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# The BATES STUDENT.

H. C. Wilkinson



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**SHAKESPEARE'S DRAMATIC SKILL AS SHOWN IN THE  
"MERCHANT OF VENICE."**

**I**N the "Merchant of Venice," Shakespeare shows himself a master of dramatic skill, for he takes two entirely distinct and dissimilar stories, an underplot, and an episode, and interweaves them into a unified drama; he overcomes difficulties and improbabilities, which would have wrecked almost any other dramatist attempting their presentation, in such a skillful way that the appearance of actuality is perfect. Although in his choice of material he does not conform strictly to dramatic principles, and for that very reason, by his incomparable skill, gains the greater triumph, yet it is evident from the development of the play that he is a master of dramatic technique. In the delineation and development of character, in depicting passion, in his use of contrast, the artist's hand appears. In short, the three elements of a dramatic idea—the ethical, æsthetic, and technical—find their perfection of form in the "Merchant of Venice."

Both the stories upon which Shakespeare founds his play are improbable, but the bond story is realistic, harsh, and commonplace, while the casket story is romantic to the highest degree. Shakespeare's poetic treatment of the second, however, diminishes the difficulties and improbabilities of the first. Laying the scene in Venice was a master stroke on his part, for Venice was at that time, in England, a synonym for everything beautiful and magnifi-

cent, while its merchant princes, splendid palaces, and habits of life filled Englishmen with admiration. Portia's home in Belmont was a still more shadowy place, a veritable fairy-land, making romantic Venice seem more real. Thus, the location of the play aided materially in distracting attention from any absurdities in plot.

The motive of the bond story is Nemesis, both in the ancient idea of it, as the power punishing a violation of proportion in human fortunes, and in its modern meaning of retribution. Upon Antonio, Shakespeare makes the ancient Nemesis descend. He has friends, position, wealth, prosperity of every kind; in character he is irreproachable, for the hatred and abuse of Jews was not considered wrong at that time. Therefore, some evil must come to him to counterbalance his uninterrupted good fortune. Shylock's Nemesis, on the other hand, overtakes him as just retribution for crime. With the irony of fate, he demands justice and the written law of Venice, the very agencies which bring about his ruin. There is a double Nemesis, since the Nemesis that overtakes Antonio is the sin that brings Nemesis upon Shylock.

The motive of the casket story is judgment by appearances, and the plot is very simple. But Shakespeare makes the theme exciting by having the most important results depend upon the choice. Again, there is the least possible evidence to judge by; so the choice must ultimately be the result of chance and the character of the choosers.

These two stories, aided by the underplot and the episode of the rings, Shakespeare has ingeniously interwoven into the play, "Merchant of Venice." This interweaving is indeed one of the most brilliant strokes of his genius. The motive of the bond story is the dramatic motive of the whole play, giving it unity. Then Bassanio, the complicating force in the bond story, becomes the resolving force in the casket story; while Portia, the center of the casket story is the resolving force in the bond story. The characters naturally group themselves about three centers, Antonio, Portia, and Shylock, and their general movement is towards the Portia group, where we find all the essential personages except Shylock at the end of the play.

The Jessica story in no way interferes with the main plot, but rather simplifies it. It gives occupation and *raison d'être* to the various mechanical personages which must appear in every play, and serves to fill up the interval of three months between the sign-

ing of the bond, and its forfeiture. It assists the dramatic "hedging" in the delineation of Shylock by arousing our pity for him at the loss of his daughter and ducats. Also, in the trial scene, the fact that he has just been maddened by this double loss, and his rage intensified by knowing it is a Christian with whom Jessica has fled, serves in some way to explain his stubborn unyieldingness and fierce blood-thirstiness. Lorenzo and Jessica form a link between the two main stories at the very climax of both,—in the casket scene when they announced Antonio's misfortune to Bassanio in the height of his happiness.

The episode of the rings also assists in interweaving the main stories. Bassanio is a friend in one and a lover in the other, and by the request for the ring, an opportunity is given to test the relative strength of his friendship and his love. The merry, sportive side of Portia's character is revealed by the episode, and her nearness to that indefinable border-land between girlhood and womanhood. The curiosity of the audience as to how they will settle the matter is aroused, and helps release their minds from the high tension produced by the trial scene. When Bassanio gets home an explanation would have to be given him by Portia, and if it were not for the affair of the rings, distracting its attention, the audience might realize the improbability of her doing such an unusual thing as impersonating a judge in a law court. Thus the mechanism of the plot is greatly assisted by the episode of the rings.

Shakespeare, in uniting tragedy and romance as he did in this play, achieved the most brilliant success. The stories are equal in interest, although different in kind. Portia and Antonio are both introduced with an expression of sadness, and from that point go steadily in opposite directions—Portia to the height of happiness and Antonio to the depths of misfortune—until their climaxes meet in the casket scene.

Among the difficulties in dramatizing these stories is that of making Shylock's character bad enough for the bond incident to appear real, and yet not making the audience lose all sympathy for him. But Shakespeare counteracts his repulsiveness by exciting sympathy for his wrongs and the loss of his daughter, and by creating him a man of considerable intellect. Again, it is very improbable that a Jewish usurer would propose such a bond in a purely business transaction, or that a merchant would agree to sign it. Here, once more, however, Shakespeare shows his artistic skill.



Antonio thoroughly disapproves of interest, and this suggests to Shylock some other means of "assuring himself," and he, by a recital of Jacob's trick suggests a connection between flesh and interest. Thus the mind is prepared, though perhaps unconsciously, for the idea of taking Antonio's bond for a pound of flesh as security for the loan. As to Antonio's accepting it—Shylock says, "Seal me your bond in merry sport," and Antonio would be too proud to seem to defend himself against a jest; moreover his self-confidence would not admit the possibility of his failing to meet the obligation. Then the unlikelihood that the bond could be annulled by the quibble about the drop of blood occurs to the mind. But here, although Portia declares it unlawful for the Jew to shed a drop of Antonio's blood, still this decision is supplemented by the law in regard to an alien's plotting against the life of a citizen, so legal fairness is obtained, together with a very dramatic scene.

While Shakespeare shows the utmost ingenuity in thus combining these two stories, and in overcoming their inherent difficulties and improbabilities, his dramatic skill is most evident in the masterly way in which he constructs the play and unfolds the plot, scene by scene. The "Merchant of Venice" invites our attention at the outset, arouses interest as it proceeds, and finally confirms itself in our sympathies. There is a steady progression toward the end, all the action with one or two exceptions being organic to the play, and all the incidents contributing to the development of the plot.

A careful study of the first act is well repaid by the revelation of an artist's hand. The first act introduces the play perfectly to the audience. First, the conditions out of which the action grows are clearly shown. The state of affairs at Belmont, Antonio's prosperity, spendthrift Bassanio's suit of Portia and reliance on his friend's generosity, that friend's lack of present commodity and necessity to borrow, the Jew's hatred of all Christians in general and of Antonio in particular—all these lead up to the beginning of the action, signing the bond, which closes the first act. Secondly, the wishes and purposes of the characters appear; so that the audience knows Bassanio's aim is to win Portia and her possessions, while Shylock's is to bring about the ruin of the hated Antonio. With this knowledge at the beginning, therefore, it is prepared to appreciate the various steps of the working-out process. Antonio's unexplained sadness, foreshadowing the coming tragedy, and the

intimation of Bassanio's successful wooing, given in "Sometimes from her eyes I did receive fair speechless messages," are artistic touches, as is also Antonio's disapproval of interest and its influence on the plot. So at the end of the first act the chief characters are well introduced to us and their motives and purposes apparent; all antecedent facts are clear in the mind, while expectation and interest is aroused for what is to come.

In the second act the action is advanced and the interest sustained. The story of Lorenzo and Jessica is developed, allowing time to elapse before the *denouement*; the unsuccessful choice of Morocco and Aragon tells the audience which is the right casket, and thereby intensifies the suspense during Bassanio's choice; while further acquaintance with Shylock and the significant references to Antonio's losses keep the interest sustained. Here, also, is an instance of foreshadowing in Shylock, "There is some ill a-brewing toward my rest."

Act three is introduced by that dramatic scene between Shylock and Tubal, where Shakespeare shows his skill in the hardest of literary tasks—depicting passion. No ordinary actor can do justice to the Jew's sudden alternations from the hellish gloating of revenge to the pangs of outraged love—of gold. This scene is followed by the casket scene, the dramatic as well as the mechanical center of the play. It is the crisis, the turning-point, the climax of both stories, and upon it is lavished most of the poetry of the play. The utter self-abandonment of a noble nature like Portia's, the happiness of the lovers, rudely interrupted by the news of Antonio's peril, and Portia's playful scheme, together with the ring episode, makes a little drama by itself, to which the fifth act is a *finale*. In the trial scene, the audience, though recognizing Portia, is wrought up to the highest pitch of excitement by her incomparable plea for mercy, the grewsome scales and sharpened knife, and Antonio's affecting farewell speech wrung from him by the seemingly-heartless judge. Finally, after Antonio is saved and the Jew turns away, deprived of everything—money, daughter, and religion—the tendency to reaction in the minds of the audience is just satisfied by the much-disputed fifth act, with its satisfactory explanations, loving banter, and the enchanting poetry and music of the moonlight scene.

