

## **The Sphinx. Vol. 8, No. 6 December 18, 1906**

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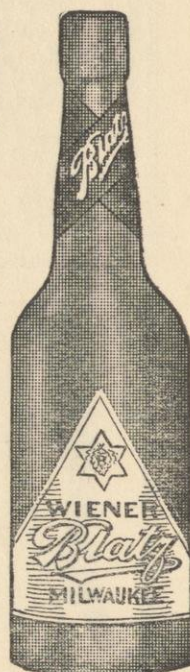
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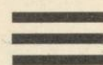
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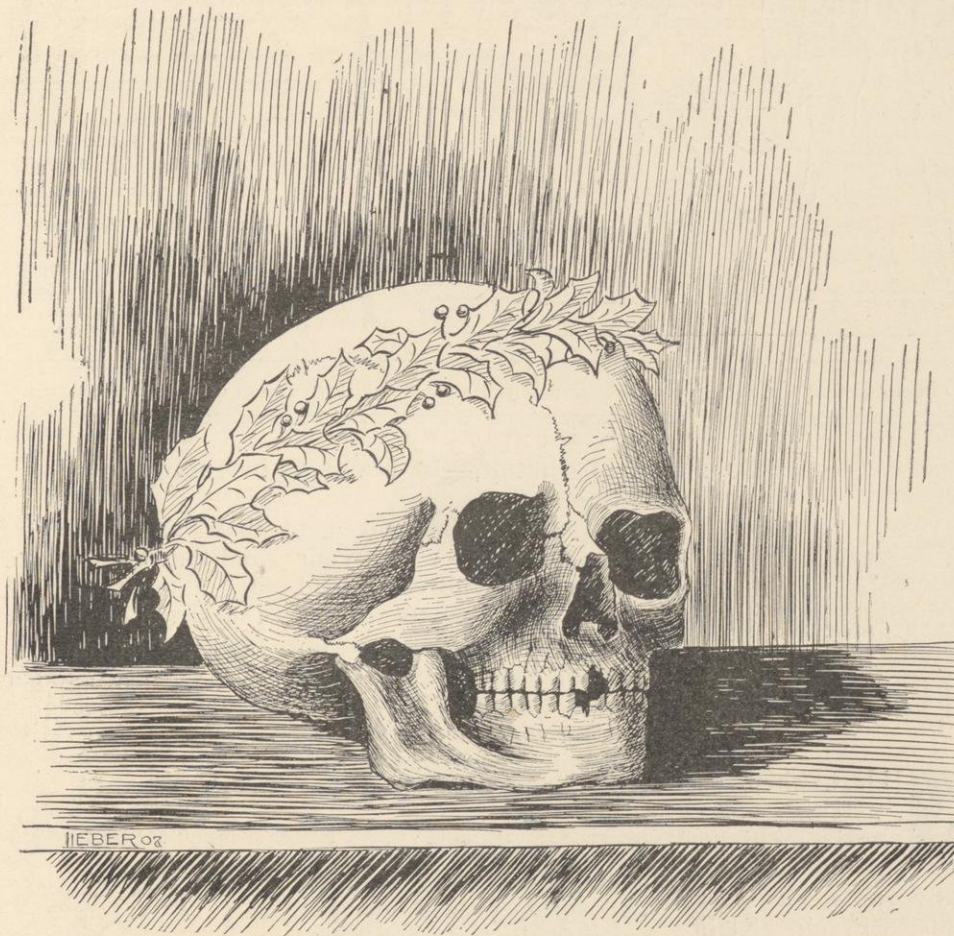
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# The Sphinx

Naramore & Co.



## What Cheer

I am ye Skull, ye cheerful Skull,  
I sit upon my mantel-piece  
And watch ye pleasant years slyde by—  
So I shall do till tyme shall cease.

My Boss was aye a jovial guy,  
Full oft we two have celebrayted—  
He's quit me now, but why should I  
Cutte all that out, when he vacated?

'Tis Christmas, and I celebrayte  
With this becoming wreath of hollie—  
Ye think that inappropriate?  
Go to, my son, thou'rt off thy trollie.

You'll pass Saint Peter, like my Boss,  
If you let out your hearts and belts;  
Ye knocker and ye tight, old hoss  
Are sure to end up Somewhere Else.





