

The Concordiensis.

VOL. XX.

UNION COLLEGE, DECEMBER 9, 1896.

No. 11.

Novel of Today.

Mr. Robert Bridges, one of the editors of *Scribner's Magazine* and a frequent contributor to *Life* delivered a very interesting lecture on "The Novel of Today" in the chapel Friday afternoon, Dec. 4.

In opening his lecture Mr Bridges quoted a remark of an "Arcadian" friend that—"People who take the novel seriously seldom take life earnestly." He then drew a comparison between the work of a famous bridge-builder and an equally famous author, and raised the question as to whether the author's name would not be remembered long after the bridge-builder's name was forgotten.

The lecturer defined the novel as an interpretation of life as it appears, and thus, as a man can of necessity see but little of this world, why should he not look through the "windows of books" and accumulate as much as possible of other people's experience. The first type of novel in a classification of works of fiction was the "New Woman" novel. This class of novels received rather severe treatment at the hands of the lecturer, who said that he was heartily in favor of giving women "all the freedom possible but not to let her write novels about it." A poor type of this class is Benson's "Dodo," while among the better works of this class are Mrs. Humphrey Ward's books.

Mr. Bridges next spoke of the "Sanitarium Novel" which is generally objectionable on account of the attitude toward the world produced by ill health. "Ships that pass in the Night" is a fair type of this class. The third kind of novel spoken of was called the novel of "Scientific Pessimism," which is an outcome of the scientific spirit of the times. This type is well exemplified by the dramas of Ibsen, in which a hopeless view of life is taken. As an antidote to the views of life found in the Scientific, we

can turn to the "Scotch Dominie" novel typified by the books of Maclaren, Barrie, Crockett and the rest of the school of Scotch writers. The world has been charmed with the pictures of lovely life in Thrums and Drumtochty, in which it is shown that wealth is not absolutely necessary for contentment.

In conclusion Mr. Bridges spoke very highly of the books of Kipling and Stevenson, and made a plea for the healthy-minded novel and for the preservation of youthful enthusiasm in maturer life.

Ian Maclaren.

On Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 2, a large and appreciative audience gathered at the Van Curler to listen to the great Scotch author and lecturer, familiarly known to the literary world as Ian Maclaren.

With well chosen and complimentary words Dr. Raymond introduced the speaker, and when he arose, a large number of students sitting in the body of the house greeted him with the college yell.

To hear the author himself, is to appreciate his works. They take on a new interest and deeper meaning after one has become personally acquainted with the man. In an easy, unaffected conventional style, made all the more charming by his peculiar Scotch accent, the author seemed to speak to each person individually, and carry him to the little Scotch village of Drumtochty, and into the homes of the tender hearted Scotch people.

Amusements at the Van Curler.

Dec. 11.—Miles Aroon.—Andrew Mack.

" 17.—Margaret Fuller.

The College Library.

Having been asked to speak of the proposed changes in the library, I do so cheerfully, but regret that I shall be unable to state fully the improvements proposed, since some of the features are still under consideration by the faculty.

Evidently the sole ultimate purpose of these, as well as all desirable improvements, must be the increased efficiency of the library, present and future; and this calls for both the permanence, *i. e.*, the safety of the material, and the convenience of its use; two objects somewhat conflicting, for the greatest permanence and safety possible would be that resulting from such absolute protection and seclusion of the material as to render its use exceedingly inconvenient if not impossible; while the greatest possible convenience would, on the other hand, be one that would endanger the permanence. In a compromise of these two conflicting aims clearly lies the condition of maximum efficiency; in protection without prohibition, and in convenience which does not sacrifice safety.

In every public library of any magnitude, classification is an essential to convenience in use; hence the necessity of a catalogue, which is simply a device for easily finding what is wanted. The catalogue system adopted several years ago by our librarian was that of the Dewey Decimal System, and a considerable portion of the library has been catalogued on this plan. The preparation of a catalogue on any system and the shelving of books in accordance with it are matters of considerable magnitude and demand competent and reliable service under skilled direction; and the maintenance of the catalogue with the growth of the library demands likewise persistent attention and labor even if none of the work of catalogueing be undone by misplacing the books in returning them to the shelves after use. Such misplacement is wholly unavoidable—even if unintentional—where general readers, not conversant with the details of shelf-classification nor its importance in finding books, are given direct access to the shelves, particularly when they are expected to return to the shelves the books they may have been using. This direct access to the shelves has been in vogue in our library for some years past and the present defective condition of the card catalogue, while the result of several causes, is evidently due in no small degree to the cumulative and unavoidable misplacements resulting from this direct access. The temporary convenience of direct access has thus resulted in inconvenience from the difficulty or even the impossibility of finding books, for no principle of library management is more true than that *"a book misplaced is a book lost."*

The chief problem with which our faculty has had to deal has been therefore:—*How best can the library material be protected from confusion and loss with the least interference to its legitimate use?* The answer to this question is still under consideration, but no system, however simple or efficient in theory, can succeed without the co-operation of the readers, whose interest alone is being considered. The work of correcting the catalogue and bringing it up to date has been provided for and will be commenced as soon as the corps of scholarship assistants, working under the

immediate direction of Mr Utter, shall have completed the work of getting the unbound periodical matter in form for binding.