In drama, the author's management of the characters is quite as important as the plot. Here, Shakespeare surpasses all rivals. Above all, his characters are real persons with individual character-

istics. A few words paint them vividly; their conversation is consistent with their position; their motives are sufficient for their action.

In the "Merchant of Venice" there is not much development of character in any one person, from the beginning to the end; it is in the delineation of the characters as they are that Shakespeare shows his marvelous skill. Almost as soon as a character appears, some touch reveals the trend of his disposition. The first scene, besides starting the action, tells us clearly of Antonio's melancholy, self-sufficiency, and generosity; of Bassanio's willingness to be heavily indebted to his friend; of Gratiano's talkativeness and light-heartedness. Before the end of the first act Shylock has shown us his Jewish traits—love of money and hate of Christians—together with his ability to argue, his servility, deceit, and cruelty. Morocco and Aragon are studies of character, the choice of each being the result of the bundle of notions, habits, and principles to which we give that name. Portia and Shylock are creations which will be familiar as long as the English language remains. The contrast of characters enhances the individuality of each—Antonio's generosity against Shylock's avarice; Gratiano's good cheer against Antonio's melancholy; both Jessica's winsome girlhood and Shylock's repelling person are more vivid because of their proximity; while the simple-minded love affair of Lorenzo and Jessica sets off the more dignified couple.

Thus, contrary to those who say Shakespeare wrote his plays without any plan or dramatic knowledge, the "Merchant of Venice" proves him to be a master of the technical part of drama-writing. The plot is unfolded in an orderly manner, each act has a comparative conclusion, and the action is easily followed along the line of cause and effect.

There are three elements to a dramatic idea—the ethical, æsthetic, and technical. According to the first, the play must accord with the moral views of the time in which it is produced, and vice must not go unpunished. This law is not violated in the "Merchant of Venice," for abuse of Jews was not considered wrong at that time, and certainly the hardest heart would be satisfied with Shylock's punishment. To fulfill the second requisite, the play must interest and please. In this comedy, the villain is an admirable creation, to be respected though hated. In some scenes the audience is enthralled by suspense and dramatic interest, in others, charmed by romance

and beauty. From an æsthetic standpoint the play is eminently successful. We have shown its technical side and its freedom from such faults as falseness to nature, discontinuity of action, and obscurity.

Therefore, we may safely base Shakespeare's claim as a dramatic artist on this one play alone. First, from his ingenuity in combining the stories into one, then from his construction of a unified drama fulfilling all dramatic requirements, full of exquisite delineations of character, varied situations, full of interest and beauty.

—EDITH H. HAYES, '99.

#### FRANKLIN'S PERFECTION CODE.

THE life of Benjamin Franklin is a well-spring of interest and inspiration. The story of his first entrance into the great city of Philadelphia, with his pockets bulging with soiled stockings, and a roll of bread under each arm, is as familiar as the story of Washington and his little hatchet, and the lesson it inculcates is as wholesome. Franklin's early poverty, industry, and integrity, with the future greatness which he attained, has stirred many a heart with lofty aspirations, and thrilled it with hopes of its attainment.

"What man has done, man can do," exclaims the disconsolate, poverty-stricken youth, now aflame with hope and confidence, and, bursting the bonds of station, spurning the limitations of poverty, resolves to do and dare in the interests of humanity. "What man has done I can do," is the youth's interpretation of the proverb, and though he may fail of the heights on which his eager eyes are fixed, he is forever a better and more useful citizen, capable of a broader and deeper manhood.

Whether we are conscious of the fact or not, the cause of the influence which Franklin and other great men exert upon us is a perception, on our part, that the means which have helped to make them great are those with which we have been toying from childhood. We have used them aimlessly and at random, they with purpose and persistence.

A recent perusal of Franklin's autobiography, written with his inimitable good sense, has revealed to me much of his inner life and habits of thought, and confirmed the principle just expressed. It is in agreement with this thought, and partly in obedience to it, that I have taken the liberty to annex, in a very slightly abridged form, the method which Franklin employed, when, as a young man of

twenty-five, he started out, as he says, to attain moral perfection. In this list will be found most of the "conducting means" to which he refers in the opening letter to his son, containing his reasons for writing an autobiography: "Having emerged from the poverty and obscurity in which I was born and bred, to a state of affluence and some degree of reputation in the world, and having gone so far through life with a considerable share of felicity, the *conducting means* I made use of, which, with the blessing of God, so well succeeded, my posterity may like to know, as they may find some of them suited to their own situations, and therefore fit to be imitated."

But if none of his "posterity" find this code "suitable to their own situations," they cannot fail to be interested in it, as illustrating, not a period in the life of the chief of America's great men, but a statement of principles, established in early manhood, and practiced through all the varying fortunes of a long and arduous, but eminently useful and successful life.

*Temperance.*—Eat not to dullness, drink not to elevation.

*Silence.*—Speak not but what may benefit others or yourself; avoid trifling conversation.

*Order.*—Let all your things have their places; let each part of your business have its time.

*Resolution.*—Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve.

*Frugality.*—Make no expense but to do good to others or to yourself, *i. e.*, waste nothing.

*Industry.*—Lose no time, be always employed in something useful; cut off all unnecessary actions.

*Sincerity.*—Use no hurtful deceit; think innocently and justly, and if you speak, speak accordingly.

*Justice.*—Wrong none by doing injuries or omitting the benefits that are your duties.

*Moderation.*—Avoid extremes; forbear resenting injuries so much as you think they deserve.

*Cleanliness.*—Tolerate no uncleanness in body, clothes, or habitation.

*Tranquility.*—Be not disturbed at trifles, or at accidents common or unavoidable.

*Humility.*—Imitate Jesus and Socrates.

The story of the adoption of these rules of order for his daily life is too interesting to be omitted in connection with the list.

When the list was complete, and the scope of each virtue deter-

mined, indicated by the short precept under each heading, and made with special reference to his own needs, he resolved to put it into operation. Intending to acquire the habit of each, he wisely began with one virtue, which was to be practiced alone for one week. In order to facilitate the work, the order of virtues in the list was arranged so that the acquisition of "those which preceded should aid in acquiring those which followed." Each evening was to see a severe self-examination on the required virtue of the week, and the debit items were entered in a book prepared for the purpose. At the beginning of a new week, judging that the previous week's abstinence had reduced the fault in question, the practice of a second virtue was begun, and the endeavor made to keep the debit entries from two virtues for a week. Every succeeding week a new virtue was undertaken, and the old continued, until in this manner the whole list was in daily practice.

Such was the plan, but the execution of it bothered him. Does this touch a common chord in your experience, gentle reader? Then do not despair, for you may surpass, in point of application, even the achievements of Franklin.

Bravely did young Franklin take up the self-imposed task, but soon found a large list of debit items entered against him. Undaunted he wrestled, fought, persevered, and at last had the satisfaction of seeing the number and frequency of the "black marks" decrease.

In the practice of order, however, he was incorrigible. The reason for much of his difficulty along this line, as future experience proved to him, and as we can easily see, lay in the attempt to devote certain hours of each day to particular work, which is impossible to any great extent, especially when one is in another's service. But the habit of keeping things in their places is not open to such objection, and that he did not acquire this virtue in early life was afterward lamented by Franklin, when the irresponsibility of a failing memory rendered the absence of order extremely troublesome and annoying.

The list, as originally drawn, did not contain Humility. The reason for its insertion is thus characteristically given by Franklin himself: "My list of virtues contained at first but twelve, but a Quaker friend having kindly informed me that I was generally thought proud; that my pride showed itself frequently in conversation; that I was not content with being in the right when discussing a point, but was overbearing and rather insolent; of which he convinced me by mentioning several instances, I determined endeavoring

to cure myself of this vice, or folly, among the rest, and I added *Humility* to the list, giving an extensive meaning to the word."

While we do not know to what degree Franklin acquired the essence of this virtue, it is certain that he dropped his self-assertive air and assumed the *dress* of humility, endeavoring at the same time to quell arrogant thoughts and feelings. In conversation and in advocating his opinions such expressions as "certainly," "undoubtedly," "it must be," gave place to "I apprehend," "I imagine," "it appears to me at present," "it seems to me." In brief, whatever tended to abruptly deny or contradict another's statement, or denoted a too exalted opinion of the certainty of his own views, were rigorously eliminated from his habits. It is to the use of such means, next to integrity, that he attributes much of his success in advocating new measures in his public life, besides a great increase in social influence in private life. The acquirement of a courteous address was not so difficult for him as the orderly arrangement of his studies, his papers being always in a chaotic condition, and for fifty years of his later life scarcely a dogmatical expression escaped his lips. Indeed, that which at first had been secured by a violent repression of his natural inclinations, became at length one of the most firmly established and easily practiced of his many virtues.

