



The Sphinx. Vol. 2, No. 8 January 26, 1901

Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin, January 26, 1901

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JANUARY 26, 1901.

THE SPHINX



THE SPHINX.

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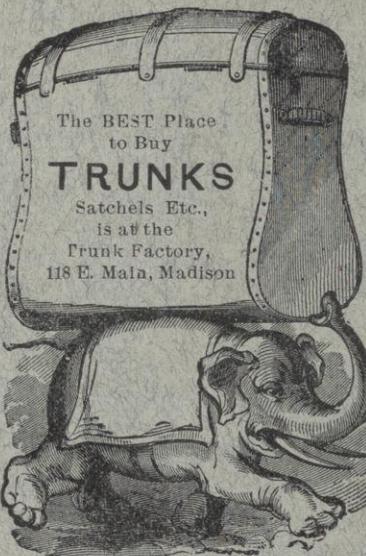
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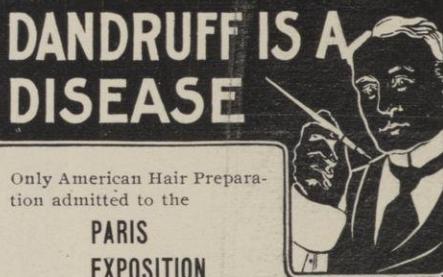
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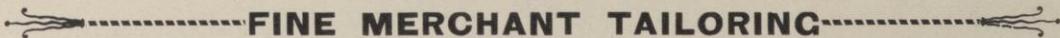


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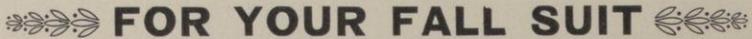
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THE SPHINX.

Vol. II.

MADISON, WIS., JANUARY 26, 1900.

No. 8

A Theme-Fugue.

A freshman once, a perfect dunce,
Prepared a theme;
A long time spent, then in it went—
This wordy dream.

But back it came, with cut and maim
The theme to mar,
And written there, with ghastly stare,—
"Too loose by far."

The freshman wise, with troubled eyes,
Then swore with might;
The town so dead he painted red,
And came home tight.

With wobbling pen he tried again,
Nor once he lagged;
Alas! Alack! the theme came back:
"Your style is jagged."

When Wisdom Moved.

It was a cold day for Athenæ when she was carted from her pedestal in Library Hall to a grander niche in the new building. Everybody saw her go in the old age-blackened wagon with two men as escort. The great heavy wheels crunched through the frozen snow to the disgust of the goddess. For five minutes she stood it in stony silence and then she remarked under her breath: "This then is modern locomotion."

It was a slow journey. The cold wind blew. Passers by remarked reflectively on the dethronement of Wisdom. A group of little snowbirds saw her come and scattered themselves away; a boy in red cap and mittens called out, "O, look, the big snow man." But nothing moved her.

When she turned the corner and beheld her future home, she swayed, she rocked. It was so like her fondest dreams. A masculine arm encircled her comfortable waist and the voice that went with it said cheeringly, "Just a little while, old lady, and we'll get you there. Cheer up."

She cheered. No one would have dreamed of the marbled emotion creeping up and down her spinal column. The wind grew more aggressive, the off-horse slipped on the icy street and almost fell. But the goddess remained unmoved. She knew that Wisdom, upheld by man can never fall.



Speaking About Themes.

There was a young co-ed named Mazie,
Who thought that her Prof. must be crazy,
'Cause when she would write
A long theme in one night,
He would say, "Why Miss X, it's a daisy."

When He Wanted It.

RAZZLE.—Aren't you going to dinner?

DAZZLE.—Oh, it's only 1:10. Our dinner won't be ready for half an hour. They're always late.

RAZZLE.—Well, you may wager I wouldn't stand that sort of thing from my landlady. I want my dinner the same day.

THE SPHINX.

Published every Second Saturday during the College Year by Students of the University of Wisconsin.