Provision has also been recently made by the faculty for the withdrawal of books from the library, by which system *bona fide* students may withdraw, for their own use, a stated number of books for a stated period of time under certain regulations, the details of which will be indicated in the library regulations.

Next to the matter of the misplacement of books and the resulting impairment of the catalogue, stands the interruption to readers in the library by persons thoughtlessly talking or studying; this thoughtlessness consists in forgetting that others near us may perhaps not have the same iron-bound nervous constitution as ourselves that enables us to be oblivious of noise or confusion near us; much as this constitution is to be desired and developed, it will not do for us to assume that all others near us possess it, and hence a just regard for the rights of others will show us the propriety of each one maintaining the utmost silence possible while in the library, as well as the reasonableness of a regulation just passed by the faculty against the use of the library as a study hall.

In the periodical reading room provision has been made by the faculty and is being carried out, by which the periodicals shall be placed in suitable stiff covers or holders and the newspapers placed on newspaper files, with proper places or receptacles for each periodical and paper, both of which will facilitate the use of the periodical matter and tend toward its protection from wear and injury.

These changes enumerated comprise those on which action has been taken; other changes are under consideration and will be announced if action results from them.

The most promising feature in the present status of the library question is the decided interest which the students are taking in it, for without this interest and the co-operation which may reasonably be expected therefrom, the most elaborate and perfect plans would either remain unused or would fail for want of the needed co-operation of readers. Standards of the past should not be used as criteria for the present, but it may add encouragement to the present interest to recall that not many years ago the library was open on but few hours per week; that no catalogue whatever was in existence; that the library proper was neither heated in winter nor lighted in the evening; and that the number of periodicals was small compared with the present list; and if one is tempted to feel discouragement at the rate at which further improvements are made, it may be remarked that these improvements do not come for the asking and that to accomplish any real improvement means the overcoming of obstacles which perhaps never appear to the general reader. Thanks to the urgent solicitation of the President, the Board of Trustees at its meeting in January, 1896, appropriated the sum of \$500 for library purposes, and a similar amount at the meeting in June last. This money is being used in the purchase of new books, the binding of back numbers of the more important periodicals and in other purchases and expenditures needed to bring the library to the best condition possible. Though

the amount is not large, it exceeds that of recent past years, and on its proper expenditure, use and appreciation will doubtless depend the continuation of the policy of regular annual library appropriations by the trustees, a policy greatly to be desired and encouraged.

Nov. 30, 1896. Very respectfully,
OLIN H. LANDRETH.

Seniors Defeat the Juniors.

The Seniors and Juniors played the decisive foot ball game in the Starin Cup series last Thursday afternoon on the campus and the Seniors won by the score of 10 to 0.

In the first half of the game Pearse made a touchdown but no goal was kicked. In the second half D. L. Wood scored a touchdown and Williams kicked a goal. The line up was as follows:

SENIORS 10.	POSITIONS.	JUNIORS 0.
Cotton.....	left end.....	Hartnagel
O'Neill.....	left tackle.....	G. Vroman
Multer.....	left guard.....	Merriman
Glazier.....	centre.....	Closs
M. O. Wood.....	right guard.....	Brown
Wingate.....	right tackle.....	Utter
Fuller.....	right end.....	Mallery
Cooper.....	quarter back.....	Yates
Pearse.....	left half back.....	Gutman
D. L. Wood.....	right half back.....	Cox
Williams.....	full back.....	Parsons

Summary.—Referee—Umpire, Crichton, '98; Umpire—Referee, Blodgett, '97; Timekeeper Thatcher, 1900; Touchdowns, Pearse, D. L. Wood; Goal, Williams; Time of halves, 10 minutes.

Y. M. C. A. Notes.

Prof. Philip H. Cole, Pastor of the Second Reformed Church of this city and former assistant professor of English at Union College spoke to the students in the chapel Sunday afternoon. He chose for the subject of his talk Col. 2:3.

Mr. Robert E. Lewis, traveling secretary of the Student Volunteer Movement was at Union College, Dec. 3 and 4th.

There will be no Y. M. C. A. meeting on Dec. 15, because of examinations.

The foot ball team was photographed by Talbot, Monday afternoon.

Recent Egyptian Discoveries.