Such a great man was not likely to forget the *source* of virtue, and his list of virtues was prefaced by this brief prayer: "O Powerful Guide! Bountiful Father! Merciful Guide! increase in me that wisdom which discovers my truest interest. Strengthen my resolutions to perform what that wisdom dictates. Accept my kind offices to thy other children as the only return in my power for thy continual favor to me."

Great were the results which Franklin attributed to the use of his system. To temperance he ascribed the long life and strength of constitution for which he was famous. Industry and frugality early placed him in easy circumstances, and eventually secured him a fortune, and also enabled him to acquire that degree of knowledge which made him a useful citizen, and brought him not a little reputation among learned men. Sincerity and integrity bespoke the confidence of his country and the honorable employments which it conferred. To the combination of all the virtues he ascribes that ever-cheerful temperament, which caused his company to be sought by old and young, and his genial conversation like a gentle flame to warm and bless the hearts which fell beneath its magic sway.

—H. C. SMALL, '99.

## OUR TWO WORLDS.

IT is, perhaps, a fanciful idea, and yet a very suggestive one, that every man lives in two worlds. Every one realizes that the opinion which his neighbors hold of him may often be a wrong one, because they judge only from his words and actions, while he himself knows what are his motives and purposes. This illustrates the relation of the two realms: the external world in which we act and speak; the inner world in which originate our thoughts and ideals.

This inner world is the result of the personality of each individual, which renders him isolated to a greater or less degree from all other people. This charmed circle is peculiarly his own, and no one else may enter, nor intrude upon his solitude here. Some great men seem to live almost entirely in this personal sphere, because to them solitude is most necessary. They must be alone. Their genius vanishes in the daylight of society. Smaller minds, on the other hand, are content to mingle with their kind, and some people are even most wretched if obliged to spend any time alone.

But these are the two extremes, and the majority of the human race occupies the middle ground, where both society and solitude are at once pleasant and desirable. Yet for all, there exists this same condition, the domain of self, which is never fully revealed to any one else, not because we are hypocrites, but because we each live in a world of our own, whose language is unintelligible to others.

Literature is full of examples which might be quoted. We rarely find a villain who is recognized as such by his associates. We read of some heroic characters who live their whole lives in an atmosphere of misunderstanding, or of some who purposely conceal their gentle hearts under a gruff exterior. Some of Ian Maclaren's Scotchmen are picturesque representatives of this last class. They seem unwilling to be discovered in their good deeds, and are always ready with a matter-of-fact excuse for their kindly services. Yet they never hesitate to sacrifice themselves if they may perform even the smallest neighborly kindness.

Let us look at these two realms separately and see what are the characteristics of each. The world of the soul is free from many of the disturbing influences of society, because it is peopled not with human beings, but with thoughts, motives, and ideals, which form a not less active, albeit more silent population. It is the kingdom of thought. But here, too, are struggles; some of the battles are contests between right and wrong, and what fearful battles they



often are! But they must be fought. No great man ever became great without overcoming opposition, and often his strongest opponents are his own wishes and inclinations. He has proved the truth of the words:

"Self-ease is pain; thy only rest  
Is labor for a worthy end."

The victories won on this battle field are followed by triumphs as genuine, it may be, as those of the old Roman generals, and celebrated by the enthronement of new ideals. If right be crowned, then her standards are borne aloft; but if she be defeated, we can imagine them trampled underfoot, torn, and hopelessly soiled with dust.

In this world, at least, every man may be a king, and must be, if he would be a leader of men; for how can he rule others who cannot rule himself? He cannot help it, if, when he meets some person, his heart springs up to welcome a friend, while he finds only the most painful discomfort in the society of some one of hopelessly jarring nature. For he cannot choose who shall be the inhabitants of his external world, but he can choose his closest companions, his thoughts, and be happy or miserable in his own society, as he pleases.

But he cannot be always alone, and it is a matter of much importance to every man what that world is, in which he is placed by circumstances. This outer world seems much more tangible, since it needs little imagination to recall the scenes of our every-day life; but how much more complicated it is! Here every man has an influence on those with whom he associates, and his life is so interwoven with other lives that he may lose sight of himself as an individual in the great and absorbing interests of the complex element, called society. The great enterprises of the present time need many hands and many brains for actual success, and the co-operation of individuals is a necessity of our modern civilization. Man may work separately, but it is almost impossible to maintain an actual independence, one of another. In the associations which arise on this account, many new influences are felt, and we become social beings. The benefits to be derived are numerous. For instance, that there is inspiration in numbers has been proved again and again; we all know that it is easier to do some hard thing when others are doing it too. Yet, on the other hand, the doubtful act which would not be given a moment's consideration by one person alone is often entered upon by a number with hardly any hesitation.

Since people differ one from another, perfect harmony and agreement are impossible. And it may be due to this fact that people persist in holding different opinions on the same subject; that no satisfactory solution has yet been reached of many of the vexed social problems of the day. But the principal object of society, according to one eminent writer, is the development of sympathy. A man who spends much time in seclusion is apt to grow thoughtless of the interests and well-being of others, and it needs the personal contact with his fellow-beings, to arouse him to a feeling of fellowship in their sorrows and joys.

Such are some of the features of these two worlds, but though they are different enough to be thus distinguished, the boundaries of each cannot be fixed with geographical exactness, for their connection is close and vital. One cannot exist without the other, since both are mutually dependent. A person may sometimes long to separate the two and escape from the whirl of the outer world, by drawing into himself, as the snail withdraws into his shell; yet he would not be willing to sacrifice the pleasant things which come to him from his surroundings, his friends. The recluse, though he may satisfy his own inclinations, is not a valuable member of society.

On the other hand, any one who seeks to flee from himself is evidently attempting an impossibility. The man with an uneasy conscience may put a thousand miles of sea and land between himself and the scenes of his former life, but he cannot escape from that accusing voice. So these two spheres, one within the other, are a constant representation of life, and the truest life must be the one which keeps the balance even between the two, cultivating habits of earnest thought and firm allegiance to the right, while practising toward all men that charity which "never faileth," and thus playing a worthy part in the drama of mankind.

—J. T. M., '99.

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Williams College is to limit its students to three hundred.

Harvard's foot-ball team is the heaviest in the country, averaging 185 pounds.

Yale leads the list in the production of college presidents with 92. Out of thirty-five college graduates in the House of Representatives, she and the University of Michigan claim nine each, while Harvard follows with seven, and Columbia and the University of Pennsylvania with three each.

## Bates Verse.

### COMING-OF-AGE.

In her ancient home across the sea  
 My lady cometh of age to-day;  
 And her tenants keep holiday merrily,  
 And glad at their simple joy is she,  
 And in all the riches the day makes free,—  
 Her lands and her weird manor, gray.

My day's work wearies hands and feet,  
 An every-day lot my heritage;  
 But home and books are wealth complete,  
 And my tenant robins each morning greet,—  
 Oh, life is grand, and work so sweet,  
 And every day is my coming-of-age. —D., 1900.

### “FINIS.”

A few more tickings of the clock,  
 A space spanned by a breath  
 Is all now left; without doth knock  
 The ghost-like form of Death.

His sickle, sharpened clear and keen,  
 Its point, of true steel made,  
 Through all the earth doth widely beam,  
 A never-erring blade.

I see no writing on the wall,  
 No footprints in the snow,  
 Nor do I hear a distant call  
 As Paul did, long ago.

And still He comes; the very trees  
 Leaf bared, do nod and sway,  
 And bending lowly with the breeze,  
 They mourn the sad decay.

Without, the wind with sigh and groan,  
 Alone the stillness breaks,  
 With tender sorrow in each tone,  
 A herald of Fates.

There can no hero intervene,  
 Heaven sealed is the decree,  
 Nor doth our sorrow come between  
 The Death fiend and his fee.

Now wild and wilder sighs the wind,  
 The snow in fury cast  
 Doth lack no energy to find  
 A shelter from the blast.

Again in spite of drifting snows,  
 Far o'er the stormy land,  
 Grim-visaged Death in ghastly pose,  
 With flashing eyes doth stand.

His bony hand hath clasped the blade  
 High o'er the victim's head—  
 It falls, nor could the hand be stayed,  
 And "'Ninety-seven" is dead.

—"1900."

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#### A THOUGHT.

As through a stained window  
 Of pattern rich or plain,  
 The sunlight streaming downward  
 Lends radiance to the pane,  
 "And throws on every object  
 A glowing crown of light,  
 Transforming all about it  
 With its own color bright."

So in our lives, God's blessings,  
 Shining within the heart,  
 Will make our pathway brighter,  
 And, if we do our part,  
 Will, through us, strengthen others  
 Whose paths may cross our own,  
 Shedding on those about us  
 The light that we have known.

—B., '98.

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#### THE NEW YEAR.

Loud ring the bells! The happy New Year,  
 Ushered in with songs and glee,  
 Brings a world of hopeless longing,  
 Listless, surging doubts to me.