## 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

### To knock is human,—to boost is divine.



“**W**HEN shepherds patched their socks by night,” as the hymnal poetically puts it, those aboriginal Frank Kleinheinzs were in their pastoral way, unconsciously establishing the precedent for the Christmas peace-on-earth, good-will-toward-men-women-and-children attitude that has come down even unto the festival under present consideration. From that date on, Christmas has always been the time to loosen up your heart-strings and purse-strings, and uncork the milk of human kindness. It is the time to unbend and be a

youngster again, and get down on the floor with your Smallest Kid Brother, and show him how to run his new red and green steam engine, and burn your thumb. Above all, though, Christmas is the time to forgive your enemies and forget your profs and bury your books. Be at peace, and let the spirit of charity slop over. Feel satisfied with the world, even if you got yours in the last pre-Christmas unchristian quiz.

THE SPHINX, in her capacity of divinely-appointed guardian-of-university-morals-if-such-therebe, considers it her duty to set a shining example, and show her readers where to get off at, in the matter of Christmas good will. In other words, she proposes to lay aside the official hammer for one issue and rest her knocking arm. *Nix the knocks.* She realizes

that this is unprecedented, and that her delicate spiritual nature may not stand the strain of eschewing her favorite pastime, throughout twelve whole pages, but anyway, she is going to do her little best.



Whereupon, we will immediately proceed to knock some; but we are going to knock the knockers, and two negatives make an affirmative, so we feel perfectly consistent.

We have a habit here at Wisconsin, of jumping hobnailed onto every new proposition. Originality is decried as Smart Aleckism; the man with a new idea is received with the cold eye



of pessimistic scorn. When anyone appears actively in support of a new enterprise, we do not stop to weigh the merits of the question. Instead, we say in our hearts, "Huh! That lobster isn't going to run things at this University;" and we go out and paste him in the slats, metaphorically speaking.

The principle is bad, and the effect is worse. The immortal Pete Schram once said: "There are no quitters at Wisconsin; the trouble with us is, there are no *starters*." Obviously there will be none or few, so long as starting at Wisconsin is such a herculean job.

When it comes to knocking, THE SPHINX claims the Wisconsin heavy-weight championship outside of this particular issue, but she never has lambasted a new proposition merely because it was a stranger and had no friends. Before knocking, she cogitates. She would be much touched if the rest of the University would follow her gentle example. Let's think first and knock afterwards, if necessary, instead of vice versa.



Why is the Student Conference? Most of us don't know.

A while ago some worthy elements of the committee got hectic over its representation. The great heart of the University gave an interested flutter, and the student body broke for an instant into the customary Anvil Chorus, op. 23. As usual, the Stude Body knocked on general principles, without knowing what it was knocking.

THE SPHINX has recently found out what the St. Con. is for. She considers it a good stunt to spread her inside information.

The Conference is the official telephone between students and faculty. Every division of the student body, that is sufficiently organized to have an opinion, is supposedly represented, and the summation of the series

equals Stoodent Sentiment.

Obviously, there is need of such a spokesman-committee. Individually, we meet the faculty chiefly on a basis of hostility, over a blue-book. The ideal relation of student and prof is one of frankness and cordiality; the ideal relation unfortunately is the exception. Hence there is misunderstanding, and the ultimate result is rough-house.

The Conference Committee is designed to bridge this gap. That it does not do so entirely is mostly blamable to lack of student interest, which in turn is due to lack of information. We elect our representative, and forget him. He attends the committee, and sits in shy silence; which is what makes its sessions so much like Quaker prayer meetings. It is up to each represented bunch to see that its sentiment actually reaches the Conference. Otherwise, the Conference is about as effective as a stuttering man in a boiler factory.



**W**E take pleasure in announcing the election to THE SPHINX staff, of Hilbert C. Wallber, Engr. '08, of Milwaukee, whose art work has been embellishing our chaste pages.



**W**HICH reminds us to hold another Ruth Ashmore talk with our contributors. We are always hungry for more material than we get. Anything good in the humorous line goes, and anyone who shows an ability to hand us good stuff with reasonable persistence can be sure of a place on the staff.

THE SPHINX is the one, only, and original independent student publication at Wisconsin. The staff is as free and untrammelled as the Farmer's Home lunch. We have no board of directors, or censor, or sense of reverence. We are governed only by our own gutta-percha consciences. THE SPHINX board are the only bunch in college who can address themselves direct to the Public, without let or hindrance from anybody whatsoever, so long as they keep within the limits of propriety. Therefore, making the board should be the largest sized literary stunt a man can do, here.

