George Eliot, if we remember aright, says that it is good to have a starting point—a place at which we can make a beginning of better things. Very probably this is true. If it is, what a good thing of the kind this New Year is. Here is a royal beginning-place and starting-over point. What better time than this to leave off small vices and undertake the heroic virtues. Here may smoking be stopped once more, and chapel-going be begun again. Now may schedules be started and loafing stopped; opportunities improved, and money given to the missionaries; enemies forgiven and friends treated; bills paid, and new ones started; books, and even umbrellas, returned; and, in short, a general reformation inaugurated.

For the Princetonian’s part, it starts out on the New Year in good spirits, bowing acknowledgment of past favors, not fearful of the future, and with every good wish for its readers.

**PRINCETON'S CURRICULUM.**

We have already given quite as much attention to the unfriendly notices of Princeton which have lately appeared in the N. Y. Tribune, as we feel inclined to give; and, until there are “grounds more relative” for debate or defence, we shall turn our thoughts to something more profitable. But the ill wind of theseiformidable criticisms blows us something of good by suggesting a glance at the College—what it really is, as an educational power.

Princeton is, first of all, a College; not an incongruous mixture of high-school, College and University. It has a regular prescribed curriculum, covering four years of work. It claims to give a good foundation upon which its graduates, as scholars, scientists, or in any of the learned professions, may safely build. It does not offer to make specialists of its regular students. The curriculum is planned by wise and experienced educators, rather more with the design of effecting subjective development than of equipping with objective facts. For there is but one season for the mind to be taught the habits and the laws of valuable work; but facts can be acquired at all times. The course of study, taking as its cardinal features the languages and mathematics, but embracing, from first to last, many other subjects, aims evenly and symmetrically to develop the diligent mind, to educate it into the habits of mastery of analysis and synthesis, and, also, to secure at the end a fair acquaintance with all departments of popular knowledge. Now this seems to us to be precisely what a college ought to do. More than this it certainly cannot do, too often, not so much. Princeton, we strongly believe, is able to make good the promises of the curriculum, and we do not wish to claim more.
There is no subject of study mentioned in it in which the College does not provide competent instruction, such, we mean, as furnishes good ground-work; and its sum total is most satisfactory as an educational result.

What Dr. Ward and a few others, sitting, self-asked, in judgment on Princeton’s faults and excellencies, have pronounced a weakness, we consider a very strong point, viz., that the College does not provide, in the regular course of study, for extreme or special proficiency in any one department rather than the others. The danger of the time—of all times, but of the present particularly—is premature specialization. It must narrow a man. There are certain elements of broad culture and a general training of mind that must be got before any specialty can be properly or even safely pursued. Of how many an almost great mind might it fairly be said:

“Born for the Universe, he narrowed his mind,
And to hobby gave up what was meant for mankind.”

The conflicts of thought that are hindering progress are attributable chiefly to this undue intensiveness of intellectual life. It is under this influence that science is pelting religion with fossils, that dogma is snarling at the triumphs of science. Breadth added to depth would do much to reconcile and harmonize.

It is in resistance of this tendency to early specialization and in its truly educating influence that the value of a curriculum like Princeton’s lies. For our part, we are satisfied with it; we are sure that it is the best one that can be given to a mind just coming into the use of its powers, sure that the results it effects are indispensable to real development. Hence we do not court the premature attainments of the special student any more than we envy the superior agility of the trained acrobat. We know that it is an abnormal development, to which much else must be sacrificed.

After the round course of work that is or ought to be done at College, specialization may properly be begun at the University actual (not falsely so-called) at the School of Law, of Medicine or of Science. But the curriculum is by no means necessarily imperfect as an educator that does not turn out students prepared at once to become authorities in a given department, whatever Dr. Ward or the Tribune may think to the contrary.

One great need of the College at the present time is a good telescope. There stands the Observatory, a building built according to the most modern and improved methods, of goodly appearance, but practically useless. It contains absolutely nothing now, with the exception of a few old “traps.” Astronomical Science has not yet found all that is to be found. Plenty of room is there, we doubt not, for discovery, even; but granting that the only use to which the telescope would be put is that of observing already known phenomena, still a College that numbers its students as this does and counts so much property as this has, needs some sort of apparatus for observing the heavens. All very good, but where is the telescope to come from? It seems to us that if no other way can be found, the following suggestion might meet the needs of the case. Let each class as it graduates give as its memorial to the College, such a sum as they see fit, to be kept in trust and to go towards the purchase of a telescope. Before many classes had gone out no mean sum would in this way be raised. If all the funds necessary for the purchase could not be thus collected, it would nevertheless lighten the gift we could in time hope to receive from some generous friend of science. Seventy-seven has instituted quite a number of advances in College and we call the attention of the present session class to this project; certainly the distinguished dead can wait a few years before having their features preserved in the “animated bust.”