New Year! Times of resolutions,  
 Time of promises and hopes,  
 Kept with joy from the Atlantic  
 To the western sunny slopes.

Then it is we meet Life's Problem,  
 Grim though it be, yet face to face,  
 Meet it with a world of wonder,  
 Longing to the past erase.

Greet the dawning of the future,  
 Often with uneasy fears,  
 Of the way that life may treat us  
 In the swiftly-passing years.

Let the past, then, lie deep buried  
 In its shroud of broken vows;  
 For the future is the altar  
 Where in fear the humblest bows.

*THE BATES STUDENT.*

There with higher aspirations  
 Each a votive off'ring brings,  
 There we wrestle with the question  
 That the doubter to us flings.

What's the future? None can tell us.  
 Solved this problem is by time,  
 And 'twill meet us when we wander  
 In a far and distant clime.

Should we stay at home 'twould greet us,  
 Still the question would appear,  
 What the next twelve months will bring us;  
 We can tell another year.

All that's left for us is "waiting,"  
 Trust in Him who rules the world,  
 Patience till another year has passed us  
 And into the past is hurled.

Then, and only then, the solving  
 Of this mystery is plain,  
 Down before the answer solemn  
 Goes all thought of greed and gain.

Then it is the truth comes plainly,  
 Comes then, though the humblest call,  
 All our life is in God's keeping,  
 And His rule is over all.

—1900.

**THE STAR FLOWER.**

A star flower's pale, sweet face  
 Once smiled beside a stream;  
 A spirit pure did seem,  
 To bless that lonely place.

A shadow softly rose,  
 A shadow misty white;  
 And chilly in the night  
 The star flower sobbed her woes.

The shivery wraith of death  
 Caressed the tiny flower;  
 A zephyr flitted o'er,  
 The leaves fell with her breath.

—'99.

## Around the Editors' Table.

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ANOTHER year has again been ushered in, bright with its hopes for the future, unclouded as yet with disappointment or pain, its early days crowded with half-formed dreams and earnest with good resolutions. Hopes for dear old Bates fill every student's heart; joy for the record in the year that has gone; a wish and a purpose to maintain that record in the year that is to come. Of her work in athletics we have reason to be proud, and none the less reason, too, for the steady maintenance of that high standard of scholarship which is admittedly hers. Next to our country and our home we love our college, our *Alma Mater*—tender mother—who teaches us each day lessons of life as well as of books. And so to each unselfish son and daughter there comes, linked with his own hopes and fears, a dream for Bates, which we trust may not be all a dream, and from every student's heart rises a fervent prayer, "May dear Bates prosper."

With this new year, too, another board of editors takes up the STUDENT work. We hope that it may be with success, and we urge the hearty co-operation of students, alumni, and friends. This is a recognized and important part of our college work, and should appeal to every lover of Bates. To the student body would we say: "Don't think that because the Junior Class has charge of the STUDENT theirs is the only responsibility. Yours is as great. Theirs is the administrative, chiefly; yours the contributive. If the paper is to be that which it should be—a true representative of the college life and spirit—all must participate." So write this down at the beginning of the new year: "Apart from my books, apart from athletics and social life, I owe a share of my time and my talent to the STUDENT."

With this issue the STUDENT appears in a new form and dress. For several years this matter has been agitated, and at last it has been accomplished. The result you see. We do not change merely to get something new, but because, after careful thought, we believed it would be for the better. In the single column of type and in the form we are but advancing in the line of the best college magazines of the day. The change in form necessitated the change in cover design. While we fear that to many of the alumni it may not seem

just like the same old friend, yet we hope that the same spirit will still be there, and beneath a changed exterior may be found the same warm heart.

**I**T should be the aim of every student to make the most of the opportunities offered him; and there is perhaps nothing in the college course left to the option of the student which, either now or later in life, will bring more real enjoyment to him than that department of nature-study taken up by the Sophomores under Professor Stanton.

To him who is already so well acquainted with his feathered friends that he can call them by name wherever he may meet them—in the woodland, in the meadow, or near some favorite pool—to such a one this admonition is unnecessary. He has already discovered the rich rewards which lie in store for all who choose to enter this field of research.

There are many reasons why each and every one should join in this helpful, interesting, and enjoyable study. In the first place, you have the exceptional opportunity of being assisted by a teacher whose heart is thoroughly in his work and whose authority is unquestioned. Again, for you who may be acquainted in a greater or less degree with the birds of summer, this season of the year affords abundant opportunities for new research. At this time you will find your bright-colored friends of summer attired in a more sombre hue, and those that in summer you were obliged to seek in the dark recesses of seclusion, now forced in search of food to seek the more open country. At this season of the year, too, you may study a few species which can be seen at no other time. And to you, who have hitherto taken no interest in this study, this season of the year is especially favorable. For, owing to the snow-covered earth and leafless trees, there is a much better opportunity for observing the peculiarities of a bird, such as color and habits, now than at any other time. In winter, too, you avoid that serious obstacle which at any other time confronts the beginner—the great number of species. Now you will meet with but few varieties, while in spring, summer, and fall you will be greatly confused by the continual arrival of new species, varying but little in appearance.

When you consider these reasons will you not admit that he who neglects the ornithology of his Sophomore winter is a loser indeed?

ONE year ago the Glee Clubs were organized—the Men's Glee Club after a silence of some years, the Ladies' Glee Club as the first in the history of the college. Both have observed faithful practice and have attained a good degree of success. The concerts given by them outside the city have been well received, and these, with the decorous conduct of the members of the clubs, have been an excellent advertisement for the college. The concerts at home have given the people of the city a pleasant surprise—and the people of Lewiston are glad to be so surprised in behalf of the college students. The Commencement Concert, in which the Glee Clubs bore a prominent part, was an innovation highly appreciated by the alumni of the college. The benefit concert, given last term, won applause from those whose approval we prize. The improvement in the singing in chapel exercises bears witness to the benefit derived from daily practice in these clubs. The outlook for the Glee Clubs for the year now opening is a promising one. The effort is no longer an experiment, for success is assured in the experience of the year just passed. Our material is better than ever before. The Class of '97 took away less in this line than the incoming class furnishes. The only thing necessary now is the former careful, persistent practice. It is for the members of these two clubs to say whether the work begun shall go on or become only the memory of past achievements. Now is the best time for practice. The warm spring days will soon be here, when all indoor labor will seem dull and uninteresting. Only one-half hour each day! Can we not afford that for the pleasure of friends and the advancement of *Alma Mater*?

THE first number of this year's STUDENT is an appropriate time for the recording of our New Year's resolutions. Perhaps you have not made many, lest you more easily forget them, but have determined to direct your energies toward keeping a few good ones. It is to be hoped that every student will be true to his purpose in this, and that the close of the year may find much to rejoice over and little to regret. But, meanwhile, let us make a practical application of our good intentions, and resolve to unite as a body of students in making our chapel exercises what they should be.

This term shows an improvement in this direction, conversation generally ceasing when the music begins, and only a few students yielding to the temptation to look over a hastily-prepared lesson,



instead of listening to the morning service. The fact that only at chapel do all the students meet together makes it necessary that here shall be done much of the work of seeing and speaking with those outside of our own class on matters too important to be neglected. And it would not be reasonable to find fault with this, but the principal thing is that for a few moments every student should drop all thoughts foreign to the worship of God.

It depends upon each student what the character of these exercises shall be, and if every one does his part then will all receive greater benefit and profit.

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**N**OW, while we are in the midst of interest in the inter-collegiate debate, would it not be a good time to settle, yes or no, the question of the competitive selection of the disputants. It is well known that, last term, when the present debaters were chosen, much difficulty was experienced before a satisfactory selection was made. Under a competitive system this would be very nearly eliminated. It is much easier to judge a man's work while it is fresh in one's mind than when it must be recalled from six months previous. Such a plan was suggested a year ago, and was partly carried out. It was similar to this: from the general Sophomore debate in the fall term the six best men were selected to compete in the champion debate, and six others in a team debate; also a team of six from the Junior Class, these three debates to be held in the following summer term. From these eighteen speakers the best six were to be selected to hold a team debate in the next fall term, and from this debate the best three were to be the college representatives, the remaining three to serve as alternates, thus causing each man to have participated in three debates before representing his college. Could not this system or some modification of it be profitably introduced at Bates? It would give the practice of an additional debate, and every man, knowing what the possibilities were, would work harder for the coveted honor, and give himself a better training than under the present system.

The editors would present this question to the students and professors as worthy of careful consideration, and would even suggest that a committee be appointed by the league to confer with the Faculty concerning the advisability of such a system, and report to the student body.

## Alumni Round-Table.

### CLASS REVIEW.

#### CLASS OF 1876 (*continued*).

John Rankin. Resided in Wells, Me., 1876-81. Was superintendent of schools in Wells one year and Principal of High School, Princeton, Me., one year. First assistant teacher at House of Refuge, Randall's Island, New York City, 1881-88. Freight cashier, New York & New England Railroad, Boston, 1888. Address, 2 Harvard Place, Charlestown, Mass.

