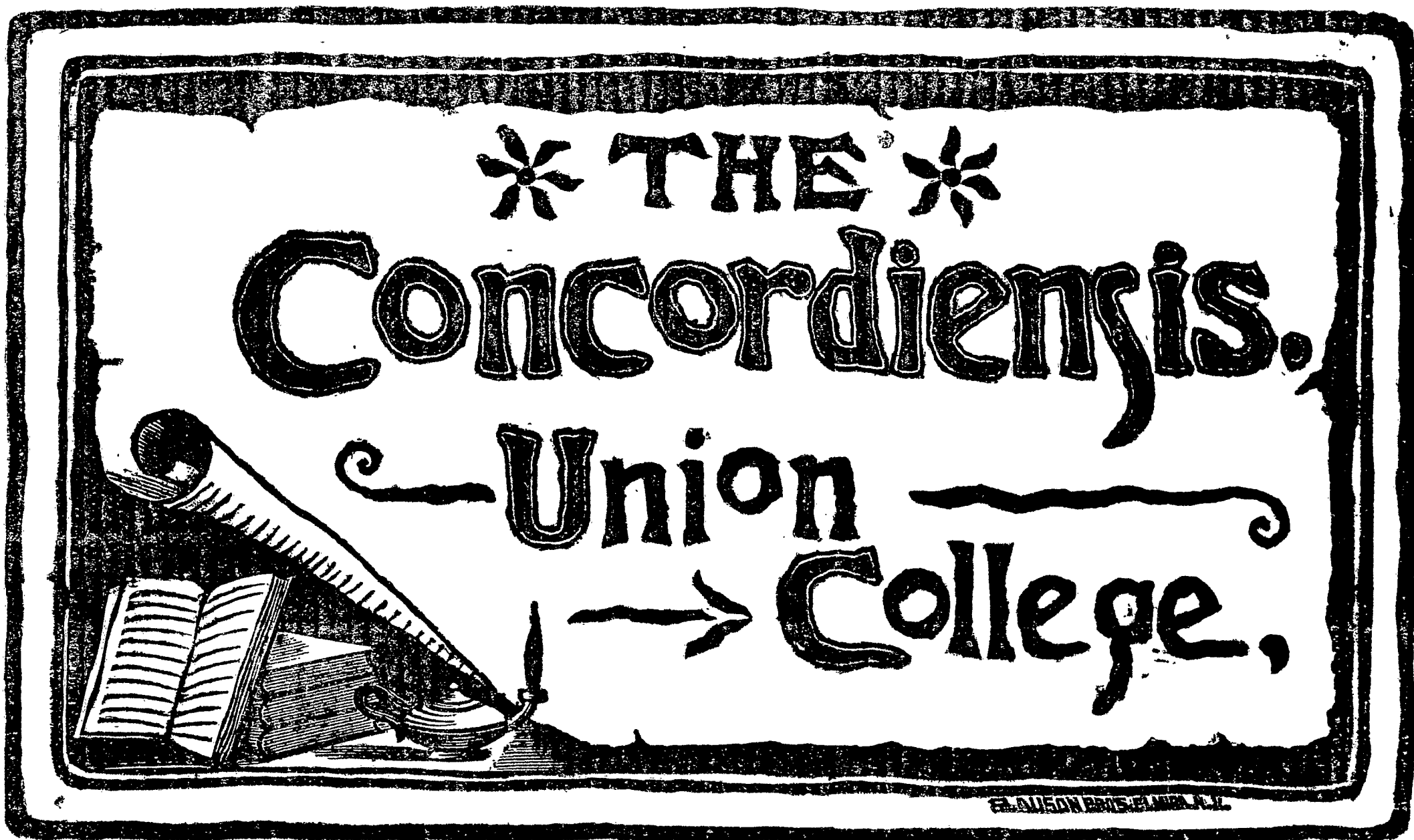


Volume XV.



Number 5.

DECEMBER 5, 1891.



