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Trinity College
HARTFORD CONNECTICUT

THE
TRINITY TABLET,

VOL. VIII.

HARTFORD, CONN., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1875.

No. X.

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The Trinity Tablet.

VOL. VIII.

HARTFORD, CONN., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1875.

No X.

WANDERING BACK.

I'm wandering back to the rose covered dwelling,
Where boyhood and youth passed, so careless and free;
My faint heart rebounds and the tears are upswelling,
As memories fly from the grave, back to me.
Many years I have journeyed and trod the world o'er,
Many countries I've seen, many castles admired;
I've sauntered through palaces, slept 'neath their cover,
Yet the old home is richest, in roses attired.

I'm wandering a'back to the old home lowly,
And counting the changes I see 'long the way;
My step is but weak, and I progress but slowly,
Yet as nearer I draw, my heart is more gay.
Old forms familiar, my senses now quiver,
The orchard, the well-sweep, the barn on the hill,
The low hanging willows, the blue gleaming river,
And the rose embowered homestead, standing there
still.

I'm wandering back to the old home, weary,
I know that strange faces will gaze at me there,
But the chill of the world will not be so dreary,
When once I have breathed of the old home air.
Ay, strange faces will greet me, and doubtless will
wonder
At the white-haired, curious, saddened old man,
Who mourns in his heart, for ties long torn asunder,
From the rose entwined home of a broken clan.

THE SHADES OF THE POETS.

BY ARCHÆUS.

"Jam te premet nox fabulaeque Manes
Et domus exilis Plutonia:" Hor., lib. I., Car. IV.

"*Φασμα νεωτερον*."—"Umbræ pallentes!"

The words are redolent with the fragrance of divine poetry, and breathe forth an inspiration that kindles our very souls and then sinks deep into our hearts. Like some half forgotten dream, some lovely vision, the thoughts that cluster round them grow as we ponder, and send a deeper thrill through our hearts—the thrill of waking wonder.

The great masters of Greece and Rome, and New Italy: Euripides, Virgil and Dante Alighieri rise before our silent contemplation, and in the shades of twilight, invested with Elysian loveliness, we see the deep veiled Alcestis, the sweet Eurydice, and the glorified Beatrice. The stories of the highminded Alcestis and the suffering Admetus, of the trembling Eurydice and the agonized Orpheus, the sweetest flowers of the Greek mythology, are of the same gathering, plucked from the same parent stem, but with all the difference that contrast and arrangement can produce. Orpheus is the original—and how simple the story!

The sweet nymph, Eurydice, the true, noble wife of Orpheus, flees from Aristæus. In her precipitate flight she does not see the hideous hydra that guards the bank of the Hebrus. On she hastens, agonized with fear; blindly she dashes through the treacherous reeds and tall grasses that line the river bank—she is pierced with the poison—she dies,

"At chorus aequalis Dryadum clamore supremos
Implerunt montes: ferunt Rhodopeiae arces."

"Now all her fellow nymphs the mountains tear
With loud laments, and break the yielding air;
The realms of Mars re-murmured all around,
And echoes to the Athenian shores rebound."

The unhappy, despairing Orpheus sings of Eurydice on the lonely shore, and, now, roused by the sharpness of his agony, lyre in hand, enters the jaws of Tenaerus. "He took his way," says Ovid, "through forests void of light, and dared, amidst the trembling ghosts, to sing." He sees the airy shades and phantoms of the dead advancing from the mansion of Erebus. The poet begins, and now Virgil shall speak,

"Quin ipsae stupuere domos atque intima Lethi
Tartara, caeruleosque implexae crinibus augues
Eumenides; tenuitque inhians tria Cerberus ora,
Atque Ixionii cantu rota constitit orbis."

"The infernal mansions nodding seem to fall;
The gaping three-mouthed dog forgets to snarl;
The Furies hearken and their snakes uncurl.
Ixion seems no more his pain to feel,
But leans attentive on his standing wheel."

For the first time the cheeks of the Eumenides, overcome by his music, are wet with tears. He gains his object on one simple condition, that he shall not look back on the gloomy realms he is to abandon. The ascending path is mounted in silence—overcome with love the poet looks back and all is lost, and then says Lucan :

"—Gaudent a luce relictum
Eurydicen iterum sperantes Orphea Manes."

But the lines are cold and spiritless beside Virgil's "Fragor stagnis auditus Avernus." None but the rich warm melody of the Mantuan farmer has done justice to this beautiful episode; and, after turning from the fourth Georgic to the less musical lines of Ovid, the contrast is striking, for the narrative of the versatile Ovid is cold and prosaic, and suffers from the contrast. The beauty of Virgil's account cannot be conveyed by a translation, but even a poor translation cannot destroy the sweetness of the legend.