Hiram Waldo Ring. Taught school and studied law in various places in Maine, 1876-80. Principal of High School, Newmarket, N. H., 1880-82. Principal Academy, Ogden, Utah, 1883-91. The academy in 1883 numbered thirteen pupils, and when Mr. Ring resigned in 1891, about three hundred.

Thomas Hobbs Stacy. Student in Cobb Divinity School, 1876-79. Tutor in Bates College, 1876-79. Instructor in Cobb Divinity School, 1878-79. Pastor Free Baptist Churches, Fairport, N. Y., 1879-82; Lawrence, Mass., 1882-86; Auburn, Me., 1886-93; Saco, Me., 1893-. Delegate to General Conference, 1880, 1886, 1889, 1898; corresponding secretary of Free Baptist Foreign Mission Society, 1882-94; secretary Maine State Sunday-School Association, 1898. Published in 1895, "In the Path of Light Around the World," the result of a round-the-world mission tour; also author of "Gabriel," and other poems, 1890-91. At present, pastor of Cutts Avenue Free Baptist Church, Saco, 1893-; president Ministers' Conference of the Maine Free Baptist Association, 1894-. President York County Enforcement League, 1896-; vice-president Civic League of State of Maine, 1897. Editor of Maine Department of *The International Evangel*, published in St. Louis, Mo. Address, Saco, Me.

George Loring White. Teacher, 1876-81. Pastor Free Baptist Church in Sherburne, N. Y., 1881-84; Brunswick, Me., 1884-88. Farmington, N. H., 1888-92; New Hampton, N. H., 1892-96; Pittsfield, Me., 1896-. Author of a series of articles in the *Morning Star*, entitled "Hymns and Hymn Writers." Address, Pittsfield, Maine.

Edward Whitney. Teacher and stenographer in Merrimac, Mass., 1876-77; Haverhill, Mass., 1877-78; Harrison, Me., 1878-

80; Holyoke, Mass., 1880-81; Boston, 1881-84; Amesbury, Mass., 1884-. Address, Amesbury, Mass.

Horatio Woodbury, A.M., M.D. Graduate student at Portland School for Medical Instruction and at Maine Medical School. Resided in Auburn, Me., 1876-83. Physician in South Paris, Me., 1883-. Address, South Paris, Me.

Benjamin Herbert Young, M.D. Graduate student at Boston University. Physician in Amesbury, 1880-; member of school board three years; member of board of health since 1888. Address, Amesbury, Mass.

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#### PERSONALS.

'69.—Rev. W. H. Bolster, D.D., gave an address before the Boston Ministers' Meeting, Monday, January 3, 1898.

'71.—Hon. J. T. Abbott of Keene, N. H., was bereaved of his mother, December 26, 1897.

'72.—John A. Jones, civil engineer for the city of Lewiston, has just completed his survey of the proposed Lewiston, Brunswick & Bath electric railroad and has made a highly satisfactory report to the managers. Mr. Jones is engineer in charge of the construction of the new road, as he was of the construction of the two new Lewiston and Auburn steel bridges.

'72.—The choice of Superintendent George E. Gay of Malden as president of the state association is not only the promotion of a long and faithful servant of the organization, but assures a vigorous and successful administration. Mr. Gay is one of the sons of Maine, a graduate of Bates College, was principal of the Malden High School for many years, was chosen superintendent a few years ago without solicitation on his part, and attained national reputation through his admirable handling of the Massachusetts educational exhibit at the World's Fair, and will probably be the Massachusetts candidate for the position of educational director of the Paris Exposition.

'73.—Hon. George E. Smith of Everett has been chosen President of the Massachusetts State Senate. On January 6th, Mr. Smith, as presiding officer of the joint convention, administered the obligation to Governor Roger Q. Wolcott and Lieutenant-Governor W. Murray Crane.

'75.—A. M. Spear, Esq., Gardiner, leads the record as the first "Grandfather" among Bates alumni. To his son-in-law, A. W. Small, Bates, '93, a daughter.

'76.—The competitive examination of applicants for appointment to a cadetship at the Military Academy at West Point and also at the Naval Academy at Annapolis, for the Second Congressional District of Maine, will be held in Lewiston, January 29th, under the direction of I. C. Phillips, Superintendent of Public Schools.

'81.—Rev. H. E. Foss, pastor of the First M. E. Church in Bangor, is heading a crusade of the local pastors to squelch the liquor sellers of the "Queen City."

'82.—Mr. B. W. Murch, formerly of Maine, and for several years past Principal of the Force School, in Washington, D. C., has received valuable Christmas presents from His Excellency Wu Ting Fang, the Chinese Minister at Washington. Mr. Ting Fang has a young son in one of the lower grades of the school, and has thus politely remembered the Principal. Mr. Murch is a graduate of Bates, Class of '82.—*Boston Journal*.

'83.—*The Orange Blossom from Tampa*, is the title of a weekly publication issued by the Plant System, and edited by Mr. O. L. Frisbee. Its circulation is choice, including the guests of the Tampa Bay Hotel, with plenty of additional copies free to send to friends.

—*Lewiston Journal*.

'85.—Rev. E. B. Stiles has been lately visiting the churches of his denomination throughout western New York and Ohio.

'90.—Miss Mary Frances Angell of Lewiston is editor of the "Guild Column" in the *Morning Star*.

'94.—L. J. Brackett, December 22d, was united in marriage to Miss Anna C. Hicks of Cheyenne, Wyoming. Miss Hicks has been a student in the Institute of Technology, Boston. They were married in the Episcopal Church at West Roxbury, Mass. Garcelon, '90, was best man; R. L. Thompson, '96, was usher.

'94.—A. G. Marsh was ordained pastor of the Elmira Heights Free Baptist Church, N. Y., October 16, 1897.

'94.—At the regular meeting of Contoocook Valley Teachers' Association, at Hillsboro Bridge, January 8, 1898, Principal E. W. Small of Antrim, N. H., read an interesting article on "Parent and School."

'95.—Miss Emily B. Cornish, daughter of Judge A. D. Cornish of Lewiston, recently delivered a lecture upon physical culture before the students of the Emerson College of Oratory in Boston, which was pronounced by the professors to be a very scholarly effort

on her part, and beneficial to the hearers. Miss Cornish has been chosen secretary of her class in the college. She is also vice-president of the Southwick Literary Society, an organization connected with the institution. Besides her regular college work she is taking lessons in vocal music and private lessons in oratory. She will graduate the coming May after a three years' course of study.

—*Lewiston Journal*.

'96.—Hal Eaton is in the Harvard Law School.

'97.—Miss Charlotte M. Hanson of Auburn is assistant in the Mechanic Falls High School.

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#### ALUMNI DINNER.

**T**HERE were many eloquent speakers with many interesting themes at the fourteenth annual dinner of the Alumni Association of Bates College, held at Young's Hotel, Boston, Thursday evening, December 30, 1897.

Before the dinner there was a reception. Among the prominent persons present were Mr. E. C. Adams, '76, president of the association; President George C. Chase, '68, of Bates College; Rev. Charles G. Ames, D.D. (the degree of Doctor of Divinity was given Mr. Ames by Bates); Rev. Thomas Hobbs Stacy, '76; Carl E. Milliken, '97; and William Hoag of Harvard, who coaches the Bates College eleven.

Among the prominent alumni there were F. J. Daggett, '89; Dr. L. M. Palmer, '75, of South Framingham; Prof. H. S. Cowell, Principal of Cushing Academy, Ashburnham, Mass.; Rev. W. H. Bolster; and Mr. C. C. Smith, the secretary of the association. There were also a number of the alumnae.

About fifty sat down to dinner. After dinner, President Adams, who is the Head Master of the Newton High School, prefaced the speech-making with very happy, appropriate words. President Chase of Bates spoke on "The Function of American Colleges and its Exemplification by Bates." The function referred to by President Chase was the making of manhood and character, which function, he said, Bates fulfills pre-eminently.

Dr. Ames's topic was "The Social Function of the Educated." The speaker said that the educated are the center of educational influence; that they are an ever-present impulse toward good and that they are a restraint upon the influence of evil.

The other speakers were Rev. Mr. Stacy, Mr. Milliken, Mr. Hoag, Mr. Daggett, and Miss Frost. Miss Frost was called upon unexpectedly, but she answered gracefully.

It was one of the most successful meetings ever held by the association.

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#### BATES AND THE MAINE PEDAGOGICAL CONVENTION.

THE Maine Pedagogical Society Convention was held at the State House, Augusta, on December 29, 30, 31, 1897. The following are the Bates men whose names appeared on the programme :

S. I. Graves, '94, who was vice-president for 1897, was elected president of the society for 1898. A. P. Irving, '93, Superintendent of Schools, Rockland, Me., was re-elected secretary and treasurer.