“Why is Indiana the most benighted State in the Union?” “Because it has a Notre Dame University in it.”—Detroit Free Press.
TEN DOLLARS FOR PUBLIC ROOMS.

This, we presume, includes the fee for the use of the Gymnasium. Certainly the College is too shrewd at business to lose anything in its assessment for public rooms, and the probability is that the levy and damage done the buildings are not equal. Therefore, we suggest that somewhat—only a very minute portion need it be—of the surplus be taken to procure some new balls, and cushions for the bowling alleys and for repairing that portion of the Gymnasium generally.

It will be seen from our report of the Oratorical contest held under the auspices of the Inter-Collegiate Literary Association, and from our account of the proceedings of the fourth annual convention of that association, that the association has been most successful in its work of the past year, and that its prospects for future usefulness are most flattering. It is a subject of congratulation for Princeton that she has from its first inception been a staunch supporter of the association. It was clearly shown by an article in The Princetonian of Nov. 16th, that the scheme for an I. C. L. A. was first publicly broached by J. B. Converse, ’65, in an article in the Princeton Quarterly Magazine of 1865. In February, 1874, Princeton united with Williams in a call for a convention of Colleges to consider the feasibility of establishing Inter-Collegiate contests “in scholarship, oratory and essay writing.” The deliberations of the convention held in accordance with this call resulted in the establishment of the I. C. L. A. Since the establishment of the association, Princeton, by the contribution of funds, by the unceasing labors of some of her younger Alumni and by the ready and wise counsel of Dr. McCosh, has done much to advance the interests of the association. Yet, despite all of these contributions, Princeton has not in any great degree availed herself of the advantages of the association. She has yearly borne off fewer prizes than any prominent College in the association. The cause of this result is not that the competitors from Princeton are not men of ability. To be sure, the College has been represented in three oratorical contests and has not yet been victorious. Her representatives have, however, in each contest honored this institution. Representatives from Princeton have also entered one contest each in essay writing, mental science and mathematics. In each of these contests the representative from this College has been successful. This experience and the high quality of the instruction given in most of the departments of the College, furnishes guarantees that representatives from Princeton can enter (with perhaps one exception) each contest of the association with a fair prospect of success. The great demand now is that the best men in College shall compete for the several prizes offered by the association. The first prize in each department is $300; the second, $200. These prizes will probably soon be replaced by fellowships. These inducements are sufficient to reward the student for extra exertion. A regard for the reputation of the College should also incite her students to enter these contests.

Trite as the subject has become, we feel called upon to give expression to the general dissatisfaction on the part of both students and professors with the present system of grading in Princeton College.

That any system of grading, depending as it must to a large extent, upon individual caprice, can afford an exact indication of relative ability and scholarship, may be seriously doubted; but that, of all systems, we have the very worst for the purpose, can admit of no doubt whatever. What peculiar advantages it was supposed to have, which led to its adoption, we have never been able to discover. Its defects must be patent to every one. In the first place, it fails to show the relative intellectual quality of the different classes.

It frequently happens that one class contains a larger proportion of brilliant students than another. But under our wonderful grading
system the average grade of no class can exceed 85. A class of blockheads would make as good a showing as a class of admirable Crichtons.

In the second place, it is unjust to individuals.

Suppose that in last term’s examination in a certain department, ten men handed in papers deserving 100, and this term, twenty men write equally good papers. Then it follows, that in order to reach an average of 85, the grades of the remaining members of the class must be cut down, although they may have passed a better examination this term than last. It is evident that we have thus a double standard. The upper men in each class are graded on a scale of 100; the middle and lower men on a scale of 85.

But perhaps the greatest objection to this system is that it increases the vicious element of all grading—personal arbitrariness. The professors grade on the scale of 100, and the grades are then submitted to the Registrar, who proceeds to prune them down at his own sweet will until the desired average is obtained.

The defenders of grading claim that it encourages study. But when students become convinced that a method of grading is unjust, that it does not give them credit for labor performed, that it is merely a matter of chance or favoritism, then certainly its tendency is to discourage study. This is the present state of feeling here.

It was understood last year when the Lynde Debate was instituted, that the plan adopted was a provisional one, and that the method of conducting the contest was still open to amendments. The time is now rapidly approaching, when intending contestants need to begin vigorously to prepare themselves for this important debate; and in order to work intelligently they should now know positively what will be the plan of conducting the contest. One of the plans considered last year was to have the preliminary contest in the Halls at the beginning of the fall term of Senior year, and then have a series of three public debates by the men so chosen—the prize to be given to the man who makes the best average.

