

THE PHILLIPPIAN.

VOL. IV.

PHILLIPS ACADEMY, ANDOVER, MASS., JAN. 14, 1882.

No. 9

Contributions.

Editors of the *Phillipian*:

A well-known French writer once said that every nation was marked by an individual trait; that it had a distinct characteristic running through its children. He cited the well-known metaphysical mind of the German, the musical talent of the Italian, and the devil-may-care air of the Frenchman. He omitted one national peculiarity, however, which he might have mentioned. The Yankee is known the world over for his inventive genius. Ruminating a short time ago upon the author's remark, there flashed across my mind an incident which was related to me some years ago by a former Professor in the Seminary. It struck me as so irresistibly comical, and at the same time as illustrating so well the active brain of the average Yankee, that with a few interpositions of my own I will relate it, trusting to your clemency, Mr. Editor, not to consign it to the remorseless recesses of your wastebasket. If any "Old Phillips" boy recognizes the outline of my tale, let him remember that I use no names and intend no personalities.

There lived in Andover somewhere about the year 185—a worthy man who inhabited a domicile very near what is now your campus. He was annoyed every fall by depredations upon his premises, on the part of youthful marauders in quest of material for that time-honored and blessed institution (long life to it!) the campus fire. Human patience has its limits, and the reverend man not being gifted with a martyr's constitution, was at his wits' end to know how to stop these unpleasant occurrences. There was a "Jack of all trades" about the grounds, (what New England family does not possess that appendage?) who was widely known in local circles for his characteristic shrewdness. He drove the sharpest bargain in town, and an idle loafer once said of him that if the "Old Nick" ever came after his soul there would be a dispute about the price.

The Prof. was one day overseeing a job in the presence of our crafty friend, and complained in no very measured terms of his treatment. John straightened himself up, cleared his throat, pushed his hat back upon the usual angle, and leaning upon his axe helve thus delivered himself:—"Wal, 'fessor, I kinder reckon now, yew don't sence the ways o' them young devils. Neaw I tell ye, ef these ere grounds was mine, I'd fix the little imps so they'd feel kinder like keepin' off'n here one spell." Here the chips began to fly. Evidently John needed to be drawn out. The Prof., all alive to the emergency of the case, eagerly began: "Well, what can I do? I can't prove who the culprits are, and, if I could, I don't feel like inflicting the penalty of the law upon a piece of youthful mischief."

"Wal, I'll go my Grandther's old ticker I cud do it, 'nd not go nigh a law."

"What would you do, John?"

"Wal, now, 'fessor, I'll tell ye. T'other mornin', me and my boy wuz a clearin' brush up't ther farm, 'nd we got inter a clump o' these ere prickly brakes. Neaw, ef me 'nd you wuz ter fetch a lot o' those 'nd put um in a big pile kinder coaxin' like, 'nd leave um be a spell, I'll go bail it 'udn't be a week afore th' imps 'ud be among um. And (here a chuckle) bless yer soul, 'fessor, ef a gang uv um run across those ere brakes in the dark 'nd grabbed onto um, ef they wouldn't jest get pricked a few—" Silence was more eloquent than speech at this point. John's feelings overcame him, and the chips flew thick. The Prof. was lost in meditation.

Before night came John was as good as his word. In full sight of the dormitories lay a huge pile, tempting to, the last degree, of the thorn-trees so well known to every New England boy. Which one of us has not stabbed himself time and again with the cruel thorns? Time went on, and Sunday came. The Professor on rising from his couch looked, as was his wont, upon the field behind his house. He saw there a sight which, he says, he will never forget. For a distance of three hundred feet toward the dormitories the ground was strewed with the relentless thorn. Evidently the wily youths had overreached themselves and chosen a thorny pathway.

Eight was the number who came into church that day with hands bound up. And as the good Professor preached from the text, "By their works shall ye know them," the boys sat in awful silence.

John returning to his work thus soliloquizes: "Wal, the 'fessor is a great man 'cordin' ter his way, but 'uth all his book-larnin' he couldn't sarve out the imps 'nd circumvent um like I did."

To this day the good man leaves brush all over his place, and so the world moves on.

Colorado Springs, Col.
Dec. 27, 1881.

Mr. G. R. CARPENTER, and other members of committee.

Dear Sirs,—

I wish to express through you, the thanks of Mr. Merrill to the students of Phillips Academy for their bountiful and very substantial gift to him, which came to hand on Christmas day.

It gives him great pleasure to know that his former pupils still remember him so kindly. The book of autographs is much prized, and will help to keep each one in remembrance.

Very truly and sincerely yours,

FLORENCE A. MERRILL.

Dear *Phillipian*:

I have repeatedly wondered that, during the three years I have been in school, there

have been so few *statistics* published. Neither in the *Mirror* nor in your columns have there ever been systematic records of our foot-ball and base-ball games, or any tabular comparisons between the records of successive years. Surely this ought not to be so.