Prof. I. F. Frisbee, '80, Principal of Latin School, Lewiston, Me., read a "learned paper" on "Greek in Secondary Schools." R. F. Springer, '95, Superintendent of Schools, Bowdoinham, Me., gave a good article on "English in Grammar Schools." E. P. Sampson, '73, Principal of Thornton Academy, had an instructive article on "The Harvard Report on Composition and Rhetoric."

Among the five-minute speeches, given by superintendents, on "What Educational Question Interests Me Most at Present," Superintendent I. C. Phillips, '76, Lewiston, discussed the question, "Modern Methods in Teaching Arithmetic."

Superintendent A. P. Irving, '93, Rockland, spoke about the need of teachers keeping in touch with modern methods of teaching by reading periodicals and other literature on the subject. Other speakers were Professor W. L. Powers, '88, Gardiner; Mr. C. C. Spratt, '93; Mr. Hoag, '96.

L. G. Jordan, Ph.D., '70, Professor in Bates College, proposed that the society have a full account of its proceedings published in one of the leading newspapers, and send a copy to each member of the society not present. This proposition was adopted.

Every student of Bates is interested to know that Bates alumni are taking a leading part in the educational movement of the State.

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College men in the United States number only one-fifth of one per cent. of the whole population. They have furnished thirty per cent. of the Representatives, fifty per cent. of the Senators, and sixty per cent. of the Presidents.

## Local Department.

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It is an old saying, that "one must know a person before he can appreciate that person." But in regard to our highly esteemed instructor in Athletics, it is necessary, not only to know him, but to know of him, in order to fully appreciate him and what he is doing for the physical well-being of the students. He is constantly striving to improve the convenience and equipment of our athletic department. The recent improvements are as follows: The old bowling alleys have been taken up and replaced by new ones; new balls, pins, and other furnishings have been added, so that altogether some over four hundred dollars have been expended in this improvement. Now the class teams will have better opportunities for showing their comparative skill. Much to the delight of the Sophomores, Mr. Bolster has also added eighteen sets of boxing gloves. Almost any afternoon, about four o'clock, one can witness a free exhibition in this work. For a similar line of exercise, a new striking bag, with stand, has been put in. Thus far it has been in almost constant use throughout the afternoon. Its popularity shows it to be a very enjoyable exercise. Twelve pairs of fencing foils have been added to the list of equipment for the young ladies. Perhaps the most useful apparatus for general development among the new additions is the Standard Hydraulic Rowing Machine. This machine, together with the furnishings for the bowling alleys, was purchased of the Narragansett Machine Co., and is of the most improved kind. Besides the above-named additions, the Gymnasium had a thorough overhauling for repairs, such as the new covering for the protection of the windows, the oiling of the floors, etc. Several additions have also been made for the indoor practice of the track team, such as hurdles, indoor shots, etc. The following interesting programme of work for the term has been laid out by Mr. Bolster. Before giving the programme it might be well to say that the individuals of the various classes are arranged in divisions, for work on developing appliances, according to the strength tests which they took in the fall term. This is done to develop those parts of a student's body where he or she may be weak. The programme is as follows:

1.30 to 3.00 o'clock. The young ladies hold sway in the Gymnasium, taking up marching, fancy steps, free-hand movements, Indian clubs, wands, dumb-bells, fencing, and developing appliances. On Wednesday and Saturday, the work is optional, and the time spent mostly in games, bowling, basket-ball, etc. The division leaders are Misses Perkins, '98, Hayes, '98, Tasker, '98.

- 3.00 to 3.45 o'clock. The Junior boys take class work this hour, with single sticks, broadswords, and running, and also individual work on the developing machines.
- 3.45 to 4.30 o'clock. At this period the Sophomores take their class work in dumb-bells and boxing, together with individual work on the developing machines.
- 4.30 to 5.15 o'clock. During this hour the Freshmen have their class work, consisting of marching, setting-up exercises, and Indian clubs; they also work on the developing machines, together with tumbling and exercises upon the parallel and horizontal bars.
- The Seniors, for whom work in the Gymnasium is optional, have chosen bowling as their means of exercise. Their time is from 3.00 to 4.00 o'clock.
- The division leaders are Sprague, '98, Collins, '98, and Putnam, 1901.

#### GLIMPSES OF COLLEGE LIFE.

Twelve bright Juniors, when one term was done,  
Said they'd take Physics when the next begun.  
Two are not yet back again,  
And so there are but ten.  
Two work their best for *the* debate,  
And thus there are but eight.  
Three more from schools may yet arrive,  
But now there are but five.  
One among the books does pore,  
So now there are but four.  
Four Juniors, so few, yet so merry,  
They are all so industrious, very,  
That in the Physics laboratory  
They tell the strangest story.  
The good Professor said that he  
A quieter class did never see.

#### *Victuri Salutamus.*

The Reading Club is now taking up Homer's Iliad.  
Professor Stanton is ill and as yet unable to hear his classes.  
Miss Annette Goddard of Deering has joined the Class of 1901.  
Professor Strong will please handle the piano stool with more care.  
A. P. Pulsifer, '98, is unable to be with his classmates on account of illness.

Now that we cannot go skating, class sleigh-rides would not come amiss.

Let us hear more of the Building Fund Association this spring than in the past year.

Prof. W. T. Hewitt of Cornell has presented to the library some valuable German books.

Give the Glee Clubs your individual support by showing that you are interested in their welfare.



Mr. J. M. Paige of the Divinity School has received a call to the Free Baptist Church at Richmond.

Mr. Fortin, Archdeacon of Manitoba, gave a lecture at Roger Williams Hall, Monday afternoon, January 17th.

Each member of the Faculty received as a Christmas gift from Mrs. Goodspeed, a number of books of recent publication.

President Chase left town, Tuesday morning, for Massachusetts and New York, where he will remain for a few weeks in the interest of the college.

'99 regrets that two of its members, Miss Odiorne and Miss Edgerly, are unable, on account of ill health, to continue their studies this term.

On account of Professor Stanton's illness, Miss Woodman has been unable to be in the Library this term, and Miss Irving, '99, has been presiding as Librarian.

The Seniors are attending the recitations of the Theologues in Sociology. They claim that they are deriving great benefit from listening to the enthusiastic discussions.

On Friday, January 14th, Rev. C. S. Patton of Auburn lectured before the students of Cobb Divinity School, on the subject, "The Sense of Humor Utilized by the Pastor."

It is to be hoped that if Robinson Crusoe ever possessed a bag of gold it did not cause him so much trouble as the supposition of such a case causes the Political Economy class.

A new elective is offered to the Juniors, this term, in the study of Chaucer and the History of the English Language, under Professor Hartshorn. It is proving very popular.

What are we to tell the Freshman when he asks why a certain room in Hathorn Hall is called the Band Room? Here's hoping that that question may be answered by the band itself this spring.

'99 joins with 1900 in welcoming back to their studies, three ex-members of '99, Miss Grace Perkins, Mr. Leroy Brackett, and Mr. J. S. McCann, who return after a year's absence to join the Class of 1900.

It is reported that our friend and fellow-student, who hails from the land of bliss and potatoes, where time is valueless and no one seems to be in a hurry, has arrived, according to his usual custom, ahead of time.

Piæria is enjoying a new Kranich and Bach piano, which has been recently purchased of Mr. H. W. Berry of Boston. Mr. Berry acted in accordance with his customary generosity in furnishing the piano at a considerable reduction.

At the request of Colby, the Inter-collegiate Debate between Colby and Bates, has been postponed two weeks. According to the present agreement it is to occur March 4th. Colby's reason for desiring a change of time is the illness of one of her debaters.

If any student would like to know how any one of the young ladies at Cheney Hall passed her vacation, he may receive the desired information by calling for the circular letter which traveled through Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, during the five weeks of vacation.

Mr. Robert R. Gailey, traveling secretary of the Student Volunteer Movement, addressed the students on Thursday evening, January 13th, and also gave a short talk at Chapel, Friday morning. He expects to sail, next month, for China, where his work will be among college men.

The Sophomores who were chosen to participate in the Champion Debate are Miss True, Emrich, Catheron, Glidden, Wagg, Staples, Powell, and Robbins. They have chosen the following question: *Resolved*, That the United States should Materially Increase its Army and Navy Armament.

That the Sophomore-Freshman distinction between classes disappears as the individual members become better acquainted and more highly enlightened, is to be proved in the broadest sense of the word, if reports are true, soon after the approaching Commencement. For, at that time, '97 and '98 are to bury the hatchet and solemnize this event by performing a sacrificial offering: '98 is to offer up one of its charming young maidens, while '97 will lead up to the altar a very promising young gentleman.

The number of students at the Latin School still continues to increase, six new students having entered this term. The inter-scholastic debating seems to have acquired a new impetus this year. As a result of the preliminary debate at the Latin School, the following three men have been chosen to represent that school in the debating contest with Hebron: Luckenbach, Roys, and Hunnewell. In the meantime the Lewiston High School and the Edward Little High School of Auburn hold a debating contest. The winners of

these two contests are then to debate for a prize offered by the College Club.