—Sudden, almost at the envied goal,
A joyful frenzy seized his loving soul,
Worthy of pardon, if the manes below
Could pardon, or to any mercy show;
For now emerging to the Heavenly light
He stopped and looked; forgetful at the sight,
Alas! of all he'd staked, o'ercome in mind
To all but his Eurydice was blind.
All labor lost the tyrant's laws to break!
Now hellish laughter sweeps the Avernian lake.
Ah, wretched us? who hath undone? she cries,
What madness turned to me thy longing eyes?
The cruel fates convey me hence to dwell
In dreary Tartarus—now, alas! farewell.
Now gloom and darkness hide my swimming sight,
Around me close the awful shades of night,
And I am ravished to the Stygian shore;
These hands extending to thee—thine no more.

Such is the fable of Orpheus and Eurydice

—how like and yet how unlike Alcestis. But how little in common is there between the consuming grief of selfish Admetus and the heart-rending agony of noble Orpheus.

The character of Alcestis we may gather at once from the lines of the drama :

"Κακῶν γὰρ μυρίων ἑρρέετο
'Οργῆς μαλάσσουσ' ἀνδρός."

"For she freed as from numberless evils, soothing the anger of her husband." Like the Hermione of Shakespeare she is majestic and grand in her goodness and simplicity.

"Oh! what must she be
That can out-paragon her excellence!
How can a wife show greater proof of love
Than giving her own life to save her lord's?"

The time comes when she is to die for Admetus—"patet atri Janua Ditis." She speaks :

"I see the two-oared boat; I see
The ferryman of all the dead.
With pole in hand he calls for me;
'Tis Charon calls, with accents dread,
And vehemently chides my stay:
Come, quickly come! why this delay."

and so she dies. The selfish want of consideration displayed toward his parents lowers Admetus in our estimation, but his final fidelity to the memory of Alcestis somewhat restores him to our sympathy. And now comes the rescue from the grave by Hercules, and the joyful meeting and recognition, and the "deep veiled stranger" becomes again the loved wife of Admetus.

Thus, in the realms of imagination has man visited the shades of the dead. Orpheus sought Eurydice, Hercules Alcestis, and the dark Florentine his divine Beatrice.

The shades grow darker, the mysterious gloom deepens, suddenly all is one inconceivable glow of splendor. Lo, Beatrice is at hand! The divine bard sees the Empyrean, hears the music of the spheres, and stands in the presence of his sweet beloved guide.

"Who, though grown pale beneath Parnassus' shade,
Or wont to quaff the rills from that far height,
Would not betray the mental strain, should they

Attempt to picture thee, thou peerless Maid,
When compassed with celestial harmony,
Thou in unshrouded beauty wert displayed."

Once more the shades thicken around us and Eurydice comes again to our minds. The sun sinks—the last faint streaks of day pale and vanish, and all is dark. We muse. The lines of Virgil come to us in all their beauty. We see the light of Eurydice quenched by the unseen hydra—the twilight of evening killed by the serpent of darkness. And where is Orpheus? The broad spreading flush of to-morrow's sun, after twelve hours of weary pilgrimage will reveal to us Orpheus and his beloved Eurydice, but only to destroy her with his dazzling splendor. She is torn from him. As for him:

"Solus Hyperboreas glacies, Tanaimque nivalem,
Arvaque Rhipaeis nunquam viduata pruinis
Lustrabit raptam Eurydicen atque irrita Ditis
Donaquerens—"

And his lyre? you ask. Can you ask it? Listen to the voice of Nature—the music of our earthly sphere—of created things and the voice of humanity that rejoice in sweet melody under the influence of the genial sun.

Such is the lyre of Orpheus; and when earth puts on her dewy shroud of night and all is still but the sighing or the sobbing of the wind, think that Eurydice is dead and Orpheus in tears has begun his long pilgrimage.

DOES BOATING BENEFIT?

The recent regattas which the principal American colleges have sustained, as well as the part which Trinity has had in these contests are sufficient causes to require that the question which heads this article should be considered. Particularly as the TABLET has always countenanced and encouraged the action of the college in the matter, it is fitting that in its columns the subject should be treated. Nor is this a question which may be answered so easily as to afford no room for discussion. Whether applied to the sub-

ject of boating in general, or in a more limited sense so far as it concerns our college alone, the negative side of the question has received as warm a support as the other.