This plan has much good in it, and we had hoped to see it adopted this year. In debating any one particular question, so much depends upon accident that it is not sure to be a fair test of the relative powers of the men—the question chosen may chance to be directly in the line of some one man and altogether outside that of another. Besides particular circumstances, beyond his control, oftentimes have much to do with the excellency of a man’s effort. If now a series of debates were held, say one each term, the final deciding debate occurring at commencement, these objections would not hold. In some one of the three, a man would certainly have a chance to show himself at his best. The subjects would probably be of a different character. One might be practical, another political, a third philosophical, historical or literary. Surely some one would strike a man’s forte—if he has any; the man who thus gained the highest average would, at the same time, show himself the best informed. Not only would this system be eminently fair, but has two other special excellencies, namely, securing work and distinction. A contestant would work as hard on each debate as he now does on a single deciding debate, and thus the valuable element of discipline would be gained. The distinction, too, would be far greater than at present. The position of a contending debater running throughout a year, would be one of great respect; and, at the end, to carry off the first prize, would be very properly considered the highest honor in College.

The objection that this plan would require too much work and distract attention from the curriculum, is of little weight. For as the debates are almost extemore, the work required would chiefly consist in keeping one’s wits about him, and carefully observing current events. Besides, the same objection would hold with more force against the fellowships; while so far from fellowship men paying little
attention to curriculum work, they are generally the very best men in the class. We consider the Lynde Debate the most valuable acquisition to the College of recent years, and it only remains for the generous founder and the authorities to so direct it as to secure the greatest benefit to the students. Prizes are not for display, but as incentives and rewards for work.

When the silly person who edits the exchange, department of the Trinity Tablet, criticised us for calling the Yale papers "bi-weeklies," we concluded to let him enjoy the bliss of his own ignorance. Now, however, that the editors of the Bric-a-Brac have fallen into the same error, and announce that The Princetonian is a "bi-monthly," we consider it a duty to call their attention to the following brief quotation from an interesting work entitled Webster's Unabridged Dictionary: "Bi-weekly. Occurring once in every two weeks."

So far, we have refrained from even mentioning "pay" to our delinquent subscribers. But the public should not have concluded therefrom that we had none such—we have. We do not say this in any spirit of complaint, but as we have no reason to believe there was less generosity this Christmas than heretofore, we jump at conclusions, and suggest to all that it is an appropriate time to remove all indebtedness—especially to The Princetonian. Subscription for rest of this volume is $1.25; with back numbers to September, $1.75.

There are many in the College who do not take the paper, but probably all read it. Let every one such avoid the reputation of a sponge; do himself a credit and support his college paper by immediately subscribing for The Princetonian.

It was remarked in English Lit., the other day, that "Cowper began life at an early age." —Dartmouth.

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Daniel Deronda.

Some criticisms have been made upon it for beginning in the middle, after the fashion of the Eneid, although the author expressly mentions in the heading of the first chapter that mankind can do nothing without the make-believe of a beginning, and afterward demonstrates that most things begin in the middle. Probably because eternity is a circle of which no particular point can be said to stand first or last, and of which time is an infinitesimal arc, placed wherever you will. But Virgil's story has always been accounted a tale well told, and few can say that they have known a novel better written than this last of George Eliot's. Certainly no one of hers has been. Easier to read than Middlemarch, it is tenfold more exciting, without being less real or probable in construction. Of all her heroines, Gwendolen is most fascinating, although most selfish and least of the saint. Perhaps her position in the rarified upper stratum of English society partly accounts for this, for there is no other social formation so interesting; and George Eliot has never represented it to us before, which makes the delineation doubly attractive. Perhaps she awakens the pity which is akin to love as we follow her through the wretchedly long weeks of her struggle against Grandcourt's brutality. The excitement of watching her after she is in the toils, knowing that with her temper of mind the struggle must be short and the end a tragedy or a dispensation of Providence, is more like sensation than anything George Eliot has before given us. For Gwendolen was capable of tragedy, unlike Rosamond or Maggie Tuliver or Dorothea, each of whom was pitiable in the same way that she was, but none of whom were able to free themselves from their bonds in a manner which would sustain them as actors of high art.

But George Eliot seems to have a love of moral justice, and, in her novels, justice is usually done, so when the solution comes, it not only brings relief to Gwendolen but retribution to Grandcourt, whose end seems more
like capital punishment than accident. All this part seems separate from the Jewish history which it touches at so many points, and which one, especially at first reading, feels irresistibly inclined to skip.

