# The Sphinx. Vol. 7, No. 4 December 2, 1905 

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VOL. VII MADISON, WIS., december 2, 1905 NO. 4

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## The Sphinx

## Jhanksgiving

Some give thanks because they're happy, Full of joy and vim and health;
Some give thanks because their pappy Owns a trust and rolls in wealth;
Some give thanks because they're married, Have a wife and house and lot;
Some whose youthful plans miscarried,
Breathe a prayer of thanks they're not.
But when all is said, And until I'm dead, I'll be gladdest if Thanksgiving, When it comes each year,
Finds my friends all here,
And myself alive and living!
Some give thanks for divers reasons; Glad Thanksgiving time is here-
It's the best of all the seasons For the making of good cheer.
Some turn homeward from the city Mother's famous pies to share,
While the homeless (there's the pity)
Have to eat the same old fare.

But when all is said,
And until I'm dead,
I'll be gladdest if Thanksgiving,
When it comes each year,
Finds my friends all here,
And myself alive and living!


## THE SPHINX.

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Always remember that this is only pretence, so that you are not to believe a word of it, even if it is true.-Kingsley


ELL, I'TS OVER NOW, and we are sufficiently recovered from our Royal Gorge to sit up and notice things. $\left.\begin{array}{l}\mathrm{His} \\ \mathrm{Her}\end{array}\right\}$ Highness, The American Turkey, is down and out, and no more will $\left\{\begin{array}{l}\text { his } \\ \text { her }\end{array}\right\}\left\{\begin{array}{l}\text { gobble } \\ \text { cheep }\end{array}\right\}$ disturb the opulent repose of Farmer Brown's barnyard. Yes, Thanksgiving Day, with its gorge-ous dinner and itsappalling feats of feasting, and with all its traditional castor oil and "yarbs," is now but a replete memory. And if-ifwe had nothing especial to offer thanks for on that Day, we are now indeed thankful, truly thankful, that, after putting the obese Turkey completely and irrevo ably out of commission, it did not quite succeed in doing the same to us. It is a grave fact that the death rate of the day after Thanksgiving is ominously higher than that of the day before. It was this playful fancy that prompted Omar Khayyam to write the following lines in that clever little skit of his entitled, "Thanksgiving Day:"
"So eat, drink and be merry to-day, For to-morrow you may die!"
But this question of Post-Thanksgiving Mortality leads us to a consideration of colossal significance. Was President Roosevelt, in issuing his Thanksgiving Day Proclation, entirely consistent with his strenuous and paramount Anti-Race-Suicide Policy? To be sure, there was an imposing Precedent to overcome any scruples he may have had about ordering up this Annual Epicurean Suicide of the American Race. But is he not a president with not a precedent? Has he not taken football, as now played, under his wing-the right one-and denounced it as being a spectacular form of Race Suicide? Should he not do the same for our national Gorge Day? Is muscular suicide any more disastrous to the race than gastronomic suicide? We would like to answer these questions for our large and intelligent mass of readers, but-the fact is-we're not feeling quite so well -where our liver used to be-as we did last week this time, so we will have to dismiss the matter with the words of the Triumvirate: "We give it up. Tag, you're it!"


ISCONSIN TRADITIONS AGAIN! Indignant reports from divers Upperclassmen have reached the sanctum of The Sphinx that a number of freshmen persist in violating the Regulations. It has been impossible to secure the names of the offenders, however, or they would have been put immediately in the "Freshman Rogues' Gallery."

Now, we can see no need of entering into a lengthy justification of these Freshman Regulations. That was done once and for all last year, when the Senior, Junior and Sophomore classes, by official resolutions, established such traditions at Wisconsin. The act itself was its own justification. Last year"s Freshman class took counsel among themselves and with commendable scrupulousness obeyed both the letter and the spiritof these rules.