That there are certain disadvantages connected with the annual contests no one can deny. In addition to the obvious injury inflicted on many of the attendants at the race through the irrepressible vice of gambling, for which most extensive opportunities are here afforded, and the unavoidable immoral effects of many of the regatta surroundings, there are other offsets to the good effects of the regatta which must be taken into the account in their proper places.

The first division of the subject can be passed over in a few words. There can be no doubt that boating, when moderately engaged in, is beneficial as a means of physical culture; it brings into play the muscles of the legs as well as of the arms, strengthens the chest and lungs, improves the wind and gives that wholesome fatigue which affords a hearty appetite and an easy digestion, furnishing, indeed, a kind of exercise so well regulated and variously disposed as scarcely to admit of improvement. The delightful sense of speeding over the water at so rapid a rate with comparatively so little exertion, offers a fascinating inducement for a continuance and renewal of the enjoyment. In no more agreeable way can we gain that physical culture which every well-developed man must have, but which all of us are so prone to neglect.

As regards the benefits of long continued training, however, there may be some doubt. When pursued easily and judiciously, a course of physical training is certainly healthful, but it may be objected that in preparing for a race, this exercise is pushed to an extreme and may be injurious. This effect, however, rarely follows, for a careful examination of the after life of the principal oarsmen of the English universities, has demonstrated that the health of these men has not suffered in

the least. On the contrary, as a general thing, a healthier and more even-tempered set of men can not be found than college boating men. It might be supposed that their recitations would be poorly prepared, yet it has been noticed that the improvement in their physical state has had the effect of greatly assisting their mental development in every case where a fair amount of study was bestowed upon the recitations.

These should seem sufficient reasons for the encouragement of boating so far as it concerns the improvement of men who take part in it. But a philanthropic disposition toward the welfare of six or seven men in a college would not be sufficient to account for the large sum of money annually devoted to the expenses of the crew, and the true reason for the expenditure undoubtedly is to have the college represented in the gathering of her sister colleges. The question now assumes a more limited form and may be stated, is this representation advantageous to us? does boating benefit Trinity? Our representation, or even our success in the regatta would have no effect on the internal management of the college. It would not improve our course of instruction, supposing that there were place for any improvement, nor would it be likely to add to our facilities for culture in any way. The only advantage would be an external one, and would be manifested in an increased reputation. Not that the reputation would necessarily be a good one; it is certainly very little to the credit of any college that a boat-race has been won, its only superiority being that at this particular time it has happened to possess six students who were better boatmen than an equal number from any other college which entered for competition. But men do not send their sons to college to become good boatmen, and additions made in this way would most probably be worthless. Yet while a reputation for possessing good boatmen would not assist us, the general reputation produced in this

way would assuredly be our gain. Success in the race would not improve the character of our college, but would only cause its present character to be more extensively known. The name of the winning crew is widely proclaimed throughout the country, and there naturally arises a desire to obtain a better acquaintance with each college that thus looms into view. This desire would produce an inquiry of which the results must be extremely beneficial to us.

It might seem that these arguments are so obvious as scarcely to require a statement, but we are confident that a confusion of ideas such as we have indicated has produced the lethargy in regard to boating matters which has existed in some quarters. It has been the purpose of the writer of this article to clear away this misunderstanding of the aims of those who claim that a representation at Saratoga does benefit our college and that success there would benefit it still more. In its practical bearings on the prosperity of the college we regard it principally as a huge advertisement, and amply worth the amount of money and work which is expended on it. If there were nothing to advertise, there would be no need of an advertisement. If we were not fully convinced that our college is deserving of all the support we claim for her, we should be foolish in bringing her into prominence. As our new buildings rise, we must make "Trinity" as familiar a word in the mouth of the people as "Harvard," or "Yale" is now, and when this is so, it will more readily receive the support it deserves. We do not claim that success in a boat race will do all this, but certainly it will go very far toward effecting it. In this way boating will benefit us, if in no other.

Impressed with an earnest feeling like this of some immediate practical good to be attained, why should we not win? And if we should? Imagine our worthy President making a speech to the victorious crew like President Barnard of Columbia, promising all the

money for boating purposes that should ever be needed, or even like President White, of Cornell, swinging his hat over his head three times with a frantic yell, and then rushing up the bell tower and pulling the ropes with his own hand, with wild enthusiasm! Verily, nothing succeeds like success.

MINOR MATTERS.

SENIOR ELECTIONS.

At a meeting of the senior class held on Friday afternoon of last week, the following officers were elected for the present term:

President—W. C. SKINNER.

Vice-President—E. K. TULLIDGE.

Secretary—C. E. MOORE.

Treasurer—H. H. BRIGHAM.