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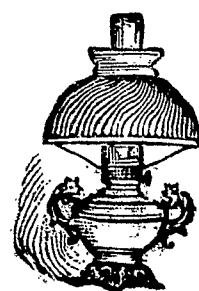
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# THE \* CONCORDIENSIS

VOL. XV.

UNION COLLEGE, DECEMBER 5, 1891.

No. 5

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## SOME OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING ORATORS.

(Continued.)

The last orator that the time will allow me to present is Wendell Phillips. This man was the occasion of a new definition of oratory. "The perfection of oratory is the perfection of talking." If any person has ever lived who acquired this art of talking to perfection that person was Wendell Phillips. He was rightly called the silver-tongued. Though possessing by nature all the gifts of the orator, he cultivated his powers with the most persistent effort. He conducted himself on the platform—even before the largest audiences—as though he was conversing to a few acquaintances in a drawing-room. You lost sight of the fact that he was making a speech. Probably no speeches when read simply ever gave so false an impression of the manner of their delivery. One would naturally think

that the man who made them was full of artifice and thunder.

During the agitation on the slavery question, when Phillips was shaking the country from center to circumference with his burning invectives, a southerner while discussing his speeches with a friend, said, "Phillips must have been a roaring devil." "No," said his friend, (for he had heard him) "he was an infernal machine set to music."

From these facts concerning some of the greatest orators of the world, selected from all ages and countries, what follows? What inductions have we a right to draw from them? What observations can we justly make concerning the conditions of successful oratory?

We will observe first of all the non-essentials to success in this matter.

1. A fine physique, though a great help to a public speaker, is one of these non-essentials. Demosthenes and Cicero were both of them men of feeble constitution, and no one doubts of their success. Thiers was so insignificant in person as to be almost an object of ridicule, and Robert Hall possessed such feeble physical powers that there was hardly a day in his life when he was free from suffering.



2. A strong, melodious voice, while greatly to be desired, is another of these non-essentials. Remember "the stammering tongue" of Demosthenes, the weak, piping, almost unintelligible, croakings of Fox, the dinner-bell of Edmund Burke, and the bray of Calhoun. Indeed, I think it will be seen on a careful survey of the matter, that the natural voice of a majority of the world's greatest orators has been far from possessing strength or melody.

3. No one way of preparing a speech is essential to the orator. Demosthenes wrote out everything. Cicero usually did this, but once in a while probably spoke extempore. Massillon, Chalmers, Guthrie, Dizraeli and Daniel Webster followed Demosthenes. Bossuet made notes only. Gladstone prepared almost nothing.

4. No one manner of delivering a speech is an essential to success in the art of eloquence. Of course the men who wrote out every word before-hand read or spoke *memorites*. Massillon, Chalmers and Guthrie invariably did the former, Demosthenes and Lord Beaconsfield invariably the latter, and many others usually followed that rule. Others still thoroughly prepared themselves as to matter, but let the occasion itself furnish the language.

5. Gesticulation, while usually a help to orators, has been little heeded by some of the most eloquent and effective, both ancient and modern. Daniel Webster seldom indulged in gesture and on the greatest occa-

sions, it is said, in none at all. Many others have been famous for their moderation in this direction, while not a few have carried it to too great excess.

Having touched upon some of the non-essentials in this art of eloquence, let us turn for a moment to the other side of the picture and consider briefly a few of the qualities without which failure is inevitable.

And under this head we observe :

1. That no man has ever yet been able to succeed as an orator who did not believe in the power of ideas. It is hardly too much to say that the first, second, third, and last requisite of successful oratory is ideas. No man can expect to make a good speech about nothing. The great orators of the world have been hard students—earnest seekers after facts. If a man does not know more about a subject than his audience he has no right to address them. He can not but fail, and he ought to fail. But if he is wiser than his hearers he has the advantage every moment.