THE SPHINX elects new members at any old time, just as soon as their work justifies it. We are sure that our eloquent presentation of the matter above, will make our present contributors keep up the good work, and some more get busy.



## Suggestions for Seasonable Souvenirs

### FOR YOUR CHUMS.

Try to make your gifts acceptable, at the same time be economical. Resort to your chafing dish. Take one quart of milk, one cake of Fakir's sweet chocolate, and butter the size of a chestnut. Stir violently, but without losing your temper. Put over a hot fire and boil thirty minutes. Conceal in candy boxes and garnish with ribbons. Very durable Xmas gifts.

### FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL SISTER.

Gwendolynne is only a high school junior as yet, but she should be provided for—particularly if she intends to sometime enter the varsity. A tool chest for her dresser is perhaps her most crying need at present. Get a candy box at Keeley's; study human nature (the weak side), and proceed to fill it. Propriety forbids a discussion of the contents, which are a dark secret and known to everyone.

### FOR FATHER.

Chromos were popular Xmas gifts in the seventies. Why not delight *pater noster* by a reminiscence of his courting days? There is nothing like originality in gifts. Take a large piece of tea sacking. Mark out a pleasing motto in drawing ink with your little finger. Make perforations with a hat pin or an engineer's drawing compass. Weave cardinal baby ribbon through the perforations and your chromo is completed. Sentimental mottos will occur to you at once. How would this look to father: "I Think of Thee on the Twenty-ninth."

### FOR THE PROFESSOR WHO GIVES A PRE-HOLIDAY EXAM.

Take a large and mellow cabbage. We believe that there is an unwritten law against throwing bouquets at the faculty, but the provocation justifies the infraction. Await the offending member at the foot of Langdon street with a clear field. As he descends Science Hall steps grasp the fruit firmly by the stump and "hurl with a sweeping motion." We have borrowed this last phrase from "How to Use the Fire Extinguisher." It should also prove helpful in manipulating our Quiz Fiend Exterminator.

### FOR THE CHADBOURNE HALL GIRL.

Get a large dry goods box from behind Sol Levitan's. Have it re-enforced with iron bands at a local blacksmith shop. Cover the whole with cardinal cambric and design some aquatic scene in needlework for the cover—"Jonah and the Whale," "A Madison Cross-Walk," or some other view with a watery perspective. Provide for your invention a Yale lock with a Japanese combination. When finished present it to your friend from Chadbourne. It will furnish a safe and convenient repository for her rubbers.

### FOR BABY BROTHER.

Ask a School of Commerce man to draw a hippopotamus. The result will be a satisfactory pattern for a pig (barnyard variety). Lay the pattern on folded cloth and cut out two depths. Superimpose one cloth model upon the other and sew around the edges. Next turn the finished production inside out. This is a dressmaker's ruse, calculated to hide the rough stitches. Stuff the pig with sawdust. If this filling is not obtainable—use Force. ("Force ye always have with ye"—Boarding House Annals, '96.) With Le Page's glue a few temporary artistic touches may be annexed to the pig—two cranberries for eyes, two bits of cloth for ears and a cigarette stub for a tail.

—Mu.

### Cutting

"Now freshman—don't forget to sharpen that pencil of mine."

"Yes, I'll make a point of it."