To make arrangements for the contest in oratory to be held during the month of December, a committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Porter, McKennan, Rutherford, Burke and Gillette. It is to be hoped that there may be no postponement of the contest this year.

SOPHOMORE DEBATING SOCIETY.

At a meeting of the Sophomore Debating Society, on the 1st instant, an organization was effected for the present year by the election of the following officers from the class of '78:

President—GEORGE S. CHIPMAN.

First Vice-President—WILLIAM H. BURR.

Second Vice-President—JOHN D. HILLS.

Secretary—JOHN WILLIAMS.

Treasurer—F. DeP. HALL.

Janitor Aulæ—J. I. H. CAMERON, '79.

On the 7th instant, the second meeting of the term was held. The subject for debate was: "Resolved that all chapel services should be voluntary." Affirmative, Messrs. Skinner, '76, and Williams. Negative, Messrs. Roberts and Burr. Mr. Williams read a selection. Mr. Moffett was critic.

On the 14th instant the question: "Resolved, that the Pope is entitled to temporal power," was discussed by Messrs. Burr and Moffett on the affirmative, and Mr. Chapin on

the negative. Mr. Chapin read a selection. Mr. White was critic.

We are glad to notice the action of the Sophomores in maintaining this society. The meetings thus far have been well attended, and marked with much enthusiasm and considerable ability.

THE NEW BUILDINGS.

There is but little to report on the work in progress for the new college buildings except its steady continuance. The foundations have been nearly completed for the southern building of the western line of the central quadrangle. This building is to be devoted to lecture rooms, though temporary arrangements will be fitted up in it for the library and cabinet, which will occupy the southern wing. The central portion will be devoted to the laboratory and natural science lecture rooms. In addition to these there will be six other lecture rooms, with the philosophical room and a few rooms for students. The northern building of this line will contain students' rooms entirely and is designed to accommodate ninety-two. Between these portions is the gateway, for which the foundations will be laid at once, as in its basement will be placed the steam boilers and apparatus for heating. A very slight increase in the number of students will demand that the gateway itself shall be erected immediately, thus affording room for an additional twenty-two, as this building will be higher than the rest of the line, and will occupy seventy-two feet of its length. The length of each of the other buildings is two hundred and eighty-six feet, making the length of the line now erecting six hundred and forty-four feet. Necessity seems to require that the dining-hall or at least a portion of it should be erected at once, and this will probably be done. The plans for the dining-hall are among the most beautiful of all. Stone is arriving in great quantity. The foundations now laid are covered with asphaltum to protect them from moisture. The grading of the ground is going on with the dirt removed from the excavations.

The Trinity Tablet.

Published every three weeks during term-time by
the Students of

TRINITY COLLEGE.

Managing Editor, . ISAAC HIESTER, '76.

EDITORS, CLASS OF '76.

EDWARD N. BURKE, JOHN D. MCKENNAN,
ISAAC HIESTER, PERCIVAL PADGETT.

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COLLEGE AND CAMPUS.

How peaceful an influence these bright
October days seem to shed over the hopes
and sorrows of college life. After the chill
and rainy days of some few weeks ago, they
come like Heaven's gentle smiles. The jolly,
good Sophomore forgets his ails and aches,
flits pertly around the campus, and looks as if
he had been swaddled in pink and blue rib-

bon; while the verdant Freshman still stum-
bles about, bathed in incorruptible sea-green.
The autumn trees shower their golden spray
upon us, and the mighty Senior stoops to re-
mark on the exogenous structure of the leaf.

The huge pile of boards from poor Brown-
ell still defies the Freshman's match, and we
advise said Freshies to be heedful, lest in re-
turn for some midnight exhibition of pyro-
techny, the State authorities pull down all that
remains of poor dilapidated B. H. about their
heads, and cast them out into the damp and
chilly winter.

The appreciated organizations continue
to flourish. The Boat Club has certainly
bright prospects for this year, if the en-
thusiasm and interest manifested in it is
any criterion. The Sophomore Debating
Society has been very busy this term. Thus
far it has settled some important questions:
for example, it concurs in the opinion of the
Faculty that chapel should be regularly at-
tended, and thinks that the Pope of Rome
has no business with any temporal power.
And the Dodge Club, too; it still rubs its
shins among the trees of the campus, and
runs to the doctor for iodine; for the Dodge
Club, you must know, is a spirited assembly.
But, oh! the accidents of the past two weeks
—two fingers broken, one foot smashed, one
scalping case, one felon (Adams is the felon),
and one broken ear compose a list which we
hope may never fall to our sad duty to men-
tion again.