Now, the present freshies-some of them at least-with callow impudence, are flaunting their open disregard of "tradition" squarely in the face' of the strong sentiment among the upper classes. What is going to be done about it? We think we know. Already there has been wafted to our ears an ominous muttering from indignant members of the Senior and Junior classes. Sophomores, too, who observed the Regulations loyally last year, have expressed a grim determination to stand pat with the two upper classes in enforcing them this year. Does this mean that the juvenile offenders, who are caught in the open wearing derby hats or smoking pipes or sitting on the gym. fence, will be summarily dealt with, in the old barbaric hazing fashion? No-from what we have heard we do not think the scourge will fall in that way. But The Sphinx warns the culprits that punishment will follow swiftly and surely, through dark and mysterious courses, if they continue their offences.


He-That fellow on the stone-crusher is a regular masher, isn't he?

She-Seems to me he has a crush on the street.

"Got any money?"
"Nope."
"Broke?"
"Not 'xactly broke; just badly bent."
What are we all most thankful for? That another Thanksgiving Day has found our mortal coil still on the reel.


## The Gambler's Soliloquy

This Life is but a chance affair, With much in it to rue-
A game of cards, with here and there A streak of luck run through.
A dirty deck, well-thumbed and worn; An easy deck to stack.
To some of us the corners torn Are clues to pass or back.
While others, not so quick of mind, See not such signs displayed-
A round or two; they fall behind; Their little game is played.

The stake is large: 'tis Life itself.
We early play and late;
And Luck's with him who gets the pelf-
('Tis Luck, I say; not Fate.)
The Youth plays fast with fevered brow; A plunger on the board.
Success to him means fame, so now The pot holds all his hoard.

The Man plays cautiously, and throws His cards with steady hand-
Close to his belly plays and knows How much depends on sand.

The old Man plays a lonely game;
His winnings now are rare.
His eye is dim, his hope's the sameHe plays at solitaire.

So win or lose, we play our best Till our last card is thrown;
Then cash our checks in like the rest, And pass Outside alone.

> F. W. M.

Professor Showerman-As each student is called upon to recite, he will please rise and remain rising.


We copy the following from the Shattuck Military School Catalogue:
". . . . In addition, there is in use a part of the year, a campaign suit, consisting of two army shirts, leggings, and a campaign hat."

QUERY: What do they do for trousers?

A freshman in English (1). was asked to write a theme illustrating the terms unity, coherence and emphasis. He wrote: "The sophomores went into the lake with unity, coherence and emphasis."
(N. B.-This is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the above. It is customary for near friends and relatives of The Sphinx to wear crape on this mournful occasion.)

A man once believed he was sick, So his watch kindly loaned him a tick. He lay down and said, "I now think I'm dead.
Oh, some one please bury me quick!"
$-A$. B. S.

## HANK'S LAMENT

Say, Bill, this here University busines ain't wot it's cracked up ter be.
I've ben here two weeks and it yet seems up ter me.
Howsomever, I've ben up ter ther University most er ther time,
Excepting' uv ther days it took me ter write this bloomin' rhyme.
Of course ye hev heerd how I was ther poet down at Sandy Sink,
But since I arrove up here, I hev not hed time ter think.
I am takin' a course in wot they calls Frenzied Finance,
I hev spent all I hev, an' a little more, at a merry song an' dance.
Ther folks out hum ses I must be flingin' airs,
But I hev just paid ther money for wearin' out ther varsity stairs.
Exceptin' uv ther regular dues fer convocation tickets an' tickets for shower baths,
Rental fer song books, subscription for U. W. directory, ther Sunday Cardinal, an' toll fer ther lakeside paths.
I am takin' a course in trunk exercises, as I hev pawned me trunk,
An' ther landlady ses I will hev ter look fer another place ter bunk.
Take it all in all, with ther fees an' high-falukin' stunts,
My pocket book looks like an elephunt hed stepped upon it once.
I mustn't fergit ther course in musical singin', at which I hev quite a rep,
Though I hev not warbled much here, exceptin' on ther chadburn step,
I called there one night, but ther place was without er light,
Though a lot of sophs took me erlong, jest ter interduce me right.
I also apawlogized ter the ladies wot I kne w,
Fer I had me dickie twousers rolled up ter avoid ther dew.
This is wot they calls ther strenuous life,
With ther buckin', ther freshmen rush an' strife.
I hev lived ther simple life in medders an' pastures high,
They calls me green, but none uv us gits picked till we're ripe sez I.