The abundance of discoveries made in Egypt seems never-ending. Among the new papyrus finds made in Fayum, the recent report of the authorities of the British Museum gives the following:—Three speeches of Demosthenes; some philosophical writings by Plato and other known and some unknown Greek writers of the third century B. C.; a private letter of the Emperor Hadrian; a recrypt of Diocletian, which is the oldest papyrus of the Greek language; a fragment of a lost Greek drama; a number of fragments of Homer's poems; a second papyrus contains 700 lines from books 13 and 14 of the Iliad.

So far, only the upper strata of this storehouse of literary treasure have been removed. Another very interesting late discovery is the nearly complete account on a Græco-Egyptian papyrus, of a suit brought before the Emperor Claudius against Herod Agrippa, king of the Jews, mentioned in the book of Acts. The prosecutors are the two anti-Semites of Alexandria, Isidorus and Lampo. The papyrus contains an official account of the trial.—*Cornell Daily Sun*.

The New York Alumni Banquet.

The ninth annual re-union and banquet of the Union College Alumni Association of New York, will be held on Thursday evening, Dec. 10, at the Hotel Savoy, Fifth Avenue and Fifty-ninth street, New York. It is expected that the following distinguished speakers will be present: President Andrew V. V. Raymond, Bishop Potter, Rear Admiral Erben, Hon. Frederick W. Seward, Hon. John H. Starin, ex-Senator Warner Miller, and Homer Green the Poet. Besides these will probably be present, Mayor Strong, Hon. Bourke Cochran, Gen. Horace Porter, several members of the faculty and alumni from this city and neighborhood.

The Sophomore quartette will be in attendance, to lead the old graduates in singing the songs of "Old Union."

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THE TREASURY IS EXHAUSTED. PLEASE PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS.

IT IS NEARLY time for some members of the Senior class to be agitating the question of a class banquet.

THE attention of the college authorities is called to the fact that many of the windows in the round building are broken. They should be repaired before the snow falls or the interior of the building will be greatly damaged. Last year the frost loosened one of the marble slabs with which the walls are faced. Unless some care is taken of the building more damage will follow.

THE Union College Alumni Association of New York hold their ninth annual banquet at the Hotel Savoy, Thursday, December 10. THE CONCORDIENSIS wishes to call the attention of any of the younger alumni who chance to reside in or near New York city to this important event. We have received a communication from Edgar S. Barney, Secretary, 136 Stuyvesant street, New York, in which he asks for the addresses of all Union College alumni living in or near the city.

THE board of editors of THE CONCORDIENSIS entered upon their duties at the commencement of the college year full of confidence in their ability to carry on the work of their predecessors in a manner such as would be gratifying to the students and which would reflect credit upon the institution which they, through the college press, represent. While they reduced the size of THE CONCORDIENSIS of a year ago, they doubled the number of publications. They separated the literary matter from that of college news by reviving the old Union College PARTHENON. In many respects their efforts have been crowned with success. There is sufficient college news to fill a weekly paper considerably larger than the present CONCORDIENSIS. It is their intention to further improve the college weekly, but they desire to impress upon the students the necessity of their support. Every improvement means an additional outlay of money. The attention of all is therefore called to the line which heads the editorial column of this issue.

THE PARTHENON, which has twice been delivered to the students and alumni of the college, is a success. It does not, however, fitly represent an institution of such reputation and merit as is Union College. THE PARTHENON should number forty pages instead of twenty. It should contain a large variety of articles of unquestioned literary merit. Such a magazine, however, cannot be created and supported by its editorial board alone. Every student in college should take a personal interest in its welfare and contribute something to its pages. So far but few have done otherwise than read and criticise. They should write and let the editors do the criticising.

The board of editors earnestly solicits the active help of the students. It is necessary that they should have it.

The Sophomore Soiree.

The annual soiree given by the Sophomore class will be held in the Van Curler on Friday evening, February 19.

The committee in charge are working hard to make it a grand social as well as a financial success. As usual, the members of the different fraternities will occupy the boxes, and Gioscia will furnish the music. Over nine hundred invitations will be issued.

The committee in charge are: F. J. Bonesteel, A. B. Lawrence, R. Hall, F. H. Fisk, Jr., S. C. Medbery, Jr., W. R. Nellis, W. Tucker, F. R. Champion, R. C. Gambee, H. Beardsley and R. D. Mac Mahon.

Exchanges.

The Tech, published by the under-graduates of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, appears this week in an appropriate Thanksgiving cover.

The Hermonite, published in the interests of the Mount Hermon School, comes to us regularly, and is one of the best high school publications we have seen. Its editorials are excellent.

The first number of *The Ogdensburg Academy* which appears this year is a marked improvement over the magazine of last year. It is a worthy exponent of the institution it represents.

The November number of *The Integral*, which comes to us from the Case School of Applied Science, contains an excellent article entitled "A Pilgrimage to the Musician's Mecca."

The *Union School Quarterly* is an excellent paper. It pays particular attention to its exchanges, which is commendable.