Deronda is good, strong, noble; but might have been all he was to the main character without being either young, handsome or an alien. I could never get into my mind a pleasant image of Mirah. There is a squalid misery about her first presentation on the river bank which constantly clings to her, and so on through the entire Jewish circle.

The Jews of London were strange subjects to embody in a fashionable novel of to-day, and I fancy if we had not got a habit of admiring and wondering about Lord Beaconsfield of late, it would have been still harder to make them endurable. His history, position and works of fiction have put the Jews in a new light, and much natural repulsion, heretofore felt toward them, has merged itself in curiosity to know more of their present characteristics. Added to this is the fact that George Eliot’s researches into, and reflections upon any subject would give it strong fascinations for any mind which walks with hers.

Otherwise what is the subtle charm which carries us over and over the level plots of imagination in nearly all of her books? In none of them is there collected together more philosophy, purer diction and profounder thought than in Daniel Deronda.

“SHALL PRINCETON ENTER THE NEXT REGATTA?”

MR. EDITOR—We notice in your last issue an article in favor of Princeton’s entering the next regatta. There are, as the writer of that article implies, two questions—that of honor and that of expediency—which Princeton must consider in determining her action in regard to the regatta of 1877.

We see no reason why, in a voluntary association such as that of the Boating Association of American Colleges, a College cannot at any time honorably withdraw. The present condition of this very Association favors such a view. All of the Colleges which have heretofore composed the Association, have, with the exception of three, withdrawn from the Association; yet, public opinion does not consider that those Colleges which have severed their membership with the Association have disgraced themselves. It is perhaps unfortunate that delegates were sent to the Boating Convention of December 6th. It will doubtless be said that the presence of delegates from Princeton at that Convention implied that this College wished to continue her membership with the Association. This, we think, does not follow. The College understood that the Convention was called to consider the feasibility of holding a general college regatta in 1877. The attendance of a bare quorum at the meeting called to select delegates to the Convention would indicate that the College supposed this to be the object of the Convention. Had the College considered that the meeting held in the Philadelphian rooms upon Dec. 5th, was to decide in regard to Princeton’s entering the next regatta, there would have been a full attendance of the members of the Association; for the sentiment of the College is not entirely favorable to patronizing the “next regatta.” The writer of the article upon the future action of the College in regard to boating, also implies by the caption of his article, that the question is still an open one. The question which should soon be decided, is not whether Princeton can honorably withdraw from the Association or not, but whether it is expedient for her to remain in the Association or not.

There are a few reasons which would seem to make it inexpedient for Princeton to enter the next regatta. There are financial difficulties of great magnitude to be met. The Boating Association of the College is now encumbered by a debt of about $500. The Association has neither the available nor prospective means with which to meet this debt. We have no right to incur further expenses until we have discharged our present obligations.
The expenditure attendant upon sending a crew or crews to the next regatta, would probably be little less than those of previous years. Whatever saving might be effected by having a four-oared crew, would be fully counterbalanced by the necessity of replacing our present navy by four-oared boats.

The past record of the College, in regard to boating, is not of such a character as to justify the belief that the Alumni would, as in the past, respond generously to further appeals for boating funds. From what quarter is the means to come to send a crew to the next regatta?

Again: There is nothing to indicate that we would next year be any more successful in a regatta with Cornell and Columbia than we have been in the past. They possess the advantage which, in former years, have made them successful. Special students from which to select their crews, and superior facilities for the practice of these crews, still remain to them. Our crew has not yet been selected, much less gone into training. Capt. Ostrom, of Cornell, has been “hitting up” his men for the last four months, in anticipation of a contest with English crews.

Besides, that enthusiasm which is necessary to incite a crew to its best efforts, is entirely lacking in College. There is, in addition, a division of opinion in regard to the past management of the boating interests of the College. Without enthusiasm, without perfect accord of sentiment, Princeton cannot do herself justice in the next regatta. For these reasons, we hope that the Boating Association will soon act adversely upon the proposition to enter the next regatta.

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NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

Since Professor Brackett has signified his willingness to accept the leadership of the Expedition, the project has assumed more definite and favorable aspects. With him as leader, a failure could only be possible by having incompetent men among the subor-

dinates. As a whole, we think the members of the Association are earnest and energetic men. The regular semi-monthly meetings have generally been characterized by efficient work.

But while this is true, there is still cause for severe criticism. There is an element in the Association actively engaged, not so much in furthering the interests of the Expedition, as in securing for themselves and friends a pleasant means of spending the next summer vacation. Through the instrumentality of this element, the Association was damaged during the last term, and threatens to be permanently injured. Men who are most capable and best qualified to benefit the undertaking, and who are anxious for its success, have been regularly prevented from becoming members of the Association, simply because they were not congenial to this element. A whole term has now been spent, and still our membership is incomplete. Time which should have been occupied in united and systematic study, has been wasted in frivolous electioneering.