Entered at the Postoffice at Madison, Wis., as Second-Class Matter, December 22, 1899.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, \$1.50 PER ANNUM. SINGLE COPIES, FIFTEEN CENTS.

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Future appointments to the staff will be made on a basis of contributions received.

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

A NEW feature has been introduced at convocations of late. It is a good deal to expect that a mere faculty can, week after week, get up a show that shall appeal to the taste of a sophomore engineer, cultivated as that taste has been by long experience in the highest theatrical realm—the peanut gallery. So some thoughtful youths have sought to assist the faculty in their difficult task—with what success only those who were present at last Friday's convocation can testify. It is very unfortunate that in this matter of amusements tastes should differ; but such is the fact. It is said that in convocation audiences there are people who would cheerfully inflict bodily injury upon the self-sacrificing young men who shout and whistle and hiss and stamp and do many other excruciatingly funny things. And it is even rumored that some of the faculty do not appreciate the efforts that have been made in their behalf, and that certain persons are apt, if they do not subside into less ardent reformers, even to be thrust forth from this center of learning and culture upon a cold and merciless world. Such deplorable feelings, it is true, ought not to exist, but, if they do, they must be taken into consideration. Now, if THE SPHINX might so far depart from her usual custom as to offer advice to the men who have manifested their high public spirit, she would speak about like this:

Don't try to lift us all up to your own level in a moment. Elevate us gently, for otherwise we may struggle and *perhaps* kick. Let us gradually become accustomed to hearing your refined musical specialties and the patter of your fairy feet. Then, eventually, we may want you to amuse us all the



time—but that consummation is still remotely distant. So bear with us until we have learned better, until our tastes, like yours, have become classical, and until our sphere of appreciation has widened and broadened so that we may grasp the finer excellencies of your varied and ingenious efforts.

* * *

A SHORT time ago, about January 14, Wisconsin authorities received a telegram from officials at the University of Iowa something to this effect: "At what time is it due from us to submit a question for the next Iowa-Wisconsin debate, according to the contract?" The professor of rhetoric and oratory at once advised the Iowa people that he was not aware of any existing contract but that he would investigate the matter at once. This he did. The investigations revealed the fact that no contract for intercollegiate debating with Iowa exists; that preliminary arrangements for a contract were entered into, but that no articles whatever were signed. These articles called for the submission of a question not later than Jan. 7; but the lateness of Iowa's inquiry and her misconception of a contract, is only a little matter of Iowa's forgetfulness, of which we will speak directly.

* * *

Because, really, some of the Iowa people must be very forgetful. This is what makes THE SPHINX think so. Last year you remember we sent a debating team down there and they were beaten, 2 to 1. One of the provisions of the contract under

which they debated was substantially this: "Each side shall submit twelve names from which the jury is to be chosen, each of these men to be of some prominence, and none of whom shall have ever been connected with either institution." Now, two of the judges were from the Iowa list. One of these our men had objected to, because they had reason to fear Iowa's memory in regard to this provision; but when it came time to debate, another of the judges could not be present and this man, whom by the way, the Iowa people had on hand waiting in the hotel, was taken as a last resort. At least no one can charge Iowa with lack of presence of mind. The other juror from the Iowa list was their lieutenant governor. Our men thought surely they would remember enough about his history to know whether or not he had ever been connected with the Iowa University, and so they didn't inquire about it. Imagine the surprise and chagrin which prevailed at the sumptuous feast that followed the debate, when, beaming with joy and satisfaction, this same juror arose and toasted his alma mater, the University of Iowa, and told in glowing periods how delighted he was to have been a member of the same literary society with these three noble young men who had just vanquished the sturdy sons of Wisconsin. It is said that these three noble young men, now that they came to remember about his having been not simply an alumnus of their university, but a member of their very society, were so sorry that they nearly sank under the table.