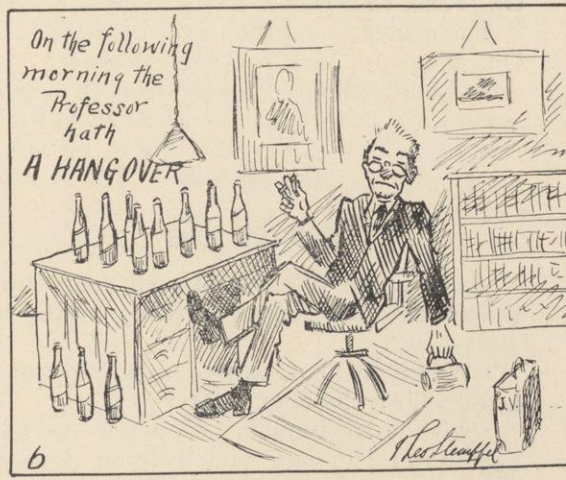
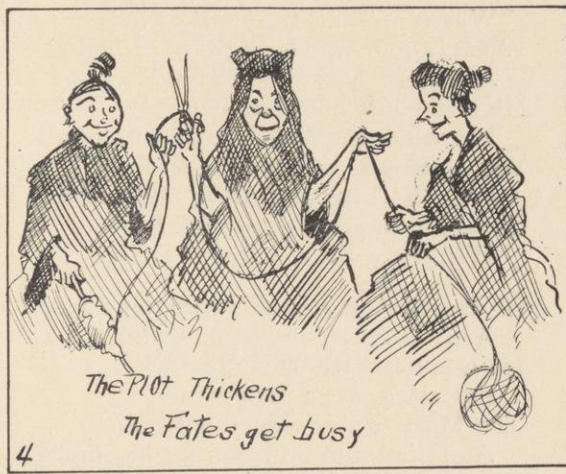
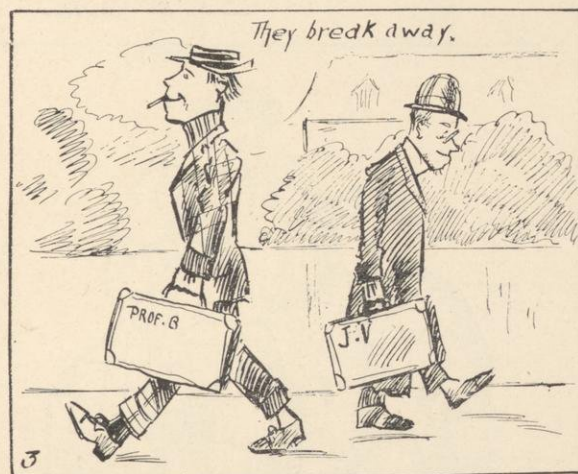
### Laboratory Note

"Come home, Bill. It's dinner time."

"How d'you know? Gotcher watch on?"

"Naw. I've got inside information."





## THE SUIT CASE CASE

Suggestion for a class play with a temperance motif.



## A Christmas Revery

INDUCED BY NICKOTINE.



As stated in a recent issue, D. C. Nicholson, former editor of THE SPHINX, has gone to Chicago to study art. (See cut.)

Beneath the city's garish light  
Where millions tramp the cindery snow,  
Where *is* our wandering boy to-night?  
Alack, by heck, we do not know.  
He is not lost but gone before,  
Yet when the Yule-fire dies to blue  
We weep into our cuspidor.  
For, ah, THE SPHINX is like a new  
One-Minute plate so cold and thick  
Without a Nick, without a Nick.

He charmed us with his winning ways,  
Artistic touch and artless smile,  
He was not with us many days,  
For after just a little while  
The Muse of Art eloped with Nick  
And bore him off from out our midst.  
Oh, Fate, that was a rooky trick,  
The meanest one thou ever didst.  
Oh, long-lost Nick, we need thee so,  
Why didst thou go, why didst thou go?  
—The Remnants.

x x x

## Same as Ever

As Rip van Winkle tottered sadly from the mountain he met a newsboy crying his wares.

"Well, my lad, what hath happed of late?" quoth the aged hunter.

"Aw, nuttin' much. Dey put de foist boat t'roo Panama, and Lillyan Russel's quit de stage, and Bob Fitzsimmons says he gives up all hopes of de champeenship."

"Shades of Peter Stuyvesant!" gasped the old man, clutching a lamp post. "But what's that in the big head lines?"

"Dat? Oh, dat's President Roosevelt saying he won't be a candidate in 1908."

Somewhat reassured and noticing that Patti was billed for another farewell tour the old gentleman chirked up considerably.

## The Black Man's Appeal

I.

De days am getting colder,  
An' the air am getting keen,  
De wind am getting bolder,  
An' a nigger's getting lean.

II.

It's hard work in de winter,  
Wid de hen-coop closed up tight;  
It really am a sin ter  
Keep de pad-lock on at night.

III.

Foah de culled man, I ax yuh,  
I make dis one appeal,  
Doan make de task too hard, sah,  
Foah a culled man ter steal.

—A. B. Shuster.



## Illustrated Emotions—I

"She poured her sorrow into his ear."

There are not enough boarding houses in the agric quarter to accommodate the bumper crop of short course students. In other words, the land-ladies are on the short horns of a dilemma.

x x x

## Gosh

Hiram met a bunco lady,  
Lost his wad and watch and cady,  
For he found her just too sweet—  
Sort of kind of sugar-beat.