It is high time that this trifling should stop. The importance of the undertaking demands more serious action. Henceforward let our time be occupied in securing for the vacancies in our membership the best men the College affords, and in such work as shall preclude all possibility of an unsuccessful trip.

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PRINCETON AND THE NEXT REGATTA.

MR. EDITOR:

From an article in the late issue of The Princetonian, we should conclude that the College is soon to be called upon to decide whether she shall enter the next regatta or not. There are temporary reasons, in the way of financial embarrassment and a want of enthusiasm in the College, which make it undesirable that Princeton should enter the regatta of 1877. But in addition, there are paramount considerations which dictate it to be better that Princeton should abandon boating as a College institution. The reason for
this view is, in brief, that the benefits arising from boating to the students of the College are not at all in proportion to the cost of the sport.

The situation and character of the body of water upon which the College must carry on boating, is such that comparatively few of the students will, or can avail themselves of the benefits to be derived from the exercise. Experience has shown that to walk a distance of a mile for the purpose of pulling an hour or two upon a narrow, dirty, nasty, dead canal, is not in accordance with the nature or habit of the College student. Probably not fifteen men have, during the boating seasons of the last three years, pulled daily upon the canal. The actual expenditures of the College for boating purposes during that time have not been less than ten thousand dollars. Admit that the result of boating is beneficial to every man engaging in it, and the fact remains that the College has spent some ten thousand dollars for the muscular development of some fifty or sixty men, and those, too, men who least need such development. Is not boating, at a cost of two hundred dollars per man, an expensive luxury?

Would it not seem wise for Princeton to abandon a sport so expensive, and so devoid of benefit, except to the very few? Is it not better to devote the enthusiasm and money now expended upon the boating interests of the College to foot-ball, base-ball, and athletic games?

W.

NEW BALL FIELD.—Some eight months ago a circular was issued, stating that money had been advanced towards securing new athletic grounds, and that negotiations to this end were then in progress. The sequel to that announcement may be briefly narrated as follows: During the latter part of last June, ten and one-half acres of land, situated back of Mr. Harris’ residence, were purchased and enclosed with a high fence. Through some misunderstanding, nothing was done during the summer vacation towards putting the field in proper condition, but early in September, workmen were employed, and the grounds laid out with the design of affording ample room for base-ball, cricket, foot-ball and other athletic sports. This plan has been faithfully carried out, and the work of grading and leveling is practically finished. New grass has already made its appearance, and all that remains to be done is to carefully roll the grounds, in the spring. In order to render the way of approach as short as possible, the avenue running through the campus, and parallel to Nassau street, will be extended as far as the entrance to the field, where a small ticket house is built, at the side of the gate. Passing within the enclosure, the base ball fields, accurately marked out, lie before one. Encircling them is the running track, a quarter of a mile in circumference, and designed for use in the athletic games. The in-field is carefully sodded and rolled, and every precaution taken to render it smooth and firm. Thus, the nine will be able to commence practice in the spring without delay. At the farther end of the field to the right, is situated the grand stand and club house. The former will readily accommodate two hundred and fifty persons, and is roofed so as to shield spectators from sun and rain. The seats are built in tiers, rising one above the other, and the vacant space beneath them will be used as a store-room for benches and chairs. These movable seats, as occasion may demand, will be placed on the left of the field, and so furnish room for about three hundred more spectators. Thus, there will be every convenience for the accommodation of visitors, and we confidently expect that hereafter the interest in our athletic sports will be increased by the presence of ladies at the games.

The club house is a small but comfortable building, containing two very pleasant rooms. One room, twenty feet by sixteen feet, is to be used as a reception room by members of our athletic clubs and their guests; the other, eighteen feet by nine feet, is the dressing room, and will contain wash-stands, closets and other conveniences. Two small flag-poles attached to either side of the house will fly the colors of the contending clubs.

The committee by whose efforts this valuable addition to our athletics has been obtained, consists of William Libbey, Jr., ’77, chairman; W. S. Throckmorton, ’77; M. W. Jacobus, ’77; J. A. Campbell, ’77; R. M. Corwine, ’78. The chairman is to be especially commended for the perseverance and energy with which he has carried the work to completion. The sum of money expended is about $3000, and the warmest thanks of the college are due to the gentlemen composing the University Hotel Company, for their liberality in donating the whole amount. Thus have we at last obtained the much needed athletic grounds. Our materials are now of the very best. It remains for us to utilize them to their fullest extent. The close of this year ought to find us in possession of the college base-ball championship. Faithful work will secure it, and we look to the nine for that result.