Chronology, you know, is one of the eyes of History, and the *PHILLIPPIAN*, I am sure, would more than interest a great proportion of its readers by attending to this neglected point in athletics as well in other things.

CHRONOS.

Alumni.

OF our more recent graduates there are now 41 in Yale (besides 15 at the Sheffield Scientific), 23 at Amherst, 18 at Harvard, 7 at Brown, and 6 at Dartmouth.

Shore, late of P. S. '82, has gone to Florida for his health. It is feared he is in consumption.

Phelps and Morton, Yale '83, spent the vacation in Andover.

Weymouth and Flanders, Yale '85, were in town this week.

Mills and Manning, Amherst '82, also spent their vacation in Andover.

Among the deceased members of the Mass. Historic-Genealogical Society commemorated at their annual meeting were the following old-Phillipians: Seth Ames, LL.D.; John A. Vinton, D.D.; Samuel F. Haven, LL.D.

Hon. R. R. Bishop, '54, is re-elected Pres. of the Mass. Senate.

We learn just as we go to press of the death of Rev. John Cotton Smith, D. D., Rector of the Church of the Ascension in New York, and the leader of the low-church Episcopalians in this country.

Burton F. Firman, Harvard '82, P. A. '78, is one of the speakers announced for the anniversary of the Woman's Suffrage Association.

Joseph Cook is in the Holy Land, en route for India.

The class elections were held during the latter part of last term with the following result. Senior class: President, Fullerton; Vice-President, Bremner; Secretary and Treasurer, Harris. Middle Class: President, Perry; Vice-President, Cochrane; Secretary and Treasurer, Pratt. Junior Class: President, Johnson; Vice-President, Poppleton; Secretary and Treasurer, Todd. Preparatory: President, Parkhurst; Vice-President, Richards; Secretary and Treasurer, Craney. Senior English: President, Richardson; Vice-President, Battell; Secretary and Treasurer, Peck. Middle English: President, Fitch; Vice-President, Butler; Secretary and Treasurer, Keeler. Junior English, not elected.

During the first week of school, four o'clock prayer meetings were held daily in the Seminary Lecture rooms. Quite a number of our fellows attended.

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IT is hardly a subject for an editorial, this with which we are toiling; yet we comment on it here simply because we know not in what other part of our sheet to mention it. A recent number of the "Polytechnic" comes to us with a renewal of the proposition which was partially discussed in our columns last year. The idea of forming a School Press Association is not, strictly speaking, a new one. And in regard to it, we shall take the liberty of ventilating our ideas just as upon any other popular subject; not entering upon it with the impression that we are uttering something which nobody has heard before.

The step would involve a good deal of expense, a good deal of time, and a good deal of labor; all things which a careful man hesitates to expend unless he is sure of obtaining sufficient recompense in return for his labor. Again: The scheme must be submitted to careful discussion in order to secure success. Can this discussion be executed, can all the details of the plan be arranged and carried out without a meeting of delegates before the regular formation of the association? Further: We must remember, that although some of our school papers, a great many in fact, possess a good deal of merit, yet at the same time we cannot ignore the fact that we are young; and that unless we make this thing a thorough success in every respect, a great many of our older Press will ascribe our exertions to youthful freshness rather than to anything else. Now the long and short of this is, that if we are going to put this thing through we have got to remember that "what is worth doing at all is worth doing well." Have we the requisite amount of push and energy to aid us?

We have mentioned one or two of the objections which seem to us pertinent. As no complete discussion looks at one side only, it may be well to glance at the advantages of the plan. We must confess that it does not appear very manifestly plain to our dull brain what we shall gain by this step. What do we intend to accomplish by all our efforts? In short, why do we put ourselves to this exertion? What is the S. P. A. going to effect if we do form it? We really fail to see. We may have taken a narrow-sided view of the case. If so we hope earnestly that our contemporaries will correct us. A little will have been accomplished, if only this question is settled once for all.

ONE of the keenest minds in France once remarked, "Let me make the nation's songs, and I care not who makes its laws." Those few words embody in themselves at the same time a deal of argument and a world of romance. The influence of song is indeed one of the most potent of those that day by day un-

consciously sway our thoughts and actions. We never stop, of course, to think what life would be without singing; but look at it now for an instant. Check the mellow notes of the wood-thrush at sunset, repress the merry boyish whistle, and the happy girlish trills, take away the chanted words of prayer or praise; and have you not bereft life of much, very much, of its beauty and pleasure? Not only pleasure is wanting, but power fails. The efficacy of song in awakening and arousing the soul is proven by innumerable instances. Every country has its national anthem and its own peculiar songs.