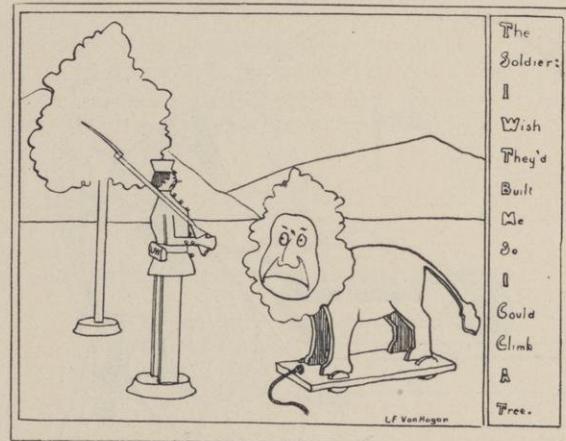
* * *

But the end is not yet. Another agreement of the debate was that the jury was to be uninstructed as to whether to mark on delivery or not. Yet one of our debaters is ready to make affidavit that a member of that jury told him afterward that an Iowa man instructed him to mark half and half on delivery and argument; and that while Wisconsin far excelled in argument, Iowa was ahead in delivery, so he voted for her. The juryman who voted for Wisconsin, a prominent Eau Claire minister, says that Iowa was simply outclassed. Other unprejudiced observers say that she came up with scarcely any argument at all and that she contradicted that in her debate.

* * *

And now Iowa wants to debate. But THE SPHINX doesn't think she is the sort Wisconsin ought to debate with. She believes we would better wait until Iowa's memory is better. There somehow seems to be a streak of—of—forgetfulness in the corn state university people that would best have time to wear itself out. You remember how last fall they forgot about not wanting a post-season game with Wisconsin, and in a week or two they jumped at the chance of a December game with California. This, however, is out of the province of this article, though while THE SPHINX is upon it she would say that she wishes we might play Iowa next year. But as to

debating,—not yet. Our debating authorities are preparing to give Iowa a chance to explain these apparent lapses from the proper university spirit. This is well and good. But while feeling is at its present state, no debating contest could be entered upon with profit to either school.



They say that a certain loyal Athenæan made a brilliant stab in Constitutional Law the other day; in fact, he drew blood. Ask a certain other loyal Athenæan.

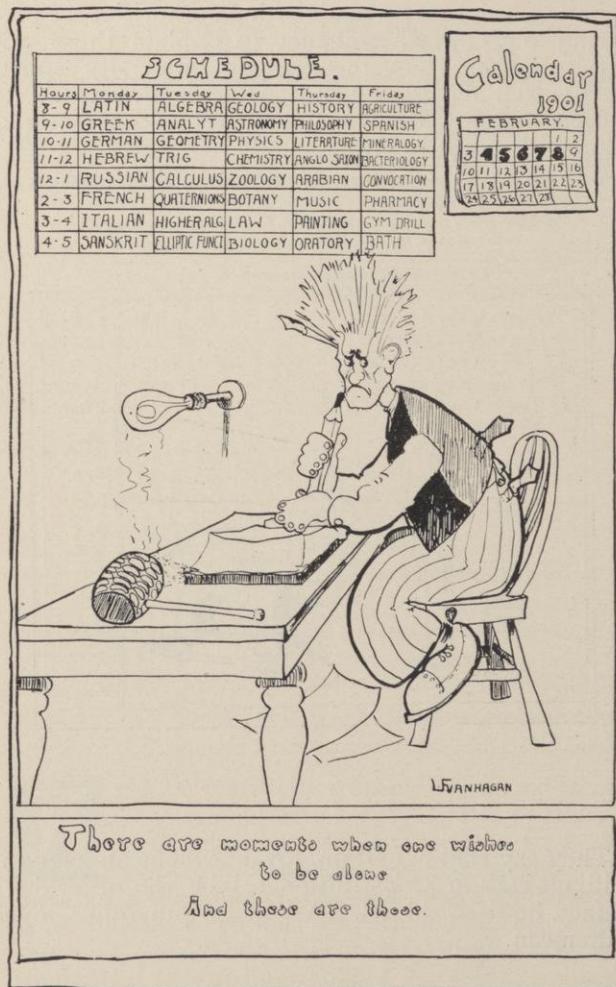
Then and Now.