"In any knot of men," says another, "conversing on any subject, the person who knows most about it will have the ear of the company, if he wishes it, and lead the conversation—no matter what genius or distinction other men there present may have—and in any public assembly, him who has the facts, and can and will state them, people will listen to, though he be otherwise ignorant, though he is hoarse and ungraceful, though he stutters and screams."

2. No orator has yet succeeded who did not believe in himself. Heeren says, "if you want to know the secret of Demosthenes or Chatham, it is stand on your own feet."

He who has the first of these essentials to oratory—something to say, an overflow of ideas on the subject before the people—can afford to stand on his own feet; otherwise the very attempt to do so, will only issue in making his failure all the more conspicuous.

3. All the great orators we have mentioned believed in their audience. They believed that the people wanted ideas and were anxiously waiting for a man who could supply the demand. They believed that their hearers were capable of understanding and appreciating ideas, whenever they were thoroughly thought out and clearly stated.

4. They held, too, that one of the chief requisites to success in oratory is sincerity. They never tried to be eloquent over what they knew at the time to be a baseless fiction. Eloquence is possible only for what the speaker, for the time at least, believes to be true. No man has ever yet succeeded in eloquently defending an acknowledged falsehood.

5. We see that the most indispensable of all requirements in an orator is earnestness. If he have ideas, confidence in his ability to express them, confidence in the people to hear and heed them, and sincerity

in urging them, he will have earnestness. He cannot help it. He will lose himself in his theme and cause the audience to lose themselves in it also, and can turn them whithersoever he wills.

The practical conclusion to be drawn from all these facts for every aspirant for rhetorical honors is this: Take time to get ready; never speak without preparation, if you can possibly avoid it; never seek a hearing unless you are reasonably certain that you are equal to the expectations. When you have a fitting opportunity and are thoroughly prepared for it, do your best. Under such circumstances be determined to succeed and you will succeed. Neither the orator nor any other earnest soul who strives for superior excellence can go amiss in following the quaint old maxim, "Begin low, ascend slow, rise higher, take fire."

The sophomore class held a meet-  
Dec. 3, and made arrangements for their *soiree*. The following committee was appointed: Campbell, S. F., chairman; Cooke, A. F., E. Daley, A. A. F., N. J. Veeder, W. R., Perkins, K. A., Van Auken, A. R., C. R. Smith, B. O. H., Auchampaugh, F. A. O., Weeks, Furman. The sophomores have determined to give a *soiree* in every way worthy of their class, and an enjoyable time may be expected by all who are so fortunate as to be present. It will take place about the middle of January.

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## Editorial.

At last the foot ball season is over, and, as we turn back and survey the ground, we may, perchance, be able to discover at least a few of the causes that have produced such disastrous effects and instead of the victory so reasonably and confidently expected at the beginning of the season, have given us defeat and placed us second or even third in the league. It was not because we did not have a good team, for ours was undoubtedly the best team in the league. Their success in the first three games, when they had a fair chance showed this. We must seek further for the reason. Financially the team was as well supported as usual and this could not have been the cause. But when

we look over the schedule of games and notice the dates it is no longer uncertain as to the real cause. Nor are we alone in this opinion, for we have a letter from a loyal alumnus of the college in which this is pointed out as the real cause. This letter we gladly publish in this issue. We see that the team was to play Rochester on Saturday, Colgate on Monday, and Hamilton on Thursday. The three hardest games to be played, and all in less than a week. Besides two of them were away so that the men (as if the playing would not tire them enough) were subjected to the further inconvenience of travel. Now as an example of this kind of playing we have the record Cornell made in New England last year. It is true our team was weakened by the loss of Allen, but had this not occurred success would have been doubtful. There is no team in the country could have stood the strain of three hard games within a week and in addition the fatigue of travel. Furthermore we will say that no team carefully managed would have undertaken it. However, in saying this we wish it understood that we make no reflection on the management of Mr. Wemple. He did all that he could possibly do for the success of the team. It was not his fault that the schedule was so arranged, and the college men should remember this when tempted to criticize. They feel keenly the defeat of the team, but not half so keenly as the manager. When the



manager of a team is obliged almost to get on his knees and beg men to play and to arrange his dates to suit their caprice, he cannot justly be held accountable for the success or failure of the team. This should not be. It is unjust to the manager, to the players who do faithful work, and to the supporters of the team. Men should feel that it is an honor to be on the team and that they must work to stay there. If any are unwilling to do this, it is for the good of the team that they be dropped even though men who are not as brilliant players have to be chosen to fill their places.