Seventy-nine has taken a new departure—
they have decided not to have the usual
"Freshman Bum"—"an ungentlemanly and
senseless custom"—refusing, even at the risk
of their popularity, to make the night of
the first of November (confirmation day)
as hilarious as it heretofore has been.
Seventy-eight, forthwith has offered to sup-
ply their place, and keep up the flowing
bowl in course this year as well. We
understand they have sent invitations to
the different classes, requesting the pleasure

of their company on the famous First. Of course, this matter has created no little stir around college. We forbear commenting upon the action of each class, and it would be useless for us to do so, when there is so much talk about it. Yet we may say, it is really laughable to watch the ravings of some men, roaring around like lions deprived of their prey.

THE SECOND ANNUAL REGATTA.

The unusually cold autumn made it necessary to hold the regatta a little earlier than last year, and last Saturday was accordingly appointed as the day. All the circumstances seemed to be against the race, for not only did the day dawn with unfavorable weather, but it was found to be impossible to obtain the requisite number of men. The crews were originally constituted as reported in our last issue, but very soon after its publication the men began to drop off. In the lower class crew, Hunter injured his hand in ball playing, and Roberts, '78, was substituted. The upper crew could not so easily arrange matters. An unfortunate accident in the gymnasium disabled Scudder, the captain, and Lewis also dropped off. By putting in the substitute there would still be one vacancy, and so the remaining four men on the crew, choosing Mr. DuBois as their captain, stoutly resolved to hold out unaided.

All last Saturday it was doubtful whether the race could be had on account of the rain, but the sun peeped out brightly from behind the clouds for a few minutes in the afternoon and the crews repaired to the boat-house, and prepared for the contest. The course was two-miles from the Morgan street bridge to the brick shed just below Colt's ferry. The lower class crew was first on the water, and as the upper crew followed them a few moments afterwards, the spectators at the start were afforded an excellent opportunity of comparing the style of rowing. The past

experience of the upper crew evidently had given them a great advantage, which was manifested by the ease and perfection with which they pulled into position. The start was made in good time. B. E. Warner, '76, was starter; Bulkley, '73, holding the upper class boat, and Shelton, '79, the lower. The upper crew made the best start, and the race was evenly maintained for an eighth of a mile or more, when to avoid a passing tug, the lower crew were compelled to encroach slightly on the water of the upper. The spectators on the banks saw that a collision was inevitable, and as the lower crew dashed on, they carried away the stroke oar of the upper crew. Released from the tangle they sped on to the end, followed leisurely by the other crew pulling only three oars. The greater part of the college had collected at the finish, where Prof. Holbrook, with McKennan, '76, and Chapin, '78, were stationed as judges. Captain DuBois claimed a foul without coming ashore, and having landed Prout, who had lost his oar and who was driven home, the crews returned to the boat-house. The referee called a meeting at 8 o'clock on Saturday evening, and the race was adjudged to the upper class crew in consequence of the foul. The time of the crews was necessarily reduced in consequence of the absence of any competition during the greater part of the race. It was as follows:

Upper-class crew,	16 min. 3 sec.
Lower-class crew,	13 min. 53 sec.

The upper crew consisted of Prout, '77, stroke; Sherman, '77; DuBois, '76, captain; Rutherford, '76, bow.

The lower crew was made up of Elbert, '78, stroke and captain; Potwine, '79; Bredin, '79; N. Deuel, '78; Roberts, '78; Scott, '78, bow.

The rain began anew at the conclusion of the race, and the crowd rapidly dispersed.

PRESENTATION OF THE FLAG.

On Monday evening, the boat club, with a large part of the college unconnected with

the boat club, held a meeting in the cabinet, according to previous notice. Mr. Hooker, the president, called the meeting to order, and asked Professor Holbrook, one of the judges, to present the flag to Captain DuBois, which he did in well-chosen words. In answer to repeated calls, Mr. DuBois responded at length, amid much applause. Mr. Elbert, captain of the lower crew, spoke briefly, after which each crew heartily cheered the other.

The President stating that the election of a captain of the university crew was in order, Mr. E. M. Scudder nominated Mr. DuBois, who was chosen with loud acclamations. In answer to calls for another speech, he expressed his inability to say more than had been said, except to tell of the high hopes he had of his power to select such a crew as would properly represent the college in the next Intercollegiate Regatta, and take such a stand as the college had a right to expect. A number of new members were elected to the boat club, after which the meeting adjourned.