The little maid was sobbing loud,
Some harsh words she had spoken;
For Tom, her pet, her playmate dear,
Her newest doll had broken.
"You needn't come and play with me,
You cannot mend my dollie;
You are a great, big, awkward boy,
You never learn through folly."

"Don't cry, dear heart, I did not mean
To break your little dollie,
But I'll get you another one,
Now won't that be real jolly?"

The maiden sweet was sobbing soft,
Long farewells must be spoken;
For Tom, her pet, was off to war,
Her little heart was broken.
"You'll come safe home again to us,
And bring me back some token."
How could he see, the great blunt man,
That her dear heart was broken?

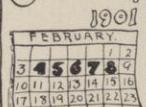
"Farewell, dear friend, I'll think of you,
And send you back some token."
A sobbing child he could appease,
But not a heart that's broken.



SCHEDULE.

Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8-9	LATIN	ALGEBRA	GEOLOGY	HISTORY	AGRICULTURE
9-10	GREEK	ANALYTIC	ASTRONOMY	PHILOSOPHY	SPANISH
10-11	GERMAN	GEOMETRY	PHYSICS	LITERATURE	MINERALOGY
11-12	HEBREW	TRIG	CHEMISTRY	ANGLO-GERMAN	BACTERIOLOGY
12-1	RUSSIAN	CALCULUS	ZOOLOGY	ARABIAN	CONVERSATION
2-3	FRENCH	QUATERNIONS	BOTANY	MUSIC	PHARMACY
3-4	ITALIAN	HIGHER ALG.	LAW	PAINTING	GYM DRILL
4-5	SANSKRIT	ELLIPTIC FUNC.	BIOLOGY	ORATORY	BATH

Calendry



gram before you go. No, I don't think any of the fellows had theirs made out three months ago.

9. That depends on how good a dancer she is. Keep anywhere from three to seventeen. Be sure to have one supper dance with her.

10. Flowers? Yes, if some of your folks are florists.

11. No, the best way to do about the carriage is to wait until two weeks before the Prom, and then you'll be able to tell her that you can't get one earlier than 10:30, nor later than 6:45, and that she can take her choice.

12. Yes, sure you will want white gloves.

13. Oh, yes, it's a picnic. You'll have a grand time. Anyhow I know we all said we did.

14. Yes, they say they're going to have some supper this year.

15. Yes, you better go.

Very truly yours,

YESSIVE BINTHAIR.

Rube Thoughts.

"Reuben, Reuben, I've been thinkin'
What's the matter with our Tom,
He's mixed up in something crazy
Which he calls a junior prom."

"Cynthia, Cynthia, don't you worry
'Bout our Tommy and his ways,
He's a churnin' in the dairy,
Makin' butter all his days."

"Reuben, Reuben, I'm a fearin'
He'll be spiled when he gets back.
We'll write down to good Dean Henry,
P'raps he'll sort o' watch his track."

"Cynthia, Cynthia, since you're anxious,
I myself will go and see.
If that prom is hurtin' Tommy,
He'll come home along o' me."

MADISON, Wis., Jan. 21, 1901.

DEAR MRS. SPHINX:

Of late I have been worried a good deal by having to answer various questions relative to the Prom., and if you will be so kind, I wish you would publish the following list of answers. I shall henceforth send all inquirers to you. This may increase both your circulation, and my peace of mind:

1. Yes, I went last year.
2. No, it didn't cost me much, but it came pretty hard on father.
3. Estimate your expenses at about \$10.00 and multiply by ten.
4. Yes, you should wear a dress suit or else be an usher.
5. Oh, yes, other people besides Juniors can go.
6. No, it won't cost so much to stag it.
7. Well, you should get your girl within the next two weeks anyway.
8. Yes, you ought to start making out your pro-

Copy.