\* \*

It is rumored—we are unwilling to believe it—that at a recent foot ball game Union college men were offering to bet against their own team. Now this is so shameful that even the rumor of it must not pass unnoticed. Could it be possible that any man, not to say any Union college man, would so lose his sense of honor, his loyalty to his college, his kindly regard for his fellow students, that when the fame of his Alma Mater was at stake, he would value her defeat, when men so crippled that they could scarcely walk contended for her honor on the foot ball field, he, instead of giving them encouragement and support, would wager his money on their opponents' success, and when loyal students were sorrowing over defeat, he would

exult in it and gloat over the paltry sum he had won? No! It is impossible!

\* \*

WE take this occasion to thank Messrs. Van Voast of the Law School and Briggs of the Medical School for the interest they took in the foot ball team and the good work they did on the field.

### Personals.

'43. The Rev. Dr. J. A. Smith, Pastor of the M. E. church at Leroy, N. Y., has been elected Dean of the Silver Lake School of Languages.

'77. Rev. J. G. Van Ness is located at Waynokit, Iowa.

'77. Eugene Joraleman is Professor of Latin and Greek in Cazenovia Seminary, Cazenovia, N. Y.

'78. Prof. Edward Hayward, formerly principal of the Clyde High School, has received the appointment as principal of the Lockport Union School.

'83. George Warren Sherwood was married at Malone, N. Y., Nov. 25th.

'85. Prof. Alvin B. Bishop B. O. II., is principal of the Clyde High School.

'87. I. P. Johnson, A. T., was ordained a priest of the Episcopal Church at Omaha, Neb., Oct. 18.

Mr. Bayard Whitehorne, S. O., paid a visit to his father, Prof. Whitehorne, on Thanksgiving Day.

Rev. Dr. Farrar, S. O., of Albany, was in town for a short time, on Thursday, Dec. 3.

## Locals.

Thanksgiving!

Three weeks more this term.

Cordovez '93, has been confined to his room by a slight attack of fever.

The Freshmen have just finished Geometry and are beginning Algebra.

The next Junior Hop will be given Nov. 11th. It is to be hoped that it will be as well attended as the last.

Dr. Webster delivered the address at the services held in the First Reformed church on Thanksgiving Day.

A notice was recently placed on the bulletin calling for a meeting of the members of the Philomathean society.

Prof. James H. Stoller read a paper entitled "The Biological Examination of water" before the Schenectady Technical society, Tuesday evening, Dec. 1.

President Webster was present at the meeting of the Association of of College Presidents of the Middle States held at Ithaca, Nov. 27 and 28. He was elected vice-president of the association.

The annual convention of the Delta Phi fraternity was held at the  $\Delta$ .  $\Phi$ . club house, 16 East 42d street on the 27th and 28th of last month. The delegates from Union were: George W. Wait '92, Allan Wright '93, F. DeV. Baldwin and Harris Lee Cooke '94.

## Foot Ball.

## HAMILTON 14—UNION 6.

The last league game and, in fact, the last game of the season, was played on the campus, Friday, Nov. 20, between Hamilton and Union. The team had not yet had time to recuperate from the games with Rochester and Colgate and was in no condition to play. The heroic spirit shown by some of the players in appearing on the field at all was worthy of the greatest commendation from all loyal Union students. The team was also crippled by the absence of Allen. The teams were as follows.