Of the election of Mr. DuBois to the captaincy of the college crew, we can only speak in words of the highest praise. A fine oarsman, with two years' experience, of undaunted perseverance, and the most ready and best judgment, he is preëminently the man for the place. With the highest confidence in his ability in every respect, we have no hesitation in predicting the entire fulfillment of our captain's promises at the next regatta.

The meeting of the boat club was just such as every meeting should be. Every man who hopes to cheer Trinity's record next summer should in common honesty make it his first business to place three dollars in the hands of Mr. Rutherford, the treasurer, and become a member of the club at its next meeting. Such action of every man will wonderfully encourage the crew, and it is no more than they are rightfully entitled to expect. The

mere payment of the money is not so much to them as the sign of confidence and enthusiasm which it affords.

WITH THE HARTFORD.

A race will be had this afternoon, weather permitting, with the Hartford Rowing Club, by a combination of three men from each of the crews who pulled last Saturday. The crews are as follows:

The Hartford Crew.—E. C. Johnson, bow, T. T. Wells, Philip Reiser, Abner Hendee, Thomas Heild, S. G. Tracy, captain and stroke.

The Trinity Crew.—H. V. Rutherford, '76, bow; H. O. DuBois, '76, captain; W. T. Bredin, '79; John Prout, '77; W. N. Potwine, '79; W. N. Elbert, '79, stroke.

The start will be made at 4:50 p. m., from the brickyard at Colt's ferry, and the course will be up stream to the Morgan street bridge.

AMERICAN HUMOR.

The question has been sneeringly asked abroad, why does not America (meaning the United States), with all her fund of dry wit and humor, establish and maintain a national journal of fun?

Certainly, it does appear queer at a casual glance, that we have no great organ of fun such as *Punch* is to England, and *Charivari* to France. But look deeper into the subject, and the reason appears quite plainly. We, as a people, are in a constant hurry and rush, in everything we do. We take sufficient time to neither eat, drink, sleep, read or write. We pick up a daily paper, and not one out of a hundred reads anything but the local and telegraphic news. We have no time. Our natures are not like the phlegmatic, cold-blooded English, who turn over the pages of *Punch* at their coffee, and, later in the day, laugh heartily at the labored joke of their great oracle. Whatever fun comes within the grasp of Americans must be taken on the

wing, as it were, and so it happens that while we cannot boast of a periodical rivaling the great French and English publications, still the columns of an average American newspaper contain more genuine dry humor and sparkling wit, than either of these foreign rivals. Brief, terse sentences in the local papers fairly scintillate with true wit, and these are read: and not only read but appreciated, though they may not take up half a column, and need to be labeled at the top of the page as a genuine joke.

With the hundreds of witty newspaper writers in this country, a paper for the express purpose of perpetrating witticisms is totally unnecessary. American humor is as far different from English or French as gold is from the baser metals. English wit is heavy and strained; some of the most atrocious specimens in literature being the offspring of *Punch*; while on the other hand French wit is either immodest or nothing; a funny *double entendre* is peculiarly Frenchy, and without the second part the first is nothing.

American wit is neither of these; there is a subtle undercurrent of humor so dry and mirthful, and so fresh in comparison with foreign staples, that Mark Twain, Bret Harte, Artemus Ward, John Phoenix, Doesticks and John Hay form a peculiar kingdom of humor by themselves.

In a recent number of the O— J—, a highly respectable journal, some one has an article decrying, as worthless, and tending to demoralization, these funny sayings of the newspapers, and makes this statement:

“The man who laughs where good men have wept, who jibes where good men have moralized, and who can go giggling through a world made up as ours, may be called a ‘good fellow,’ but he is not a good man.”

Now, the man who can give utterance to such sentiments as those, may wear a long face, and keep his eyes rolled continually upward, but he is neither a true Christian, nor

has he the smallest spark of fellow feeling in his breast.

Heaven pity the man who sees nothing in this beautiful world of ours save tears, and sin and depravity.

REPENT ME.

Shall I ever learn life's lesson?

Shall I ever do the right?

May I hope for something better?

Look for something clear and bright?

In the days now passed and passing,

All along the shadowy way;

Marked by tears and vain regrettings,

Where my hopes in ruin lay.

Here and there along my pathway,

As I cast my eye around,

Nought but sadness seems to greet me;

Woe seems whispered in each sound.

Misspent hours and wasted moments,

Golden chances rise to view,

Rise with fiendish joy to taunt me,

Ah! my soul, 'tis but too true.

Blighted are the buds and blossoms,

Once so hopeful fresh and fair,

Crumbled are the golden castles,

Flimsy fabrics of the air.

I repent me, I repent me,

Though, alas! 'tis all in vain;

For time's tide is ebbing ever,

Never to return again.