It really wasn't fair, but when I turned around I looked into the muzzle of a revolver held in the hand of a resolute managing editor. He said he wanted copy. I didn't contradict him. He looked as though he wanted lots of it. He said that I was going to give him some copy. Again I didn't contradict him. He looked as though I were going to give him lots of it. He seemed as well loadad as his revolver, for when I gasped, "I haven't anything to write on," he serenely handed out a pad of paper and a pencil. "I mean to write about," I said. "Oh, about a page," was his calm reply. "No subject," I exclaimed, "is what I mean." "Take the King of England." "But," I expostulated, "the King's no subject." I had counted on that laying him out, but it didn't seem to "phaze" him, so I sat down and began trying to grind out copy and the above is what I produced. Doesn't it sound like it?

The poet drew a long breath, and a pen from back of his ear and wrote one "on"

The Survival of the Fittest.

A monkey peeps into a tank,
Shudders and grows pale;
He sees his face reflected there,
And thereby hangs the tale.

When next he strikes dry land again,
For home he takes a sail;
He climbs up to the line to dry,
And hangs there by the tale.



About Art.

The late exhibit of Italian Art was very fine. That is what everybody said, and they ought to know. To loiter about the rooms and note the well-feigned interest and appreciation on the visitors' faces, was in itself a rare pleasure. As one caught a half-suppressed burst of enthusiasm from some self-conscious dilettante, one marvelled at the greatness of Art. Art in itself is great, but the Art of successfully imitat-

ing an appreciation of Art is greater still. The ability to enter a room hung about with wonderful things which one knows nothing at all about, placcarded with queer-looking names which one would not hesitate to mispronounce, and to make even the casual observer believe that here one finds real pleasure, this is Art indeed.

As long as there are persons who can do this, Art cannot be said to have declined. The Old Masters must admit that there are others.

Darwin himself, after a moment's observation of the average visitor at an exhibit, would triumphantly reiterate that cocoa-nuts were once the chief food of the race. Man is still enough of a monkey to be insincere, too much of an Artist to show it.

He Must Have Been an Awfully Bad Boy.

Johnny is a little hummer;
Where he went to spend the summer,
When they saw him folks would run,
'Cause he'd shoot 'em just for fun.

A Suggestion.

Six o'clock had struck. Lights burned here and there about the campus buildings. State street lay long and half-lighted toward the capitol. Gaunt trees stood clear against the lingering winter sunset. A snowbird chirped. A house-dog barked.

Against the brassy silver sky a man was silhouetted. He stood at the top of the hill, a pick in one hand, a dinner pail in the other. His face was heavy; his hands knew work.

His was not an attitude of reverie nor of the dreaming that golden sunsets bring and distant changing lights and cold damp smell of winter earth. He was a man who saw little of what his eyes were upon. A man who felt the lights and the tints and the cool fresh earth but did not know it. He was one who saw the buildings, more imposing and gloomily huge in their half lights and only guessed at what they meant.

Only half guessed. He was a laborer and he realized to-night that there was another side of life. Another way of wielding a pick than the one he had chosen. He wondered how it happened to be so far from him. If it had not been, what?

He was not used to twilight dreaming. Work in the frozen ground was hard and there was a small home, a warm supper and a warmer welcome not far away. He shouldered his pick and whistled as he went down the hill. As the last narrow stretch of sunlight fell under the west he was whistling, "The Campbells are Coming," far down the hill.

His half dream was forgotten.



That Little Brother.

JHONNY—Mr. Cholly, what is mist?
 CHOLLY—Mist is an invisible formation of the atmosphere.
 JOHNNY—Do men ever turn into mist?
 CHOLLY—Certainly not. Why do you ask?
 JOHNNY—Sister said you would never be missed, and I wondered what she meant.

Apropo-etry.

Why should I care if with nature inhuman some little instructor should give me a con?
 Will not the parties and hops military wholly regardless of him still go on?
 What are we here for, if not to make merry? Why are we here if we're not to be glad?
 Shall I, because he may think it his duty, permit him to make my life gloomy and sad?

