran
Clute.....	Quarter Back.....	Judson
Daley.....	Left half Back.....	Ward
Peckham.....	Right half back.....	Lee
Mc Cowatt.....	Full Back.....	Mills

Captain Curran, of Utica, acted as umpire, and Howard Conant as referee.

UNION 26. SYRACUSE O.

Monday afternoon, Oct. 27, at Syracuse the Union and Syracuse University foot ball elevens lined up against each other preparatory for the second game of the league. The Union men looked somewhat smaller than their burly opponents, who, it had been reported, would "walk right through that Union rush line:" but they didn't walk right through and "Victory perched on our brows." Union started with the ball and gained ten yards on the wedge, before Clute was downed. The Syracuse men, in the scrimmage that followed, began to do some slugging, but finding that the Union men were all pretty good at that sort of thing, they soon gave it up as a bad job. By degrees the ball was worked down within five yards of the Syracuse goal and then Peckham was sent through the centre and Union had scored the first touch-down. McCowatt tried for a goal but failed and the Syracuse men took the ball into the field. Union soon forced the ball

back again towards the Syracuse goal line, and Hamilton, the left guard of the Syracuse team, was obliged to make a safety, scoring two more points for Union. For the next ten or fifteen minutes there was considerable "scrapping" going on but nobody was hurt by it. On a fumble by Wright, Mc Cowatt secured the ball and by good running scored another touch-down for Union, but again he failed to kick a goal. The ball was again taken into the field by the Syracuse men and kicked by Wright pretty well into Union's territory where it was caught by Mc Cowatt. On the next line-up the ball was passed to Daley who made a good run of over twenty yards before he was tackled and thrown, but without yelling "down" he quickly passed the ball to Mc Queen, who made another splendid run which carried him across the goal line and Union had another touch-down. Mc Cowatt kicked a goal this time in good style. The Syracuse men now worked hard to prevent Union from scoring again in this half, and nearly succeeded in their attempt, for Union made a bad mistake which helped the Syracuse men materially. The signal had evidently been misunderstood, and Clute passed the ball to the wrong man, who, not being prepared for it, failed to catch it and it was pounced upon by Whitfield who ran fifteen or twenty yards before he was downed by Peckham. On the next play the ball was given to Miller who started to run with it, but was tackled and thrown very heavily by Coons. So heavily, in fact, that the ball slipped from his hands, and Coons, picking it up, rushed it across the line and the score was 20 to 0, in Union's favor. Time was called soon after and the first half was over. In the second half the Syracuse men delayed the game as much as possible in order to prevent Union from running up a large score and the latter succeeded in making only six points on a touch-down by Briggs, and a goal, kicked by Peckham this time. Babcock and



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Mc Queen each made what looked like touch-downs in the half, but in neither case were they allowed, as the referee said the men were off side. Whitfield in the last part of the game, was hurt quite badly and had to retire. Miller, a brother of Miller, Union, '94, took his place. On the whole, Union did not play nearly so good a game as she did two days before at Clinton. McCowatt did some splendid punting all through the last half of the game, and Peckham played a very good game, but the rest did not play as hard a game as they might have played if they had had a better team to oppose them. The Syracuse men who watched the game acted more like a crowd of rowdies and loafers than like a lot of college students. All through the game when Union had the ball, they would yell and hoot and blow tin horns so as prevent Clute's signals from being heard, and most of the time they crowded on to the field, getting in the way of the players and making all sorts of uncomplimentary remarks about Union men in general, and the foot-ball team in particular. The Union team was the same as played at Clinton, and the Syracuse team was made up as follows: Rouse, Centre; Hodge, R. Guard; Hamilton, L. Guard; Fyfe, R. Tackle; Douglass, L. Tackle; Whitfield, R. End; Watkins, L. End; Redington, L. Half-back; Fanton, R. Half-back; Hillyer, Quarter-back; Wright, Full-back.

OF INTEREST TO STUDENTS.

—Attend the Junior hops.

—E. S. Coons, centre rush on the "Varsity," has been elected captain of the foot ball eleven.