UNION.	HAMILTON.
Yanney.....right end.....	Curran
Van Voast.....right tackle.....	Mitchell
Miller.....right guard.....	Payne
Coons.....centre.....	Wood
Barnes.....left guard.....	Wright
Van Valkenburg (Capt) left tackle.....	Fletcher
Smith.....left end.....	Budd
Daley.....quarter back.....	Judson
Gregory.....right half.....	Rice
Lavery.....left half.....	Buckner
McCowatt.....full.....	Welsh (Capt.)

Referee, Ralph Thompson, Yale '90; umpire, Prof. F. H. Rogers, Williams, '84.

Union had the ball on the start, but soon lost it on four downs. Hamilton did not make anything until the fourth trial, when a gain of twenty yards was made. Then, being unable to gain, owing to the successful blocking done by Union's line, they lost the ball on four downs. Union was unable to make any gain, and the ball soon went to Hamilton.

A fine run was made by Rice and a touchdown scored. Welsh kicked a goal. Score 6 to 0 in favor of Hamilton. The ball went to the centre of the field and for the next twenty minutes there was a fierce struggle. Hamilton repeatedly went through Union's centre and, but for the fine tackling done by Yanney and Barnes, would have scored. Finally Union forced the ball down toward Hamilton's goal and McCowatt punted the ball over the line. Rice started for the ball, but Yanney was too quick for him and scored a touchdown for Union. McCowatt kicked a goal and the score stood 6 to 6. Neither side scored again during this half. Union forced the ball down to the ten yard line, but could get no further.

After a fifteen minutes' rest play was resumed. As in the first half, the heavy Hamilton line was too strong for the Union men, and the ball was forced near Union's goal. McCowatt kicked the ball well up the field and Hamilton lost the ball on a fumble. Lavery then made a good run bringing the ball within two yards of Hamilton's line. But the Hamilton men forced them back and McCowatt attempted to kick a goal from the field, but failed. The ball went to the 25 yard line, and Hamilton gained considerable through good runs made by Wood, Curran and Rice. In a scramble for the ball Mitchell squirmed out of the crowd and, tucking the ball under his arm, made a dash for

Union's goal. He had five yards start before anyone realized that he had the ball. Daley started after him, but reached him and tackled him only when he was so near the line that he fell over it and touched the ball down, after a run of 50 yards. No goal was kicked. Score 10 to 6. The ball went to the 25 yard line and Rice soon scored another touchdown for Hamilton. Welsh failed to kick a goal. Score 14 to 6. The rest of the game was fiercely contested, but neither side scored.

---

*To the Editors of the Concordiensis:*

Mourning for past mistakes affords no comfort to speak of, and but little benefit. But a little sober reflection now and then is a mighty good thing and should be utilized. As a Union alumnus who takes an everlasting interest in the success of Union boys, both intellectual and physical, I shall venture to say something. I have watched the work of the foot-ball team with exceeding great pleasure, and, until to-day have expected them to win championship honors. When I learned, two or three days ago, the arrangements that had been made to meet the Colgate team I was covered with confusion and astonishment. For the past nine years I have been enabled to witness struggles in this magnificent and incomparable game among such colleges as Yale, Princeton, Harvard, Columbia, University

of Pennsylvania, Lehigh, Rutgers, Lafayette and Stevens. I have had considerable personal intercourse with foot-ball players. Consequently I think I "know it all," and when I read about the appointment to meet Colgate yesterday my amazement knew no bounds. I felt sure that no college team that I was acquainted with would have committed such an indiscretion. I understand that Colgate must have been regarded as one of the strongest, if not the strongest, of Union's rivals, and that in spite of this Union consented to an arrangement which required her men to play Rochester university on Saturday and, in connection with a fatiguing trip of several hundred miles, to battle with the stalwarts of Colgate on Monday!