Never! No, never! So long as the bounty of parents at home will support us in state,
 Never, so long as "the governor" faileth to send a committee to investigate.
 Ne'er will I worry o'er con or o'er failure, never a thought will I have but of fun;
 Failures don't scare me and cons bring no terror unless my fond parent shuts down on the "mon."



DEAN BRYANT (in Senior Law class).—Mr. H——, have you read the story of Brown and Smith?

MR. H——.—No, sir.

DEAN (to the class).—Has anyone read it? (Chorus of "No.") Well, gentlemen, you will find it in today's assignment of the text.

The Boarding-house Menu of Periodicals.

The Youth's Companion.....	Milk.
The Smart Set.....	Pepper and Vinegar.
Blackwood's.....	Tea.
The Review of Reviews.....	Hash.
Lend a Hand.....	Beefsteak.
The 19th Century.....	Butter.
Irish Monthly	Potato Salad.
The Critical Review	Sausage.
The Strand.....	Sugar.
Once a Week	Chicken.
The Fortnightly.....	Ice Cream.
Once in a While.....	Fruit.
The New Review.....	Mince Pie.
Truth	The Bill.

There was a young lady from Janesville,
 Who said to her lover, "Alas, Will,
 You come every night,
 And talk such a sight,
 That people will call you my *Gas Bill*."

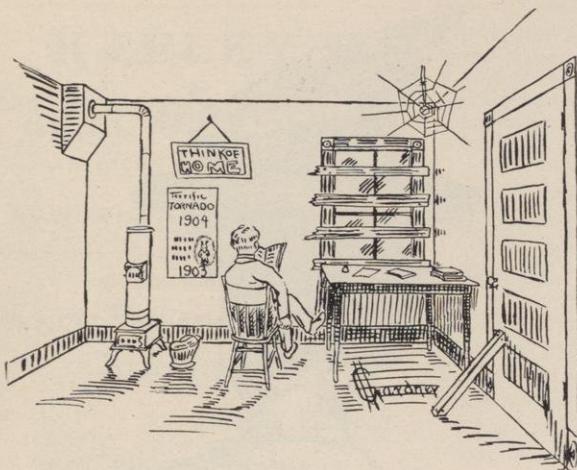
The Scholiast.

I wish I were a Scholiast
 To note the classics of the past,
 To see that they are rightly classed—
 I wish I were a Scholiast.
 I'd put my name upon the page
 With writers of an elder age;
 I wish I were a Scholiast
 To note the classics of the past.

PROFESSOR REINSCH (in Elementary Law).—Mr. W——, define circumstantial evidence.

MR. W—— (after two attempts).—When the witness is not sure.

PROFESSOR REINSCH.—Are you trying to give an example?



Ain't it foxy of a Prof.

Just to get you down to biz,
To have you bring a bluebook,
And then not give a quiz?

Department of Etiquette.

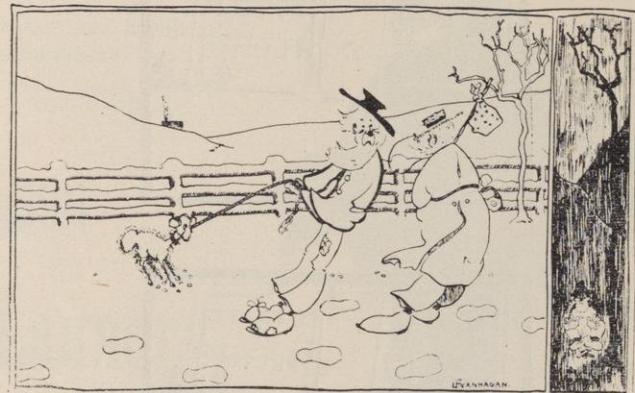
STARR BOARDER—We are surprised that a person of your apparent culture should ask us such foolish questions. You should never open biscuits with your knife. In most cases use a crowbar but in extreme cases a crowbar and a few pounds of dynamite will do the business. The very simple process is as follows: bore a good-sized hole in the rock just below the top strata, grease the sides with axle-grease (sometimes called butter), insert three or four sticks of dynamite, plug up the hole with adamant cement and retire for the night. After three days, during which the dynamite will have had time to soak in, take the biscuit or piece de resistance out to the lake and sink it to the bottom of the pond. Do not put any weight on it as it will sink of its own accord if it is anything like the articles we get at our ranch. The soaking will soften the outer layer and simplify future operations. Allow it to remain in the water about ten days. At the end of this time take it from the water and place it in a hot oven to cool. In a short time it will be ready for you to eat if you have withstood the shock and are still alive.