The influence of song on college and school life is none the less marked. How many memories cluster round some stirring college ditty! From "Integer Vitæ" to "Shool," they mark all the shades of thought and feeling in college life. Every college has those which are peculiarly its own and seldom fail to awaken the enthusiasm of an old graduate or to bring before him vivid scenes and pleasant memories of days gone by.

Why, then, can we not have something which is really a Phillips song? We have, it is true, one that is called so, but the music is too difficult to be rendered by any but a trained glee-club. What we need is something full of enthusiastic school spirit, overflowing with true love for "Old Phillips" and her widely scattered children. Let the music be easy, that every one may join in it. If we have not talent enough to produce the music, we have at least some one among our two hundred who can employ his pen for our service and for the welfare of those who come after us. If we only have the words they can be easily set to some well-known music.

Don't let this drop, but think over it, talk over it, and try to awake yourself from the profound apathy that has come over the interest of the school in this matter.

For our part, we will agree, if possible, to publish any attempts in this line that may be sent to us.

LAST Tuesday, the committee who were appointed by the school to secure a gymnastic instructor made a report.

The school saw fit to accept the proposition which was laid before it. The PHILLIPPIAN is the only means which is at hand by which to bring the matter before the notice of the students; hence it may not be out of place to say a word upon this topic. The gentleman, who has so kindly consented to fill the place, lays no claim as far as professional gymnastics are concerned; yet, as we all know, he is possessed of considerable experience in athletic matters, and can give the boys sound information upon physical training. Those of us who have noticed him can testify to the fact that he is infinitely a better better gymnast than any one we have had here in our day, and that any one who cares can make of himself a sound gymnast by his aid.

There is another advantage which will bear mention. The eighteen men who are training for the ball nine will be very materially assisted in throwing, base running, and batting. All of these are very important details in the make-up of a good nine. There is but one objection to be made; and upon thorough examination that ceases to become an objection. It may be said

that the price which is paid is considerable for some of us. Now is it not better policy to dive down a little deeper into our pockets, and reap the full benefit of our expenditure, than to pay a partial price, and obtain partial information?

It is proposed to give a little more systematic instruction than ever before, and in addition to this any one, who cares to enter upon a course of training, will be submitted to examination, and, special points of weakness having been noted, work will be assigned accordingly.

The fellows, who care to devote any time to this, will of course see that our instructor comes among us as a gentleman who will enter heartily into the work with us and give any advice that may be asked. We take this opportunity to say, too, what can hardly be said elsewhere, — that the favor is upon his side, when he signifies his willingness to help us, and the obligation upon our own.

Exchanges.

IF any one is tempted to criticise the intensely local turn of our Exchange columns this week, let him recollect that local news generally is more interesting than anything else to local readers. Following out this suggestion, let us notice first the *Philo Mirror*. This sheet is not upon our list of exchanges, but by the courtesy of its editors we are permitted to look at it. *Philo* is to be congratulated upon the fact that her editors were boys who had the common sense to get out of a usage, when they found that usage to be injurious in its effects. They have completely changed the appearance of the book, and unless they are already surfeited with compliments we should very much like to add our word of praise to that of many others. The piece entitled the "After Glow" is exceptionally good. It wins attention as being the first to meet the eye in the volume, and it does not disappoint the reader. The writer of "The attitude of the Student toward Reforms," has struck a good chord. His suggestion made us feel that perhaps we boys do not realize that we are to be the educated men of the future, and must shape ourselves accordingly. The editor's review held attention from first to last, and did itself proud. The article on the "Mansion House" was, as a piece of composition, excellent; yet we could not feel so deeply upon it as its author did, and it perhaps was for that reason that we were a little disappointed in it.

As compared with the "Mirror" of former years it was, with a very few exceptions, beyond anything which we have yet seen. There was one fault which it had in common with many of its predecessors. Its "Pot Pourri" was weak in one or two points. Does it not detract a little from the dignity of a sheet like the "Mirror" to possess in each successive issue a given number of fabulistic, and would-be ludicrous organizations? They were funny once or twice, but, when they become regular items, they lose a good deal of their original wit. As a whole we cannot speak too highly of the *Mirror*. It will serve well as a model for future aspirants.

We find next the *Abbott Courant*. The first piece in the book was a thorough suc-

cess in view of the fact that it was a short story, and yet did not flat before it reached the end. The author of "The Value of the Ideal" wrote, methinks, very truly. And one fact we were glad to see emphasized, viz, that the real and the ideal are each valueless without the other. How many people we see who are blind to one of the two. The best thing in the book was, in our humble estimation, "The Seasons." For a thing of its kind, with no more pretensions than it made, it excelled. The descriptions all the way through are wonderfully delicate, and at the same time clearly drawn. The sadness of the ending, too, does not mar the beauty of the production.