> -Hank.


By Jinks-I see by the morning paper that Mr. Spec. U. Later doesn't 'walk on Wall Street" any more.

By Jove-How's that?
By Jinks-He can't. Lost all his bones.

## Local Punch.

"Cudge" Hannan was seen on the campus the other day-using his little hammer.*
"Mike" Hoyt is doing society a great deal of late. Rah! Rah! Mike!
"Cap" Taylor, of cheer-leading fame, is planning new stunts for the basketball enthusiasts.
"Pete" Schram will try his first law case next week. Pete is a nice boy and will do it right.
"Max" Mulcahy has introduced a new barber's cut. Keep the good work growing, Max.
"Colonel" Duke is reported to have a new lid. Hope it is true, Colonel.

[^0]
## Another Problem Play <br> BY <br> Bernard Pshaw

(Characters: Freddy, a fraternity boy, who is right there with the goods. Lottie, a sorority girl, who is comparatively easy, but quite pretentious to the contrary. Costumes: The real college rags. Scene: Cosy corner in the sorority house. General air of luxury. Time: About so P. M. Lottie and Freddy discovered ensconced on the Davenport.)

Lottie: Freddy, I want you to take your arms away! If the chaperon should happen to come in now-why, she'd be terribly shocked.

Freddy: Then it's only because you fear the-the chaperon, eh? Otherwise, it's all-

Lottie: Well, I should say not! Do you think I'm-will you take your arms awayI say!

Freddy: What for?
Lottie: Because.
Freddy: Because what?
Lottie: Well, because I don't allow any fellow to-to put his arms around me.

Freddy: Oh, come now, Lottie-you're only fooling. You know you are.

Lottie: No, I'm not either. I really mean what I-will you take-now stopFreddy, I say!

Freddy: Why? Don't you like it?
Lottie: Of course I don't.
Freddy: Why?
Lottie: Because I don't. Isn't that enough?

Freddy: No.
Lottie: Why not! I'd like to know. Do you think you can do whatever you want? Freddy: Yes.
Lottie: Well-I like that! Since when? Freddy: Last night.
Lottie: Last night? Why, we only met then!

Freddy: I know it. That's long enough. Case of-of love at first sight-wasn't it?

Lottie: I heard it all right. You don't have to emphasize it with your arms.

Freddy: Well, it's so, isn't it?
Lottie: I-don't know.
Freddy: You've had plenty of time to think it over since last night.

Lottie: Do you think I thought aboutabout you after we-oh, dear!-those old arms of your again. I do wish you would keep them where they belong!

Freddy: What were you going to say, Lottie?

Lottie: I was going to ask if you think I thought about you after we parted last night?

Freddy: Why, sure.
Lottie: My! but you're conceited!
Freddy: That isn't conceit-that reliable intuition. But we're getting off the track, now. Answer my question-wasn't it a case of love at first sight?

Lottie: (Silence.)
Freddy: . . . . . . Why don't you answer me, Lottie?
Come! Was it or wasn't it? Which? Say some-
Lottie (softly): Thing sweet, BedeliaFreddy: What was tha-yes?
Lottie: (A low half audible reply.)
Freddy: Say it again. . . Oh, please-

Lottie; You're hurting me, Freddy. Don't squeeze so-

Freddy: Don't complain, Lottie; but tell me-yes or no?

Lottie: Ye-es.
Freddy: Honest? Truly? Do you swear it? Oh, I don't believe it, Lottie. Prove it, then.

Lottie: How?
Freddy: You know. Don't ask me.
Lottie: No, I don't, really.
Freddy: Yes, you do, too.
Lottie: No, positively.
Freddy: Oh, Lottie!-You're tormenting me.

Lottie: Well, I don't know how to prove it. Tell me how.

Freddy, Well-by-ki-kis-
Lottie: (hearing footsteps): Quick, Freddy! Take your arms away. I hear the chaperon coming! Oh, Freddy, is my hair all mussed up?
-07.

If you chance to take a maiden to a Military Hop, And at witticism wish to make a hit;
Do not talk about the music or the floor, but merely say:
"In this dinky coat I feel just like an IT!"