REGGIE—It is a mooted question whether you can play better golf in yellow trousers or if your efforts will be better rewarded if you affect pantaloons of sky-blue pink. However we are inclined to think that with the yellow ones you will attract the most attention. Look well also to the choice of a perfume. That made by either G. A. R. Lick & Co. or Limbergher & Son will send the ball farthest. You will surely win your match with Colonel Bogie if you have your clubs studded with diamonds. The heads should of course be gold-plated. Naturally, wear link cuffs on the links. Any old fool could have

told you that. Next time give us something easy. A suitable costume for the game is a coat of red paint—pants of a Scotch collie. For headgear wear a pale green percussion cap with a purple tassel. If you must wear a cigarette, wear the "Fool Killer" brand, as it is the most appropriate for you.

EPISCOPALIAN—It is a little early but we do not mind if we do answer the question that you asked us. We consider it perfectly proper to give amateur theatricals during Lent. They do not come under the head of amusements, and hence are not forbidden by your church. Come again, dear.

WILLIE BOIE—Always let the lady sit down first unless there is but one chair. In that case always sit down first and then ask the lady to sit down. We once had a little five-year old cousin from Boston visiting us. Going down town one day we had to hold him on our lap as the car was full. At Lake street a nice looking young lady got in and not seeing an empty seat took hold of a strap and had just resigned herself to a half hour of standing when our Boston cousin jumped down from our lap and, taking off his cap, said with a bow, "Madam, will you not accept the seat which I have just vacated?" Never mind what "Madam" said or did, or the colors that she turned. Now, Willie, can't you work this scheme with good success?



FIRST COLLEGE GRAD.—What yer' doin' Bill?

SECOND COLLEGE GRAD.—Just tryin' an experiment. Seein' if the Lord 'll temper this north wind a little.

In days of old
When knights were bold,
And barons held their sway,
Boys got together
And swore at the weather,
Just as they do today.

Jes' Before the Circus Day.

My daddy says I am a scamp
 My mother says I'm worse,
 Grandma says I'd kill a saint
 And ruin a banker's purse
 I know I'm 'bout as bad a boy
 As you will ever see,
 But jes' before the circus day
 I'm as good as I can be.

My father says his head is gray,
 And that his years are spent,
 Because of all the harm I've done,
 And mischief caused and trouble sent.
 My mother says she's lost her looks
 And all account of me,
 But jes' before the circus day,
 I'm as good as I can be.

I know I am a wicked lad,
 And make a lot of noise,
 But grandpapa he takes my part,
 And says "Boys will be boys."
 He always comes and tells me first,
 When the posters he does see,
 So jes' before the circus day,
 I'm as good as I can be.

And mother then smiles on me nice
 And father pats my head,
 And doesn't whip me near so much
 Or send me off to bed.
 But I can go and talk to him
 And sit upon his knee,
 And jes' before the circus day,
 They're awfully good to me.

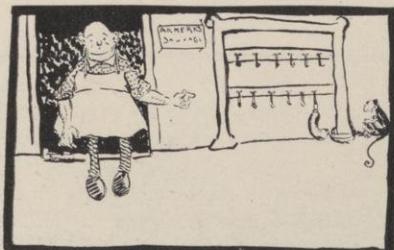


Co-education With the Education Left Out.