Believing, as I still believe, that Old Union had the finest team in the league, I trembled for the result. And I was right. Knowing nothing of the exigencies that required such management, I am impelled to say it was a disastrous mistake. I know that those colleges who have won fame in foot-ball would never have done such a thing. They might decide to play exhibition games every day in the week and travel nights, but does anybody suppose that Yale men, although inured to the severest kind of daily training and practice, would dream of playing Princeton for the championship the second day after meeting Harvard? The most potent cause of Harvard's reluctance to meet Prince-

ton at all undoubtedly is that her brawny athletes wish to husband their resources for the supreme struggle with Yale.

I congratulate the boys of Union college on their splendid progress in athletics; they have done nobly on the foot-ball arena. They were better men than the Colgate men and deserved to win. But foot-ball must be played with the head as well as with the heels, and there must be head work in the arrangement of dates and places as well as on the field. Your antagonists are always watchful for every weak spot in your lines, and I fear they have overreached you this time.

I still hope the pennant may wave over Union's campus. It will probably be decided ere this letter sees print. In any event I trust that these remarks may not be considered presumptuous, but indicative of the interest which the "old boys" feel in the honor and fame of Alma Mater.

SEVENTY-NINE.

The Phi Delta Theta Fraternity has granted a charter for Princeton College.—*Ex.*

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## General College News.

This year Harvard's class orator will be a Japanese.

The senior class at Harvard will wear caps and gowns on class day.

Six students were expelled from Cornell for using "ponies" in examination.—*Ex.*

Williams, Dartmouth and Columbia have dispensed with commencement exercises.—*Ex.*

The Czar of Russia has presented Stanford University with a mineralogical collection consisting of 800 specimens.—*Ex.*

Harvard and Yale have signed an agreement to play foot ball at Springfield every year on the day preceding Thanksgiving, the contract lasting four years.—*Ex.*

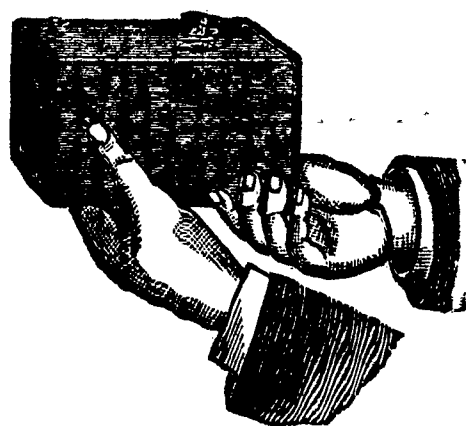
The students at Rochester University have donned mortar boards; the tassels of the seniors are black; of the juniors, purple; of the sophomores, crimson; of the freshmen, green.—*Ex.*

The annual meeting and dinner of the Union College Alumni Association of New York will be held at the Hotel Brunswick, Fifth avenue and Twenty-seventh street, on Thursday evening, Dec. 10.

Universality of Shakespeare illustrated: Fresman year, "Comedy of Errors;" Sophomore year, "Much Ado About Nothing;" Junior year, "As You Like It;" Senior year, "All's Well That Ends Well."—*Ex.*

The circulation of some of the Greek letter magazines is: Delta Upsilon Quarterly, 2,000; Phi Delta Theta Scroll, 1,600; Beta Theta Pi, 1,000; Phi Kappa Psi Shield, 1,000; Chi Phi Quarterly, 750; Phi Gamma Delta Quarterly, 500; Sigma Alpha Epsilon, 500.—*Ex.*