Why do I love her? Ask not me, For I could never say.
Love's ways much harder are to see Than stars in bright midday.

Why do I love her? Ask instead, Why she was made so fair;
Why she was given such queenly head, Such waves of wondrous hair.

Why her dark eyes were made so bright,
So full of ecstacy;
Why her whole countenance alight Was made so good to see.

## A Dissertation on Stogies

"Whew," said Bangs, as he came into the Oracle's room, "what the deuce are you smoking? Smells like a fire in the old clothes bag."
"This," said the Oracle, "is a stogy." He put the long, black, villainous object to his lips and blew a ring of yellow-white smoke into Bang's face. That individual immediately fell over into the waste basket, choking.
"A stogy," continued the Oracle, placidly, "is a smoke for men. Men who their duties know, and knowing, dare maintain. That is, when they feel it their duty to smoke stogies, they dare maintain the merits of their modus ordorandi. A stogy is like an onion, not beauteous to look upon, by no means pleasurable to the olfactory apparatus, but full of a goodness so overpowering that it brings tears to the eyes. And there are further points of similarity in the two vegetables-for tobacco is neither an animal nor a mineral-no wise man will take a large onion in one bite, nor will the knowing smoker attempt to absorb all a stogy's smoke in one inspiration. Either with the onion or stogy the effects are terrifying."

The Oracle stopped to mend six leaks in his plutonian cigar, with cigarette paper. Then he relit the ill-favored roll with much facial contortion.
"As I was saying," he proceeded, "the stogy - (puff)-is -(puff)—one-(puff)—of the (puff, puff, puff) most-confound the bally thing, anyhow, why won't it go?" The Oracle got up, went over to the gas jet and thrust the end of his stogy in the flame, drawing in his breath with frightful wrinklings and displacings of his visage, followed by a slow empurplement of his cheeks. Finally the recalcitrant 'smokestack' lit, and the Oracle returned to his chair.
"As I was saying," he recommenced, "the stogy-" Here the Oracle left off quickly and surveyed the length of black tobacco remaining with comical dubious-ness-a thin band of smoke was issuing from a crack in the side. Patiently the Oracle mended the rift with his Riz-La paper, and replaced the stogy between his teeth. He chewed the end reflectively for a moment, scratched a match and relit the dead end. Again the Oracle's face puckered horribly, a moment of breathless suspense, and he sank comfortably back into his chair, rolling the stogy between his teeth.
"I believe I"--the Oracle ceased abruptly, for he had bitten off the end of
his smoking utensil and it had dropped down his vest and into the pocket where he kept matches. He jumped madly to his feet, reached in the smoldering pocket and pulled out the matches, stamping them out on the floor. A tenacious piece of burning phosphorus clung to his thumb, and the Oracle executed a frantic buck and wing dance about the room. The gang looked on in vociferous indifference. But the Oracle was indomitable, undissuadable; he terminated his dance, picked up the stogy, which was efficiently eating a hole through the carpet, rearranged it in his mouth and exhaled a triumphant cloud of yellow smoke. Thereupon he resumed his chair.
"I started to remark"-the Oracle removed the stogy with dismayed swiftness and studied it fearfully.
"Oracle," said Bangs, dryly, "what is the matter with the lights? Your face has the most ghastly, greenish gray pallor I ever saw, you-"

But the Oracle had fled incontinently, and without dignity.
"I am inclined to think," said Bangs, "that the Oracle will be glad to present the bunch with his box of stogies. I must confess that the expedient was somewhat heroic, but it seemed the only way to convince him that a box of stogies is not exempt from that wise law which designates tobacco and matches as common property."

And with this pedantic discourse, Bangs removed a piece of rubber hair pin from the half smoked stogy the Oracle had abandoned. - Berton Braley (Courtesy of Butte Inter Mountain).

## An Epic.

I.

The Czar of the Russias passed by,
With a sorrowful look in his eye,
And the people about
Sent up a great shout,
As a bomb blew him up in the sky.
II.

The infant Alexis was nigh,
And he said, as he stifled a sigh,
"This being a king
May be a fine thing,
But it strikes me the job is too high."