—The Sigma Phi Fraternity recently established a new chapter at Cornell University.

—There will be a "bolt" on election day in order to give the students a chance to go home and vote.

—Hamilton College will soon have a good

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place for indoor athletics. One of the dormitories is to be changed into a gymnasium and furnished with all the modern gymnastic apparatus.

—The Trustees of Cornell University recently voted to build a new Agricultural hall at an expense of \$80,000.

—Luther H. Carey, Princeton, '93, on Oct. 18th, broke the world's record for the 100 yards dash. He ran the distance in 9½ seconds.

—The Freshman Class, and very possibly the Sophomore class, will have to take gymnasium work this winter. The men will go in at least three afternoons a week.

—Frequently heard around south college, "Oh, Bob!" Frequently heard around north college, "Oh! Fergie!" "Oh! Beek!"

—Reddish, '92, has suffered a relapse from the fever which he had during the summer vacation, and has been obliged to leave college for a time.

—The executive committee of the Lawn Tennis association decided, on account of the inclemency of the weather, not to hold the tournament in doubles, this Fall.

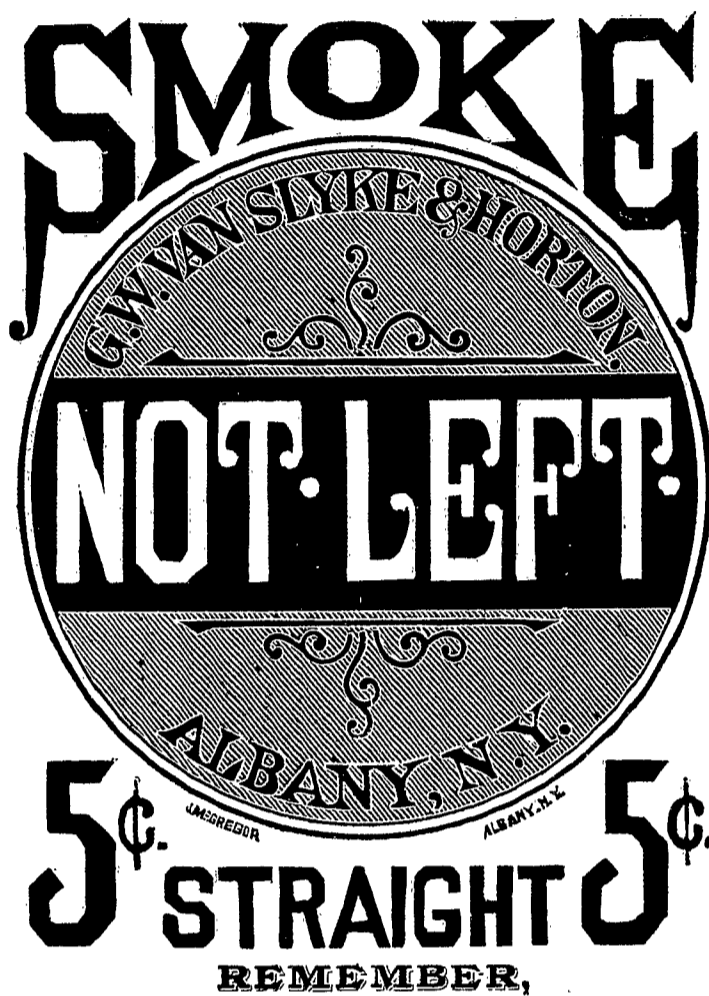
—S. H. Adams, who was at Union for two terms of last year, is now at Hamilton College and playing right tackle on the foot ball eleven representing that college.

—The committee on Junior "hops" is composed of the following men: Daley, McQueen, Meserve, Reddish, Hunter, Prest, Williams and Wemple. The "hops" are to be held in the college "gym" and ought to be very successful affairs.

—"Alec" McDonald, '90, who last year pitched on the Union College base ball nine, came back recently to Schenectady on a visit. He is in business in West Superior, Wis.