A WORD ON BILLIARDS.

We notice in many of our exchanges reports of the opening of billiard-rooms, free to all students. The statement furnishes much material for thought on the progress we have made in this respect, and we wonder that we have so long allowed the abuse of many healthy amusements to prejudice us against the games themselves, and to prevent us from enjoying the proper use of them. One after another these pastimes, harmless in themselves, have dissipated the prejudices which surrounded them, and have come to be used in a decent and becoming manner. Many of us may remember that cards were forbidden us because men gambled by means

of cards, but now we are amused by the shortsightedness of those parents who restrain cards from their houses, and compel their unfortunate children to seek them elsewhere accompanied by all their vices. Dancing was once forbidden us because it is sometimes surrounded by immoralities and connected with impure surroundings. In all these things we have learnt wisdom, but to billiards have we succumbed the last.

Because billiards was commonly supposed to be associated with dissipation and the downward road to ruin, our young men have been taught to shun the little balls of ivory as they would the missiles of an enemy; because the game has been mostly used by dissolute characters we have had to regard it as one cause of their shame. But gradually our eyes have been opened in this matter, too, and we have come to regard this game as most beneficial not only for bodily exercise but for training of the eye and hand as well. Gradually the billiard table has found a place in the most refined homes where the family circle could surround it with healthy influences, and finally we find it introduced into our colleges under the very eyes, and even with the consent of conservative, long-faced faculties. The movement is most assuredly in the right direction, and we trust that the authorities of our own college may see fit to make provision for a similar improvement in our new buildings, or at least to sanction the proposal for its introduction.

Our article on this subject would be incomplete did we fail to say one word of advice to those, who, unhappily deprived of the advantages of the game under their own roof, are compelled to seek it elsewhere, under influences not always the most refined. We would remind these persons that their own behavior and conduct can always go very far in raising the tone of their surroundings, and imparting that refinement which is so much needed. Let them beware, however, that their own standard be not lowered, while they are

endeavoring to assist in elevating that of their neighbor. Let them also see that the game in which they engage be open to no criticism. It should be characterized by perfect fair-dealing and kindness, and never be connected with so objectionable a feature as the arrangement that the loser is to sustain any pecuniary loss whatever. Whether twenty-five cents or twenty-five dollars be the stake, all gambling is to be severely frowned upon by those who would elevate the moral tone of society.

PERSONAL.

It is particularly desirable that the alumni furnish us with all items of interest that may come to their knowledge, concerning every one who has been connected with the institution. We would ask their co-operation in making this department what it ought to be—a medium between graduates and their Alma Mater.

WHITMAN, '40. Died at his residence on Capitol Avenue, October 6th, of typhoid fever, Benjamin Gardner Whitman, M. A., aged 56. Mr. Whitman was Bursar of the House of Convocation from 1846 to 1850, Registrar from 1850 to 1868, and a member of the standing committee for several years past.

GARDNER, '43. Rev. H. V. Gardner is at Hammondsport, N. Y.

CHASE, '52. Rev. Francis Chase has gone to Framingham, Mass.

STEELE, '53. Oliver R. Steele died at his residence in New York, October 2d. Mr. Steele was a successful member of the New York bar for eighteen years.

QUICK, '58. The residence of Jno. H. S. Quick, Chicago, was recently burned.

BAKEWELL, '59. Rev. Jno. Bakewell has left Kansas and gone to Highland street, Cambridge, Mass.

MORRILL, '67. Rev. C. A. Morrill, once a member of the college, now at St. Paul's School, Concord, N. H., was married to Miss

Ella B. Whittier, at Haverhill, Mass., on September 2d.

HART, '70. George Hart, M. D., has changed his address to 37 West 36th street, New York.

BEAVEN, '71. Rev. W. G. Beaven is at Hillsboro, Caroline County, Maryland.

PERRY, '72. J. B. Perry was ordained deacon, on the 15th inst., in Charleston, S. C.

ZIEGLER, '72. Rev. Paul Ziegler has taken charge of a church at Lawrence, Kansas.

WEST, '72. Rev. G. W. West is at Gernerville, Rockland County, N. Y., and has a parish at Haverstraw-on-the-Hudson.

HYDE, '73. E. M. Hyde has entered Berkeley Divinity School.

WOODMAN, '73. Clarence E. Woodman is studying under the Paulist fathers in New York.

DUBOIS, '74. George M. DuBois is Acting Professor of Greek and German, and also Commandant at Jarvis Hall, Golden, Cal.

BLAIR, '75. W. R. Blair is in the Freehold Bank, Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh.