If not over-bold, we should like to suggest one point in "The Courant" which will bear criticism. The general aspect of the pamphlet is not as attractive as it might be made. This detracts to no very small extent from the impression formed of it. We will venture to assert that if the material in the last "Courant" were enclosed in a slightly changed form, the whole appearance of the book would be improved, and the impression given to an outsider decidedly bettered.

Philippiana.

PAY UP.

Did you have a good time?

The Draper prize men are at work.

Base Ball is now the topic of the day.

The Seniors are wrestling with Algebra.

Mr. Coy came out to recitation on Monday.

Monday morning Biblicals until further notice.

Sleigh bells sounded sweetly, if only for a day or two.

Pay up your share for instruction in the Gymnasium.

Hurry up and make your engagement with the photographer.

Is it our constitution, or is the weather a trifle eccentric?

The absence of Roe and Parkhurst will make a hole in the Nine.

The Shawshine is now without a President. N. B. No candidates.

It looked like coasting when school opened, but, lo, it hath vanished.

Jaggard and Schaffler were appointed on the photograph committee.

Helliwell takes Frederick's place as librarian of the Associate Library.

Harris has been elected on the Base Ball committee, ~~and~~ Parkhurst resigned.

We go to press a few hours too early to give an account of Mr. Riddle's reading.

Mr. Allen of the Seminary will conduct the singing at Sunday services hereafter.

Freeman, P. A. '82, was broken as to his wrist, just before the end of last term.

Thompson, Hinkle, and Phelps are committee on engaging an instructor for the Gym.

The western boys got excused to spend New Year's at home, thereby arriving somewhat late.

School has engaged Mr. Carter of the Seminary to furnish instruction in the Gym. for the ensuing term.

The choir at chapel on New Year's day was composed of Prof. Mead, Prof. Churchill, Mr. Comstock, and Mr. Merriam.

The Fem. Sem. closed the day before we did, and opened the day after. Coincidence is a remarkable factor in human progress.

Rev. Mr. Mills occupied the chapel pulpit during the vacation, and Dr. Gulliver preached a very interesting discourse last Sabbath.

At the suggestion of one of the Profs., P. A. '83 has adopted a standing committee on *apologies*, consisting of Perkins, Snook, and Beers.

The school library has been further increased by the addition of Martyn's Bucolicks, London, 1749, from the library of the late Hon. Wm. Beach Lawrence.

The editor-in-chief will pay a reward to any one who will procure him a copy of the PHILIPPIAN containing an account of the "Mock Trial," given by "Philo" in 1880.

At a recent meeting of the two Senior classes the following class day parts assigned: Prophet, J. P. Craney; Historian, J. C. Hall; Orator, E. J. Phelps; Poet, G. R. Carpenter.

We wish to correct a statement made a short time ago about the date of the Draper speaking. The date has been changed, and will probably be sometime in February.

The Zeta quartette, of Dartmouth, are expected to give a concert in the Town Hall, Jan. 23d. This quartette is well spoken of, and will present a good programme of college songs, etc.

Some few names still remain on our books with sundry cabalistic signs after them, said to denote awful threatnings upon the interested. There'll be war if our subscription list is not all paid up soon.

We print in another column a letter from Mr. Merrill in acknowledgment of the Christmas gift of the school. The school responded heartily to the call of its committee, and showed warm regard for their ex-teacher.

The Senior class is favored by the Fates. They are using Bennett's new Latin series in place of the old Arnold's prose exercises. The volume is a very neat edition of a very convenient work, and the class appreciate the change.

Mr. McCurdy takes the Senior class in Mathematics this term in place of Mr. Graves. This class has studied Algebra in numberless ways and shapes. Now you can readily see, by common consent, that all effort is concentrated upon the final struggle.

The snow excites a strong desire in the shape of that promiscuous missile known to mankind as the "snow-ball." We have observed with regret that even our devoted head was not protected by our dignity. The fair sex seem inclined to pelt each other; that is, if a girl ever does throw *any* thing where she means to.

On account of the illness of Mr. Coy for the first few days of the term, the Greek recitations were taken by Mr. Shirley, the valedictorian of Yale '69. We should feel called upon to say a few words on the very ungentlemanly behavior of one of the classes, were it not for the fact that it had been already so severely rebuked. Nothing detracts more from the reputation of a class, in school or out, than such conduct.

We give below the list of the new boys:

Adams,	Westboro',
Bert,	Franklin, Pa.
Churchill,	Andover.
Clarke,	Manchester, N. H.
Cleaves,	Kennebunk Port, Me.
Day,	Kansas City.
Doolittle,	Wilkes-Barre, Penn.
Gates,	Kennebunk Port, Me.
Houghton,	Trenton, N. J.
Howland,	Lisbon, N. H.

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