—The Junior Class officers for this year are: President, G. W. Wait; Vice President, J. Y. Aftimus; Secretary, L. E. Hulbert; Treasurer, C. W. Hills; Foot ball Director, E. S. Coons; Base ball Director, F. Whipple; CONCORDIENSIS Editor, E. J. Prest.

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EDWARD HURD SMITH."

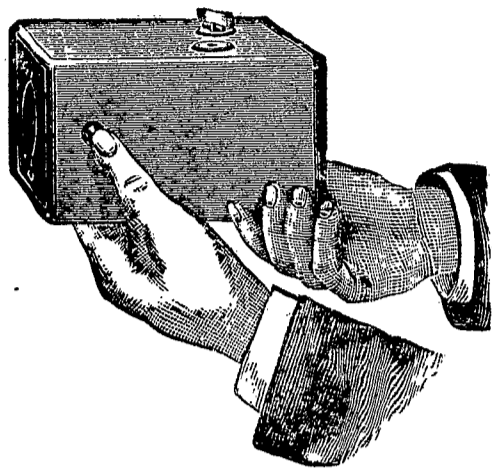
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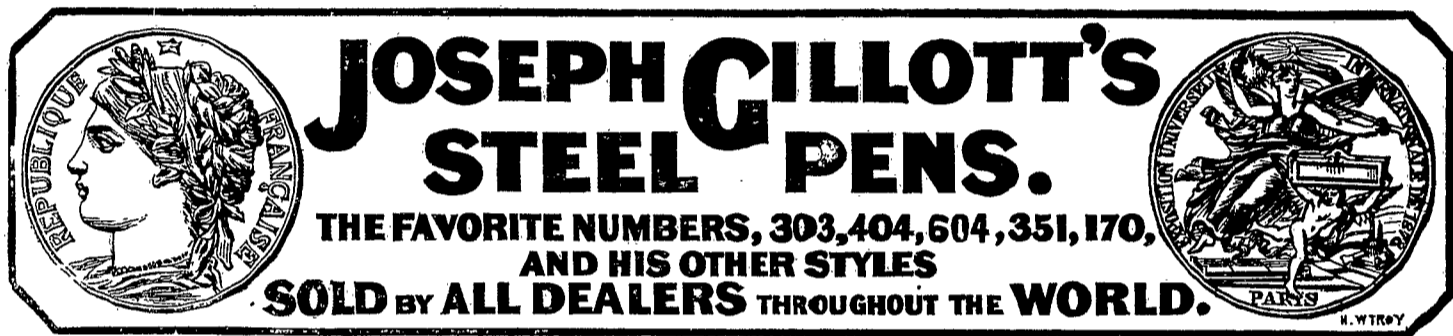
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PERSONAL.

'21. Hon. Philo T. Ruggles, probably Union's oldest living graduate, still goes daily to his office, No. 57 Liberty St., New York City, and does a day's work. (While somewhat deaf, his mental faculties and physical activities are vigorous)

'62. J. Irving Burns is the candidate of the Republicans for re-election to the assembly from the Second Westchester district.

'65. Hon. Henry Bacon is the Democratic candidate for congress in the 15th New York Congressional district.

'65. James P. Albright, while practicing law in New York City, is also mayor of the town of Madison, N. J., where he resides.

'67. Joseph M. Carey, the present delegate from Wyoming Territory in Congress, will be one of the first senators from the new state of Wyoming.

'67. J. Newton Fiero, of Kingston, is a member of the commission appointed to revise the judiciary article of the state constitution. Judge George F. Danforth, '40, is the President of the commission, and Hon. James C. Smith (?) is another prominent member.

'80. Dr. F. T. Rogers read a paper on Oct. 6, before the Providence (R. I.) Medical Society, which has aroused considerable comment and criticism. It's argument was to attribute to eye affections all functional nervous diseases. Dr. Rogers is very prominent among specialists in diseases of the eye, ear, and throat.

'80. Wm. J. McNulty has been appointed engineer to the Street Commissioners of St. Louis, Mo.

'80. Dougherty, the portrait artist, is in Paris, studying under the most distinguished masters in portraiture.