Not alone on the foot-ball field, not alone in the surrounding school-houses, has Bates been successfully represented during the fall and winter, but she has also sent her representatives far into the wilds of Maine and New Hampshire. During the past vacation, Mr. Milliken, '97, and Mr. Jordan, 1901, took a trip to the region of Moosehead Lake. After a very enjoyable week they returned, bringing home a deer. Mr. L'Heureux, '99, Mr. Mason and Mr. Brackett, 1900, were also successful in their hunting trip in New Hampshire, each securing a deer.

The following 30 volumes, purchased with the proceeds of Miss H. E. Hersey's lecture, have been added to the library: Holmes—complete works, 13 volumes; Traill—Social England, 6 volumes; Mitchell—English Lands, Letters, and Kings, 4 volumes; Mitchell—American Lands and Letters; Oliphant—Victorian Age of English Literature, 2 volumes; Browning—Blot in the Scutcheon; Browning—Christmas Eve and Easter Day. (These two volumes of Browning are edited by W. J. Rolfe and Miss Hersey.) Chapman—Bird Life; Hawthorne—Scarlet Letter.

That Jack Frost might not gain too strong a foot-hold in Parker Hall during the absence of the main army, Captain Saunders' regiment was left to protect the walls of this historic edifice. Although they suffered some desertions, yet this band of heroes bravely withstood the terrible onslaught of that tyrant of the North Pole, who, although he had succeeded in gaining admission into various unguarded sections of the building, was soon dislocated on the return of the army proper. It might not be out of order to give the names of those who composed this lone regiment. They are as follows: Captain Saunders' privates, Sprague, Bruce, Knowlton, Quinn and Griffin. These were assisted at trying moments by Prof. L. B. Costello, '98, A.B.C., and Dr. M. Sturgis, '00, D.E.F.

Much good work is being done by the Press Club this term. Three new members joined at the last meeting, and the club now represents the college in the following papers: Boston Herald, Lewiston Journal, Lewiston Sun, Belfast Age, Aroostook Pioneer, Presque Isle Herald, Houlton Times, Pittsfield Advertiser, Oxford Democrat, Norway Advertiser, Phillips Phonograph, Maine Statesman, Portland Press, Portland Argus, Portland Express, Bangor Daily News, and Kennebec Journal.

## College Exchanges.

THERE is surely an inspiration from looking over the various college magazines. Many of the articles show careful thought and study. Christmastide has called forth an imposing array of stories, not a few of which are well worth the reading. All kinds are manifest—the humorous and the pathetic, the weird and the true to life. Yet how much the mood of the reader affects the appreciation bestowed on each one. Be it a merry mood, the melancholy and the sober must give way to the light and the fanciful; but be it sad, the witty and the grotesque are slighted for the grewsome and the pathetic.

The essay on “The Historical Novel,” in the *Dartmouth Literary Monthly* shows more than ordinary skill. The thought is striking and presented with force and ease. As proof of this statement, these lines are quoted:

“Why should we be told always that men and women are almost divine, when in our daily walks we find them scarcely human? Why? Because seeing ugliness, men long for beauty; because there is a world of dreams, in whose realms every man may be a king, every woman a queen; because living in the midst of intrigue and strife and petty passion, men crave a glimpse of the lives that great men have led, ‘of the glory that was Greece and the grandeur that was Rome.’”

In the same number, “A Gray Glove” is a clever and interesting story.

In *The Mountaineer*, “The Viol and the Bow” is a singularly fanciful and melodious poem. One verse is:

“It sang then of showers  
And sweet blooming flowers,  
That perfumed the air through the long summer hours,  
And it sang of green mosses in violet dells,  
Where deep in the blossoms a fairy maid dwells,  
Who sings with delight, through the long summer days,  
The mystical lays,  
She sweetly plays,  
On the cobweb-strung harp of the musical fays.”

The *Bowdoin Quill* has a pathetic little glimpse into a lonely man's heart, entitled, “On Christmas Eve.” Here, also, “Sketches of Negro Life” forcibly presents the peculiarities and customs of the dusky race in the South.

The *Sibyl* contains an essay on “Lowell's Treatment of Nature,” which is noticeable for the harmony of thought and style.

"An Errant Quaker," in the *Smith College Monthly*, is a remarkably vivid story of child-life and its trials. Jonathan is a very real child, as the title of the article suggests.

The *Hebron Semester*, which is published twice a year, shows much care and thought.

## DEATH OF THE PRAIRIE FLOWER.

Fair in the roseate bloom of youth,  
 Pure in the innocence of truth,  
 Flower of the prairie, wild flower rare,  
 Whose fragrance scents the virgin air,  
 Filling the North-wind, deathly pale,  
 Stilling the voice of the eastern gale,  
 Joy to the West-wind, still in death,  
 Breathing the South-wind's pure, sweet breath;  
 Spirit of darkness, gloom and night,  
 Angel of radiant, shadeless light,  
 Star of the morning, pure, serene,  
 Halo of light in the vale between  
 The gray of night and the light of day,  
 Teeming with pleasure she passed away.  
 Oh, wind of the forest, add thy wail  
 To the plaintive note of the nightingale;  
 Sing of the charms that are now no more,  
 Oh, wing thy flight to the further shore,  
 And carry thy message of sad dismay  
 To the land where spirits fling away  
 The bands that burden and hold in thrall  
 The vision of light at the morrow's pall.  
 Oh, bird of the meadow, add thy song  
 To the voice of the brook as it flows along,  
 As in cadences sweet it seems to say,  
 "In the bloom of youth she is passed away."  
 Oh weep, ye flowers of the forest green,  
 Of the mountain pass and the deep ravine,  
 And kiss her grave with thy fragrant breath,  
 For the flower of the prairie sleeps in death.

—*Tennessee University Magazine.*

## AU CLAIR DE LA LUNE.

Prismic waves of mellow light  
 Fleck the shadows of the night,  
 From the mystic breath of fall  
 Creeps a glamour over all.  
 Still a maiden's face I see  
 'Neath a hawthorn by a lea;  
 Fast the crystal tears are falling,  
 Low a plaintive voice is calling:  
 Life, O Love, come back to me;  
 O my Love, I live in thee!

—*Vanderbilt Observer.*

## ACROSS THE EMPTY FIELDS AT DAWN.

Across the empty fields at dawn  
 I heard a quavering, half-hushed note  
 That trembled in a song-bird's throat  
 But for a moment, and was gone.

Brown, withered leaves the cold winds whirled,  
 With crackling sound, across my way,  
 Then silence, and the wintry day  
 Dawned cheerless on the weary world.

—*The Wellesley Magazine.*

## A LULLABY TO KITTY.

Purr low, purr-r-r low,  
 Curl up your sweet little tail, dear,  
 And shut tight your lovely green eyes.  
 I'll sing a lullaby low, dear,  
 By the light of the fireflies.  
 Purr low, purr low,  
 Away to the land where pussy dreams grow.

Purr low, purr-r-r low,  
 Hear the soft sounds in the dark, dear,  
 On your way to the dream-land shore,  
 The whisk of waving mouse tails, dear,  
 The scratch of their feet on the floor,  
 Purr low, purr low,  
 It's easy to catch them, they're moving so slow.

Purr low, purr-r-r low,  
 Open your eyes just a crack, dear,  
 By the dream-light yellow and pale  
 See shadows of swinging spools, dear,  
 No need now to play with your tail.  
 Purr low, purr low,  
 And soft laps to cuddle in all in a row.  
 Purr low, purr low,  
 You can purr and dream, too, dear pussy, you know.

—*The Smith College Monthly.*

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## Our Book-Shelf.

*Sull' Oceano*<sup>1</sup> (On Blue Water) is the title of a highly interesting book of travels by Edmondo de Amicis. It is an account of a voyage from Genoa to Buenos Ayres in the *Galileo*, a steamer carrying sixteen hundred emigrants. The narrative begins at the wharf at Genoa, and ends when the tug leaves the ship's side in the harbor of Montevideo. The author, a warm-hearted, educated young tourist, seems to have made the voyage on purpose to write the book. The interest in the story lies largely in the study of the types of humanity on board the steamer. Nothing is exaggerated, nothing is improbable. The writer is content "to hold up the glass to Nature," and show people as they are. His observant eye has singled out, and his ready pen has described at least twenty different groups of

characters, taken from both ends of the vessel, all saying and doing, in every case just what such persons would say and do. And these personalities are kept quite separate and distinct without the mention of a single name. The "commissary"; the perfumed steward; the blond lady, "whose eyes were rather too blue, and whose nose lacked character"; the Argentine lady, whose dusky beauty excited the envy of all feminine beholders; the "professor"; the big Bolognese; the middle-aged woman with the envy-hardened face; the love-lorn youth; the hump-backed monitor of the women's quarters; the lovely invalid girl from Mestre; the bloated Marsigliese, who "spoke Italian in a way to frighten the sharks"; the pessimistic Garibaldian; the monocular Genoese, who "*kept an eye* upon the cook and could always tell whether they were to have liver pie or macaroni soup,"—each has a distinct personality. The narrative is full of interest throughout. It is more than the record of so many passages a day, it is the record of sixteen hundred lives for twenty-two days. De Amicis touches the chords of poetic feeling with no uncertain hand. He casts his eye upon the ship and writes of human joy and sorrow. He looks out over the sea and writes of an exaltation before whose might all human strife and bitterness are swept away.