INTER-COLLEGIATE CONVENTION.—The Fourth Annual Convention of the Inter-Collegiate Literary Association met at the Fifth Avenue Hotel upon Jan. 4th. The President of the Association, Ernest H. Crosby, of the
University of the City of New York, presided. The following Colleges were represented by delegates: Williams, Northwestern University, Princeton, Hamilton, Cornell, College of the City of New York, St. John's College, Rutgers, Lafayette and Syracuse. M. W. Jacobus, H. M. McDonald, and J. B. Townsend had been appointed delegates from Princeton. Mr. Jacobus was unable to be present, but the two latter gentlemen were in attendance throughout the deliberations of the Convention. The Treasurer made his report, showing the receipts for the year to be $2,500, and the expenditures somewhat less. The report also acknowledged the reception of liberal pecuniary assistance from Mrs. J. J. Astor, Levi P. Morton, J. G. Bennett and Wm. Libbey. Among the gifts was one of $400 from Princeton Alumni. The Chairman of the Standing Committee in his report, after giving a detailed account of the work of the year, urged the necessity for a more permanent basis. Dr. McCosh, who subsequently appeared before the Convention at the head of a delegation of College Presidents and others, dwelt upon the same thing and gave the outline of a plan by which this could be accomplished. These views were incorporated in a set of resolutions, which were presented to the Convention for their approval, and which called for the appointment of a committee representing the Convention to confer with a committee to be appointed from the meeting of College Presidents and others interested in the Association. The resolutions were adopted, and it was voted that the Standing Committee from this conference committee and that it should make a report at the adjourned meeting to be held Feb. 1st, 1877. The officers for the ensuing year were then elected. H. M. McDonald was elected to represent Princeton on the Standing Committee. It was decided that Colleges wishing to join the Association during the present year, must do so before March 1st. An amendment to the Constitution was adopted, requiring the vote of two-thirds of the Colleges composing the Association, to admit a College to the membership of the Association. It was resolved that any College not paying the annual due of $50 to the Treasurer on or before Nov. 1st should be dropped from the Association. The admission of "special course students" to competition for the prizes of the Association came up for discussion. After a warm debate, the Convention instructed the delegates to obtain the views of their several Colleges upon the question, in order that final action might be taken upon the subject at the next meeting of the Convention. Madison and Wesleyan Universities were admitted to the Association. The Convention then adjourned to meet upon Feb. 1st.

The Opening.—At 3 P. M., January 3d, the winter session of the College was formally opened by services in the Chapel. Fewer students than usual were present, on account of the shortness of the vacation and the Inter-Collegiate Contest in New York. The exercises themselves were of more than ordinary interest. The celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the battle of Princeton, January 3d, 1777, conducted by the citizens during the forenoon, was supplemented by the remarks of Dr. McCosh and Professor Cameron in the Chapel. Dr. McCosh briefly pointed out the position and influence of the sons of Nassau Hall in the Revolution. In his opinion, as great a work yet remains to be done. He hoped to see the educated men of the country, and especially the graduates of Princeton, take a leading part in removing the corrupting system of patronage from irresponsible politicians. This, he believed, would go a great way toward restoring the administration of our government to its pristine purity and vigor.

In an admirable spirit he also referred pointedly to the recent attacks on the College. His words were as follows:

"Turning to our College matters, I am sure you will not expect me to demean myself and demean the College by answering the abuse that has been lately heaped upon us. The persons who have thrown the dirt are now well known, and the public can judge of them, and have formed their opinion. I can say for myself and for the College authorities, that we will go on resolutely in the course we have laid out, without being swayed in any one way by these paltry attacks, founded on misinformation. No College in the world has received such substantial marks of confidence from its friends as Princeton has of late years. I was astonished to read in a newspaper the other day that the distinguished President of Edinburgh University, in opening the College session, recounted what our friends had done for us, and bade the Scotch go and do likewise. I know what I say when I tell you that our friends mean to be as generous in the future as they have been in the past. We have simply begun our contemplated improvements and mean to carry them on year after year, and not to be turned aside either by flattery or abuse. We do not affect, as some have charged us, to claim to do better than our predecessors—than old presidents and graduates; we are simply following them by doing in our day what they did in theirs."

Prof. Cameron, in a short address, gave a vivid description of the original battle, and related several interesting anecdotes. He eulogized Washington and Robert Morris in particular, and gave an account of the recent historical discovery which removes the stain from the memory of Gen. Joseph Reed, a graduate of the College, who guided Washington to Princeton. It was thought that he was the "Col. Reed" who sought protection from Donop, the Hessian Commander. It proved to have been a Col. Charles Reed. Mr. Bancroft has written a letter accepting the amendment.