BRYAN, '75. W. Bryan was registered in Paris on the 25th ult.

MAYNADIER, '75. It is said that Maynadier is going to Rome to study under the direction of the Pope.

HAZLEHURST, '77. G. Blagden Hazlehurst is taking a course in Engineering at the University of Virginia.

PARTICLES.

Seventy-five's ivy is broken.

Prof. Holbrook cut the Sophomores.

The Freshmen should pay their TABLET bills.

Seniors began the "little manual" last Monday.

The Freshmen have begun Greek and Latin composition.

Brown & Gross have for sale letter heads with a cut of the new buildings.

The *Nation* (weekly) has been placed in the reading room.

Miss Sally Bronson, who recently died in Watertown, bequeathed \$500 to Trinity College.

The Watkinson Library is now open daily from 10 to 4, and in the evening from 7½ to 9 o'clock. A large proportion of its visitors are students.

Additional shelves have been placed in the library to accommodate the collection of the late President Jackson. The number of volumes received from this source is about two thousand.

Deschanel's Physics has been substituted for Snell's Olunsted's Philosophy in the studies of Junior year. The new work is contained in four beautiful volumes, published by Appleton & Co., and is translated from the French.

COLLEGE NEWS.

Amherst has 84 Freshmen, Wesleyan 60, Princeton 174, Harvard 279, Bowdoin 21, Williams 43, Cornell 181, Yale 200, Sheffield Scientific School 70, and Dartmouth 80.

YALE.

The Faculty have put a stop to rushing.

Two recent graduates before leaving New Haven exhibited financial shrewdness to an extent hitherto unheard of in this Institution. One sold his effects twice over to some Freshmen, collected one hundred and twenty dollars on the sales and left town before the sheriff attached his property in the interest of still other parties. The other genius disposed of his carpet at a respectable price, received payment and sloped just in time to escape the sheriff and the impecunious ravings of an African washerwoman.—*Courant*.

A western paper announces that Avery has received an offer of \$3,400 to pitch for the Cincinnati club next year.—*Record*.

R. J. Cook has been re-elected captain of the University crew. Resolutions were adopted approving his course last year, and expressing confidence in his ability and integrity.

HARVARD.

Mr. A. P. Loring, of '78, was elected captain of the University crew at a recent meeting.—*Advocate*.

The Faculty has six new members.

WILLIAMS.—CYRUS W. FIELD'S GIFT.

The following are the several proposals of Mr. Field :

1st. An engineer to make an estimate and survey for improving the river for boating purposes. His charge not to exceed \$250.

2d. A landscape gardener, to report what is best to be done to improve the village of Williamstown. His charge not to exceed \$250.

3d. The fences in front of and between the houses on the main street in Williamstown, from the west boundary of Dr. Sabin's land to Walley's factory, to be removed, so that the buildings may appear as if situated in a great park. Cost not to exceed \$1000.

4th. To repair the dam, so as to restore what was called the Christinas Lake, as designed by the late Prof. Albert Hopkins. Cost not to exceed \$1000.

5th. To paint the East and South Colleges the same color as the West College, or to paint them some quiet color satisfactory to Judge Nott. Cost not to exceed \$1000.

6th. To straighten the Hoosic river, and raise the dam of the factory, so that there will be slack water for more than a mile and a half in length, nearly straight, and of a sufficient depth and width for two six-oared boats to row easily side by side or pass each other. Cost not to exceed \$5000.

7th. For a carriage road and walk as nearly straight and level as possible, and running parallel with the river, with shade trees on each side. Cost not to exceed \$1000.

The first, second, and fifth of these proposals have been already carried out, and the fourth nearly so.

Mr. Field thinks that all these works should be completed for much less than the sums named; but any amount less than that which is expended on any of them, he promises to use in such improvements as he thinks will benefit the students of Williams college, or beautify the village, expending in all the sum

of \$10,000. He provides, furthermore, that all is to be done to the satisfaction of Judge Nott, Parker C. Chandler, and his two sons, excepting the painting of the college buildings.—*Athenæum*.

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 ment of Three-Ply, Extra Super, and Super Ingrain, in attractive
 styles. New Patterns that are private to ourselves, which cannot
 be seen at any other house in Hartford. Come and see if it is not
 so. Novelties in Ingrain Carpets-with Borders to match.

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 styles to match modern Carpets and Furniture. Rich Lace Cur-
 tains and Curtain Materials, of all kinds.

Specialties in Plain and Stripe Fancy Silks, Hernanies, Camels,
 Hair Suitings, &c. Oil Cloths, Rope Mattings, Straw Mattings,
 in complete assortment of widths and qualities.

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