The Polytechnic, from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, is an excellent magazine.

The Amherst Student is one of the most interesting and carefully edited publications which comes to us.

Personals.

W. J. Kline, '73, made a visit on the hill Dec. 2.

Irving W. Ketchum, '99, occupied the pulpit of St. Paul's African M. E. Zion church Sunday evening, Dec. 6.

Rev. Henry G. Dean, '93, of Peru, N. Y., preached in the Jay Street Congregational church Sunday, Dec. 6.

Rev. Philip H. Cole, '88, pastor of the Second Reformed church, conducted services in the chapel Sunday afternoon, Dec. 6.

Charles C. Nott, '48, one of Union's most honored alumni, has been appointed Chief Justice of the Court of Claims, by President Cleveland.

Sanders, 1900, has gone home suffering with a severe attack of quinsy.

Sage, ex-'99, private secretary to U. S. Congressman David F. Wilbur, was in town last week. Monday he left for Washington, D. C., where he will spend the winter.

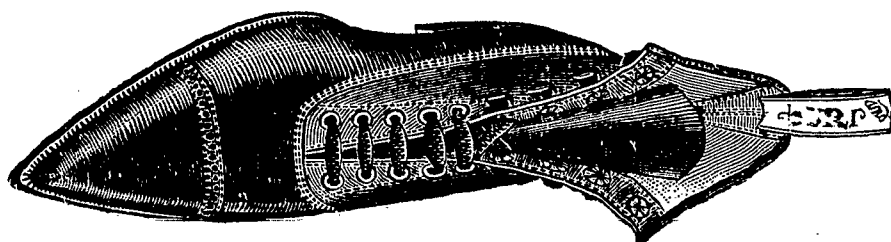
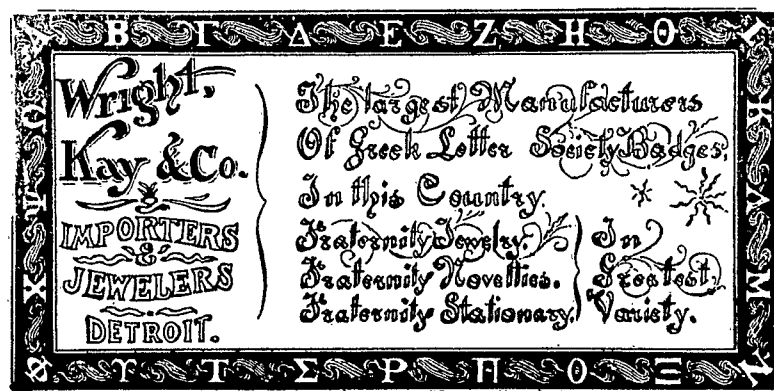
Rev. Dr. Dennis Wortman, '70, of Saugerties, N. Y. and Rev. Dr. Wm. Elliott Griffis, of Ithaca, N. Y., at one time a professor at Union, will speak at the re-opening of the First Reformed church, Wednesday evening, Dec. 9.

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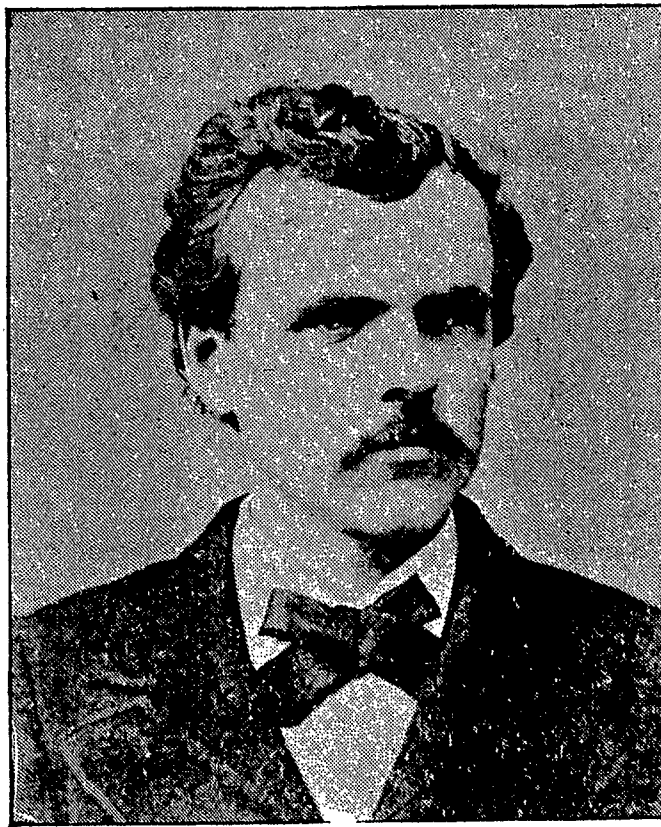
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