*Quo Vadis*<sup>2</sup> is the rather enigmatical title of Henryk Sienkiewicz's latest novel. *Quo Vadis* is a narrative of the times of Nero, when Christianity first came in conflict with the power of Rome, when Peter and Paul were in the city as leaders of the rapidly-growing body of Christians, and Nero was there as the patron of vice and folly. Throughout the story, the writer shows us how strong is the power of the Holy Spirit, how imperishable Its might, albeit the blood of Christians must flow in rivers for Its furtherance, and the saint's answer to the hail, "*Quo Vadis, domine?*" must be, "To Rome and to death." The dramatic interest of the story centers around the three leading characters, Vinicius, the proud, patrician soldier; Lygia, the lovely Christian maiden; and Petronius, "*Arbiter Elegantiæ.*" Vinicius comes before us with the prestige of honorable service in the Armenian Wars, but before our eyes he gains a bloodless victory worthy the noblest warrior in the land. The bright blood of Christian sweetness makes terrible havoc in his veins, warring as it does with the dark ooze of selfish ambition and greedy desires; but when under the terrible ordeal of the arena, he whispers, albeit with whitened lips and choking breath, "I believe, I believe," the soul of the man has conquered and he is free. Lygia is a simple, daintily-reared girl who excites admiration at first, because of her beauty and simplicity; but as time goes on, and trials and temptations thicken, she develops a wonderful strength and sweetness of character which are as an anchor to the wild, undisciplined spirit of Vinicius. We follow her from scene to scene with all the ardor of a strong personal interest, and experience a deep feeling of relief when we see her safely at home in Sicily. Petronius stands alone throughout the story—unbelieving, wicked, elegant—too fastidious to be a brute, too indolent to become a Christian. Yet when he and his faithful underling so calmly part with life, we confess that the soul of poetry and beauty has departed from the place. The interest is strongly sustained throughout the whole story. No one beginning the book will willingly lay it aside.

<sup>1</sup>On Blue Water. By Edmondo de Amicis. Translated by Jacob B. Brown. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York; \$2.25.

<sup>2</sup>Quo Vadis. By Henryk Sienkiewicz. Translated by Jeremiah Curtin. Little, Brown & Company, Boston.

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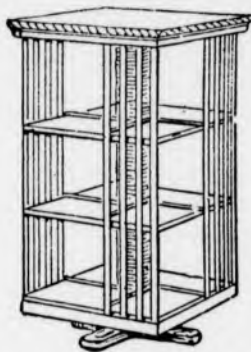
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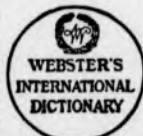
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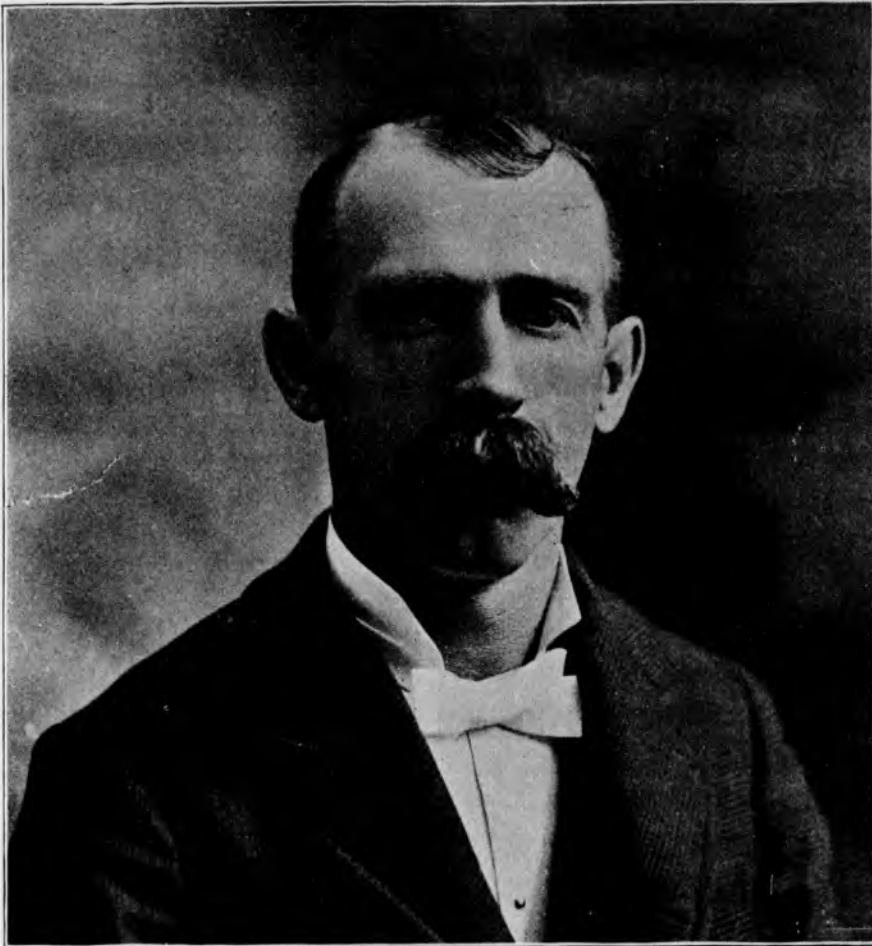
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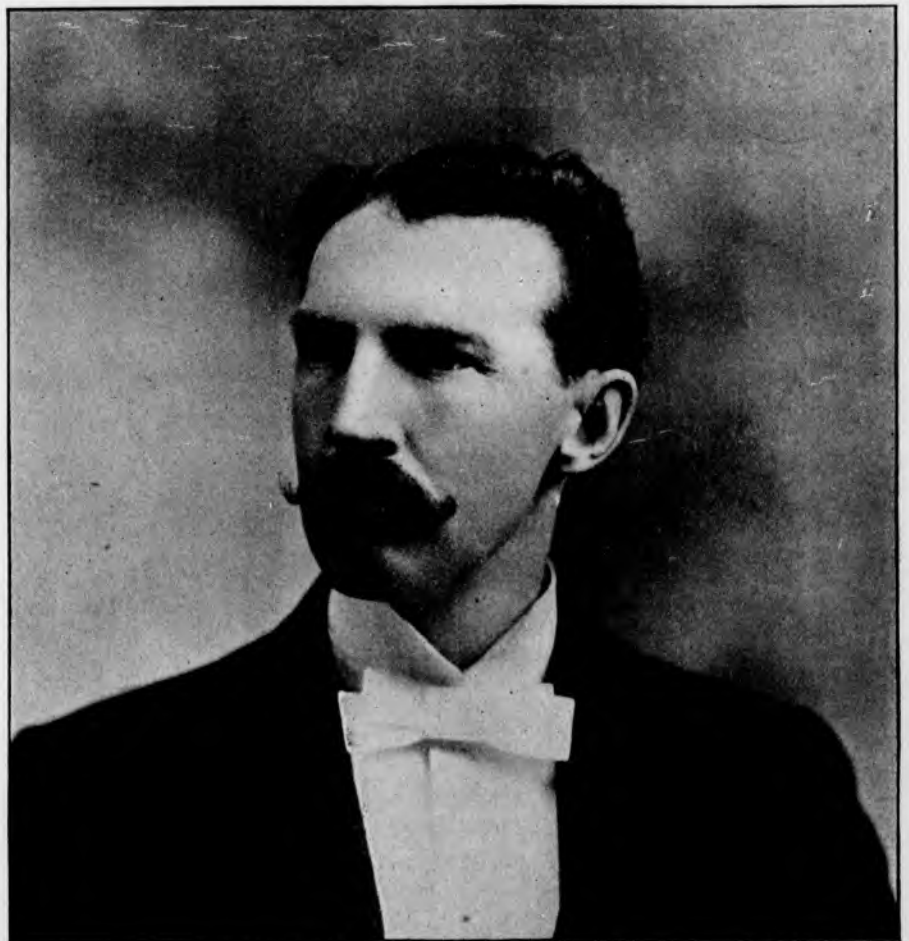
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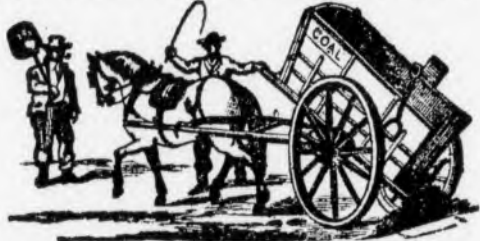
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