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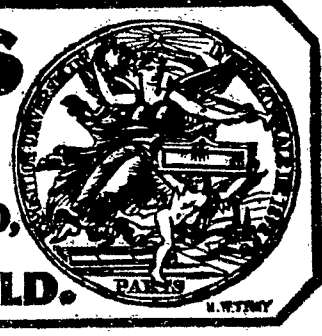
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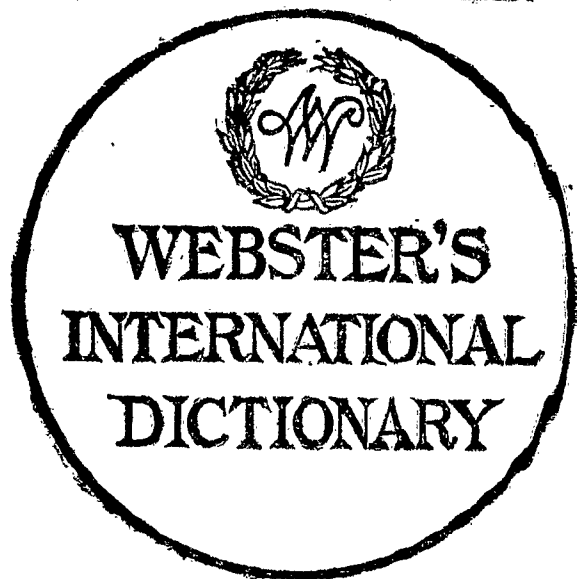
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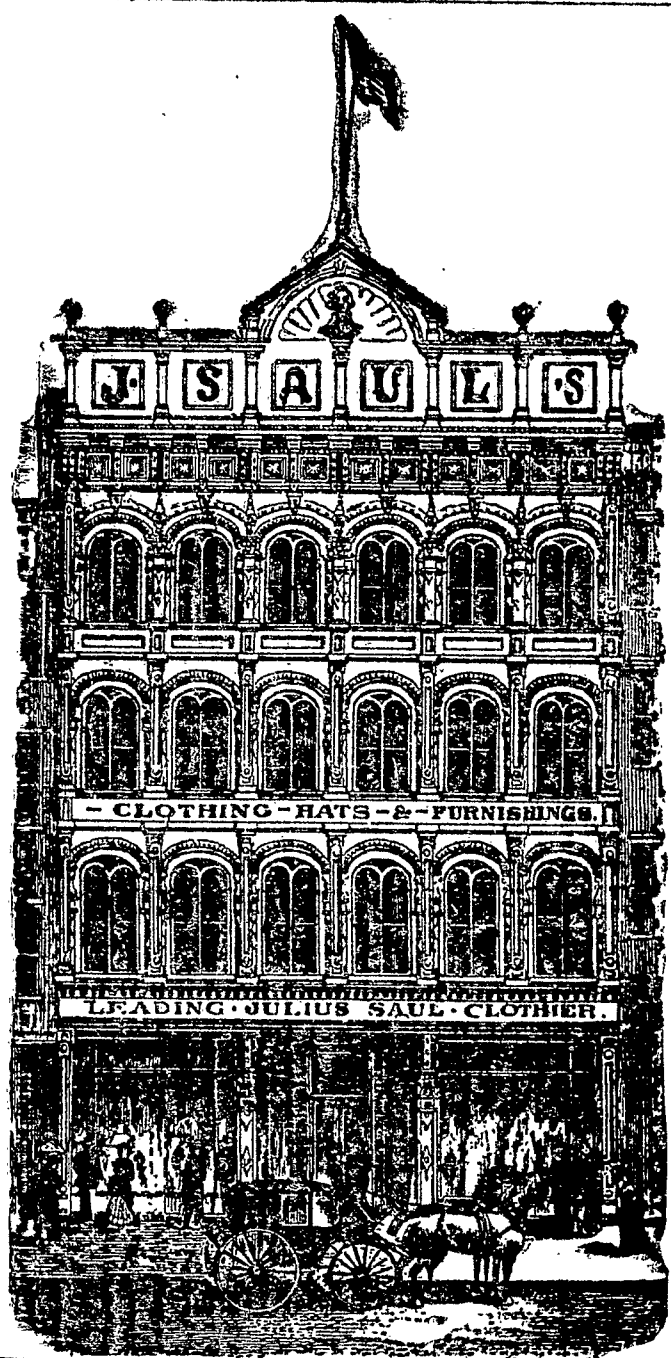
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