## III.

The wife of the Czar 'gan to cry,
And she said that she hoped she might die;
"For my husband's a slob,
Who can't hold down his job, No matter how hard he may try!"


## Richard's Philosophy

"It was Wisconsin Spirit that made Wisconsin's offense irresistible and Minnesota's offense-IMPOSSIBLE!"


A damsel yclept Peg O'Neill,
Went up in the old Ferris Wheill; On the twenty-first round, She looked down at the groundIt cost her an eighty cent meill.

## A FELLOW FROM BOSTON



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Eb for short was called her beau.
Talk of "tides of love," great Caesar!
You should see 'em Eb and Flo.
-Cornell Widow.
Eb and Flo they stood as sponsors When Flo's sister was a bride.
And when bride and groom receded
They, too, went out with the tied.

> - Yonkers Statesman.

When their first shild came-a daughterThe nurse, for a larger fee
Went to some one else who sougit her, Leaving Eb and Flo at sea.

> -Chicago Recora-Herald.

Came two sersants meek as Quakers, Whom they hired their bark to steer.
Some one yelled, "Look out for breakers!" Eb exclaimed, "Good Lord they're here!" -Kansas City Drover's Telegram.

Breakers passed, a reef rose sooner Than they thought, and wrecked their home.
Eb tacked wrong; he hit a schoonerNow their course is flecked with foam. -F. W. M.

The University of Wisconsin is badly in need of a juvenile court-to sentence those recalcitrant freshies, who are violating traditions, to a place where they have plenty of regulations to observe and a man specially hired to see that they are observed.

## Clipped Quips

There was a young fellow named Perry. Who choked on small cocktail cherry.

He said: "Pray excuse; It wasn't the booze;
The cherry was over-ripe-very."
-Widow.

## A Hint

The most modest of maids, bear it in mind, If she's drowning will hug like a bear; So it's safer to swim up behind

And tow her ashore by the hair.-Life.

Mrs. Style -I want a hat, but it must be the latest style.
Shopman-Kindly take a chair, madam, and wait a few minutes; the fashion is just changing.-Washington Life.

Widower-"What's that picture?"
Bool - "Creation of the World,' by Michael Angelo."

Widower-"Gees, I wish he was on the board."-Widow.

A beastly doggerall I'll sing,
Or rather category bring,
Of animals that mouse around Where chicken-hearted man is found. And though my voice become quite horse No lobster must stop me, of course.
"Oh, rats!" one cries, "you'll rhyme too long
And dog our patience with your song. If you don't cease your doggoned cry We'll lamb you till you have to fly !" Sheepish, cowed-I halt, alas!
Lest anyone dub me an-donkey!
-Punch Bowl.

Tommy pushed his aunt Elizer Off a rock into a geyser; Now he's feeling quite dejected; Didn't get the rise expected.
$-E x$.

A radical-one who is not system-atic.
Cynic-one who asserts that all good deeds are actuated by mercenary motives.

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Tommy greased the stairs with soap;
Father struck the slimy slope;
Ma said: "My! ain't Tom got tact! I always looked so well in black."
-The Widow.

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And now get Findlay's Price List-tells of other things.

One day our little Wille fell Down a deep and darksome well. Mamma's worried 'bout his ways, Willie is so hard to raise.

> --Punch Bowl.

You must rock the baby,
His mother sternly said;
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Sister likes hers served conicular, Mama's dead and not particular.-Ex.
Why is it that we call a man "two-faced" when we wish to knock him; and "manysided" when we want to give him a boost?'
"Who was this fellow Ananias?"
"Football editor of the first newspaper, I believe."-Widow.

If all the year was football time,
And we'd a game with every breeze;
Just how much money would we hav?
To pay our college fees?-Chaparral.

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Lulu: You never can tell.Charparral.

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## Advice to Young Girls

If you spurn a man's offer of marriage some day,
And he threatens to blow out his brains,
You would give him a Hard One if you should just say:
"Choose a more vital spot for your aims,"
-The Widow.
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[^0]:    *Later: It is learned that he was only using his hammer to post some bills of campaign expenses. Glad to correct our first impression, Georgie.
    -Med .
    Evolution - the scientists apology for man's resemblance to the ape.