The Inter-Collegiate Contest.—Ten Colleges sent representatives to the Third Annual Contest, held in the Academy of Music last week. The list marks the entrance of a large and promising University from the northwest; also, the fact that several of our oldest and most popular American Colleges still hold aloof, and this fact is much to be regretted.

The audience was quite a large one, and some degree of animation was imparted to them by the strains of a lively orchestra.
Dr. Prime, after a brief address, introduced the speakers. Mr. Durac, of the University of New York, made the first good speech of the evening, upon Revolutions. He was followed by Mr. Colligan, whose graceful stride—for he paraded up and down—and fashionable attire, elicited much applause. "The Growth of Opinion" was then discussed by Mr. Slemmons, in his peculiar and original style. After a short interval, Mr. Dodge gave his opinion of "John Milton," and was followed by Mr. Laird, of Hamilton. "The Negro in American History," was ably and gracefully rendered, and Mr. Laird proved a worthy successor of Mr. Elliott, who, also from Hamilton, secured the first prize last year. It must be confessed that the speaking throughout dragged somewhat.

The political questions now agitating England and the United States, present a wide range of subjects, and undoubtedly several of the speakers were fully able to discuss them. Such a discussion would have secured far closer attention from the audience and prompt recognition from the press. And here, perhaps, lies the secret of the lack of "originality," which was the almost universal criticism.

The various committees and examiners then announced their decisions, as follows: the two first essay prizes were awarded—one to F. M. Taylor, of the Northwestern University, the other to Claude T. Brewer, of Cornell. The Latin prize was bestowed upon a Cornell student. The Mathematical Honors were divided between Cornell and the College of New York. The Essay of Mr. Jones, of Princeton, '76, secured the Mental Science prize. And Cornell again carried off the Greek prize.

The decision of the Judges of Oratory was awaited with much interest. They finally appeared, awarding Mr. Laird the first, and Mr. Dodge the second prize.

Died.—At Philadelphia, Jan. 2, 1877, of typhoid fever, Henry Rush Biddle, of the class of '76. The deceased was sick but three days and his death occurred quite unexpectedly. Many members of his class from New York and Philadelphia attended the funeral on Friday last.

HERE AND THERE.

Here's to '77.

Witherspoon Hall is inhabited.

The clock is still enjoying a vacation.

Our Jamie's on the dark blue sea,
Waft him, winds, to Scotia's lea,
Auld Locherie.

The price of board at the College commons has been increased to $4.50 per week.

Numerous and valuable additions to the Chemical and Physical Laboratories have been made from the Centennial Exposition.

"Hello, Brooks! Sit down, Brooks," Brooks will not sit by any more elderly unprotected females.

We had always supposed that checked stockings were useful only on windy days, but the Vassar girls have discovered that they are "just the thing" to play checkers on.

A green veil was seen hanging from the window of a tutor who rooms in Dickinson Hall, last Saturday. We shall be happy to print any explanation that may be offered.

Providence does seem to shower its blessings on the undeserving. Didn't it send those Harvard papers the Soldene troupe, while we have not even a "bug show" to inspire our unprolific pens.

The subject under discussion was the Brooklyn calamity. Senior—"There was no hose on the stage, else the fire could have been put out." Junior—"Why yes, there was hose on the stage, for wasn't Miss Kate Claxton there, and hadn't she"—Chorus—"O-o-o-o-o!"

The board walk about Dickinson is a very acceptable New Year's gift.

Those who were not "counted in" as Junior Orators now blame the "returning boards."

Mr. McMaster, of New York, who is now here, will temporarily fill the position of Adjunct Professor of Mathematics, to which Prof. Burr was elected, the latter gentleman having been induced to remain at the Troy Polytechnic School.

The Princeton Continental Guards have fought their last fight, and have disbanded until the next Centennial.

'76 Schenck, formerly teacher in the Preparatory School, is now in Florida by advice of his physician. Said to be heart disease.

"Gie away, kiddies. I'm gaun away," were the touching words of Jamie Locherie, as he bade farewell to the weeping inmates of Rushion.

A purchase of nearly 200 books was made by the Librarian during vacation.

"O wand some power the giftie gie us
To drink, and not get inebrious!"
Was a loudly applauded sentiment at a Christmas dinner of those who passed their vacation in Princeton.

New Year's day was observed by a very pleasant reception in Southeast.