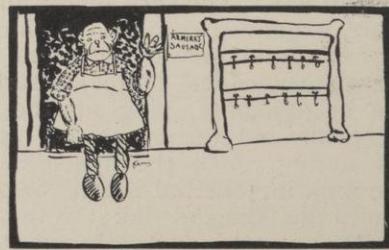
Girl in the big Lib. reading book;
 No one near her — lovely nook.

Man comes along seeking knowledge,
 Must get through the blasted college.

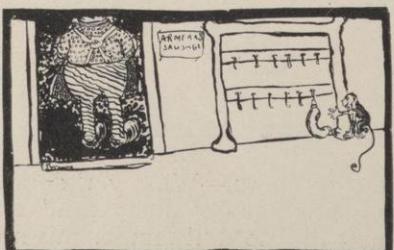
Girl in big Lib.— no more book;
 Man now near her — cozy nook.



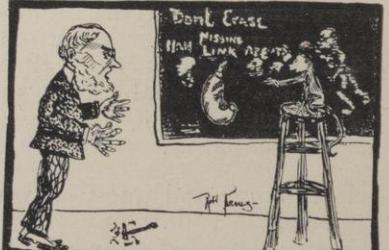
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3



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4

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Where can we get our Lunches?
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AT KEELEY'S
Where can we get Delicious Ice Cream Soda
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"Pa," she called up stairs, "this
hall clock is not going."

"How about the young man?"
yelled pa.

"My friend," said the sober-
looking individual, "do you know
I have not spent a dollar for liquor
in 20 years."

"Gee whiz!" said the friend,
"how do you work it?"

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Literary

For the most suitable contribution, either prose or poetry, not exceeding 800 words, a set of Dickens' works, comprising fifteen volumes and valued at fifteen dollars, will be given.

For the next most suitable contribution, a pair of ladies' or gentlemen's four dollar skates, Barney & Berry make, size and kind to be determined by the winner.

For the best set of four joshes or jokes, a stick pin valued at three dollars.

Art

For the best drawing or series of drawings, a set of volumes of Hudson's Shakespeare, valued at nine dollars, will be given.

For the next best drawing or series of drawings, a pair of ladies' or gentlemen's four dollar skates, Barney & Berry make, size and kind to be determined by the winner.

For the best full page cartoon a stick pin valued at three dollars.

The books and stick pins are on exhibition at the College Book Store.

These books have been kindly donated by the College Book Store.

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That a man with a gig
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But a man who would now
Win the parvenu's bow
Must belong to the automobile.
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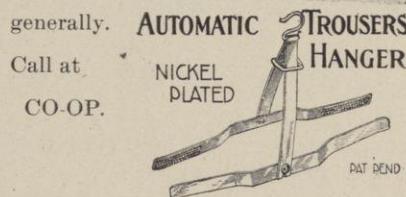
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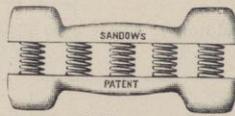
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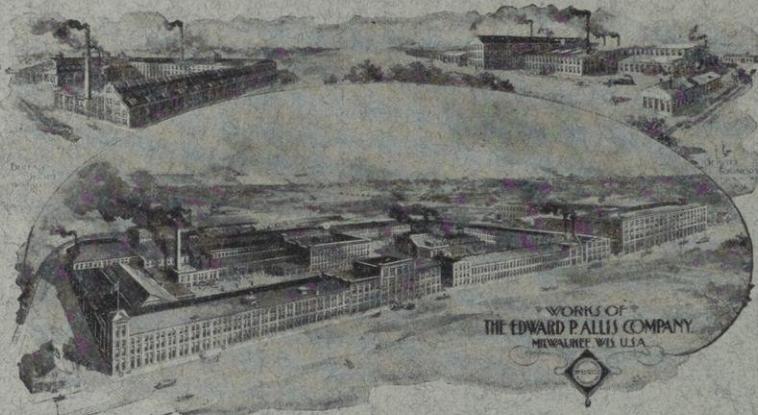
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