The haste with which many have taken possession of the newly finished rooms in Witherspoon Hall, may, we fear, eventually hasten their removal to less ample but more retired quarters in the Princeton grave-yard.

The following gentlemen were chosen last term to fill vacancies in the Glee Club: A. V. Bryan, '78, A. L. Dennis, E. P. Davis, A. J. McClure, F. H. Presbrey and J. R. Wright.
The shades of night and flakes of snow were falling in the city of Rochester, when a student might have been seen engaging a berth in a New York bound sleeping car. He retired and slept the sleep of the virtuous. When the light of day again visited his drowsy eyes he drew aside the curtains of his berth, looked out, and the car was still in the Rochester depot.

The following are the Junior Orators:

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<td>W. W. McDonald</td>
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<td>C. L. Williams</td>
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<td>A. H. Wintersteen</td>
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SEMINARY ITEMS.

W. D. Nicholas (Princeton '74), formerly of this seminary, but now of Union, is preaching regularly in the Temple at Philadelphia. "Nick" is, we hear, very much liked by the people there.

There is some talk of requesting Dr. McGill to give his lectures on "Choosing a Wife," earlier in the course than Senior year. You see with some of the "Sems," matters have progressed so far that these lectures are of no practical value, coming so late in the course. Certain Juniors would like to have them delivered at once!

Various places for holding mission services and distributing tracts are visited by students of the different classes. Earnest efforts are made to do good unto those who are thus visited, by ministering not only to spiritual but often to temporal wants.

Some of the knowing ones say that Stewart Hall will soon be ready for use. We sincerely hope this is true, for the sake of all spinal columns concerned. The desks and seats in the old rooms were evidently constructed with a view to crucifying the flesh.

Our "bull-dozers" have concluded to allow —— to be inaugurated, provided ——

EXCHANGES.

The Southern Collegian is one of our readable exchanges. It seems to aim at being entertaining, rather than didactic. It does not bore the general eye with heavy essays on hackneyed subjects; and for this, if for nothing else, it deserves credit.

Time was, when we had somewhat against The Brumonian, on account of we forget what. But the tone and matter of the last number won us over, first to reading it, and second to a very much improved estimate of its journalistic value. We read the article, "Iceland and its Literature" with genuine interest.

We have to acknowledge receipt of The Roanoke Collegian, marked "Exchange." Certainly. The Collegian has quite a spirited commentary on the Virginia University Magazine's notice of the recent oratorical contest of the colleges of the State. We are not up on the merits of the case, but we think the magazine ought not to be too hard on the beginning of what may come to be a good thing.

The Lampoon is improving in humor, if not in morals. The letter to the Boston Globe of young Haven, of Wesleyan University, who resigned his place as class orator because a clever young woman of the class was chosen to do the poetic honors at commencement, calls out a very caustic editorial from the College Courier. It says with unmistakable candor, that Mr. Haven "purchases a cheap notoriety by making an ass of himself." We haven't read the letter, but we think there are two sides to the question. Happy are we who do not have the horned dilemmas of co-education to bother us.

The Volanté is slowly, but perceptibly, ascending in the scale of readableness.

Having been reached in our quiet sanctum by the name and fame of the Alabama University Monthly, we went to no little pains and the extent of our spare means, in the procurement of a copy of that remarkable magazine. We were abundantly rewarded; for a more entertaining piece of literature we have not lately seen. It opens with a remarkable paper on "Fictitious Literature," which, we suppose, is long for Fiction. Hard after this follows "The Foot-prints of Genius," a production in which the gifted author has made a masterly epitome of a common school education in history. We fear, however, that Genius has made very few stepping stones or tracks about the Alabama University. For apart from this uncommonly commonplace essay, there is no further footstep, handprint, penmark, nor other indication whatsoever of it in the A. U. M. There is, indeed, a thrilling, melodramatic sort of story, entitled "Love with the Pick and Shovel;" but, after a careful reading, we earnestly and unselfishly advise the writer to quit literature, if not love, and to confine himself hereafter to the use of the "Pick and Shovel." It will be better for him, for his friends, for the country. The involuntary comic element of the Monthly we enjoyed very much, as we should enjoy the farcical tragedy of a third-rate theatrical troupe.

We are indebted to Harper & Brothers for "The Student's Classical Dictionary," an abridgment of the large dictionary, by Dr. William Smith. It impresses us as being just what a collegian needs. It contains as much as is necessary, and no more, of classical Biography, Mythology, and Geography. In these days of necessary intellectual economy and of sharp utilization of time, the epitomist does a valuable work. The book before us is one that we can cordially recommend to every student, as meeting a practical need.

To get up a handkerchief flirtation: Get two handkerchiefs and two fools.—Ez.