# Song of the Season



Autumn is gone, and winter is here.  
(Haven't you noticed it? Now you know.)

Now is the time of the Christmas cheer,  
Us for a poem on beautiful snow,  
Cold drafts wheel in the welkin clear,  
Nipping your fingers and eke your ear,  
Making you want to hike inside  
And slam the register open wide.

Ma writes down from the old home farm,

Asks "if your underwear's nice and warm;

Don't overstudy." (Why this alarm?)

Now, pretty girls get prettier still.  
(Haven't you noticed it? Well, it's so.)

Look at a bunch as they climb the Hill;  
Radiant, keen, with cheeks aglow.

Gone is the girl in the peek-a-boo,  
But the girl with a fur (like Her) will do.

Now is the time of the indoor-meet;

For a dim-lit cozy corner seat

By a dying fire in The Place to Fuss,

Or so it has always appeared to us

(But this is a matter we can't discuss.)

Now is the time for the genial glass.

(Haven't you noticed it? Have you? Oh!)

In through the swinging doors you pass;

Bottles of sunshine, all a-row

Offer their glow to the inner man.

Or if plebian, you rush the can.

But heed! Don't bring any package back  
For the morning snow shows your sinu-  
ous track:

If you start for home when the hang-  
outs close

And the snow-flakes steam when they  
hit your nose,

You're overloaded. (The author knows.)

Now is the time that we up and hike  
(What time train do you think you'll go?)

Back to your natal burg you strike—

Two free weeks and a wad to blow.

Jar the yaps with your erudition,

Show you're a red hot proposition;

Dazzle the eyes of the high school queens

With a six-crease coat and some windy jeans.

Splurge while you've got your chance,  
my son,

Holiday days will soon be done

(We shall splurge like a son-of-a-gun.)

—Juge.

## Close calls

Extract from a nautical novel: "He struggled manfully forward; but now the strain was beginning to tell on him."

This is curious. It is the girl's kid brother that usually tells on us.

## Busted Again

An Xmas present for paw and maw,

And for every one else I own,

But the best that I

For myself can buy

Is a round trip ticket home.





### Delirium Amoris

I'd like to be the tassel  
 On my lady's stocking cap,  
 So that I could hang around her, *immerhin*.  
 I'd like to be her boa,  
 Round her neck to softly wrap,  
 And tickle underneath her little chin.  
 My arm could be the boa—at a pinch—  
 (Gee, but this is mushy verse that I'm in-  
 flicting)  
 And if it could be the bo-  
 a, I absolutely know  
 That there sure would be some strenuous  
 constricting.

x x x

"Ha!" said the college athlete, as he  
 knocked the graphophone off the hall table,  
 "here's where I smash a record."

### The Diamontdingel Singing Club

Mr. Bloweminski—Ve vill now sing!  
 Efrybody to once—begin! Rachel, play  
 loud by der biano on, budt be careful of der  
 keys!

Mr. Liverwurst—Wait yet! What was it  
 the tune?

Mr. B.—I haf not looked, budt der man  
 sold it to me cheap.

Rachel—It was *Silver Heels*.

Mr. L.—Ach, bum! Der silver vas all  
 right, but, Mein Himmel, how could she  
 make it show unless she stoot by her head  
 on? Why don't she wear rubber heels unt  
 trade der silver for a diamont?

Mr. Fireheimer—Talking of diamonts re-  
 minds me—don't you like der looks of a  
 baseball field?

Mr. Coughupski (waking)—Talking of  
 heaven—idt must be stylish mit der streets  
 paved mit gold and der houses built mit  
 gold bricks—

Mr. L.—Dat's not nottings. My house  
 was also built by gold bricks.

Mr. F. makes himself heard—Yes, this  
 Christmas is one great institution! I haf  
 got a cheap fire policy by my old house on,  
 and I only got to pudt der Christmas tree  
 by der lace curtain, and she sizzle!

Mr. Bloweminski—Gentlemen! We was  
 here to sing und nodt to conversation. I  
 haf paid for this music und we can't waste  
 it. Come! We will have Sol Solomon's  
 solo.

Sol—Wait again, Rachel. That was too  
 high, und I don't like nothings high, as  
 princible. Blay low, like football. Make  
 it der key of H.

Rachel—There ain't no key of H.

Mr. Monkensheiner—Vell, ain't dere  
 blenty of I keys?

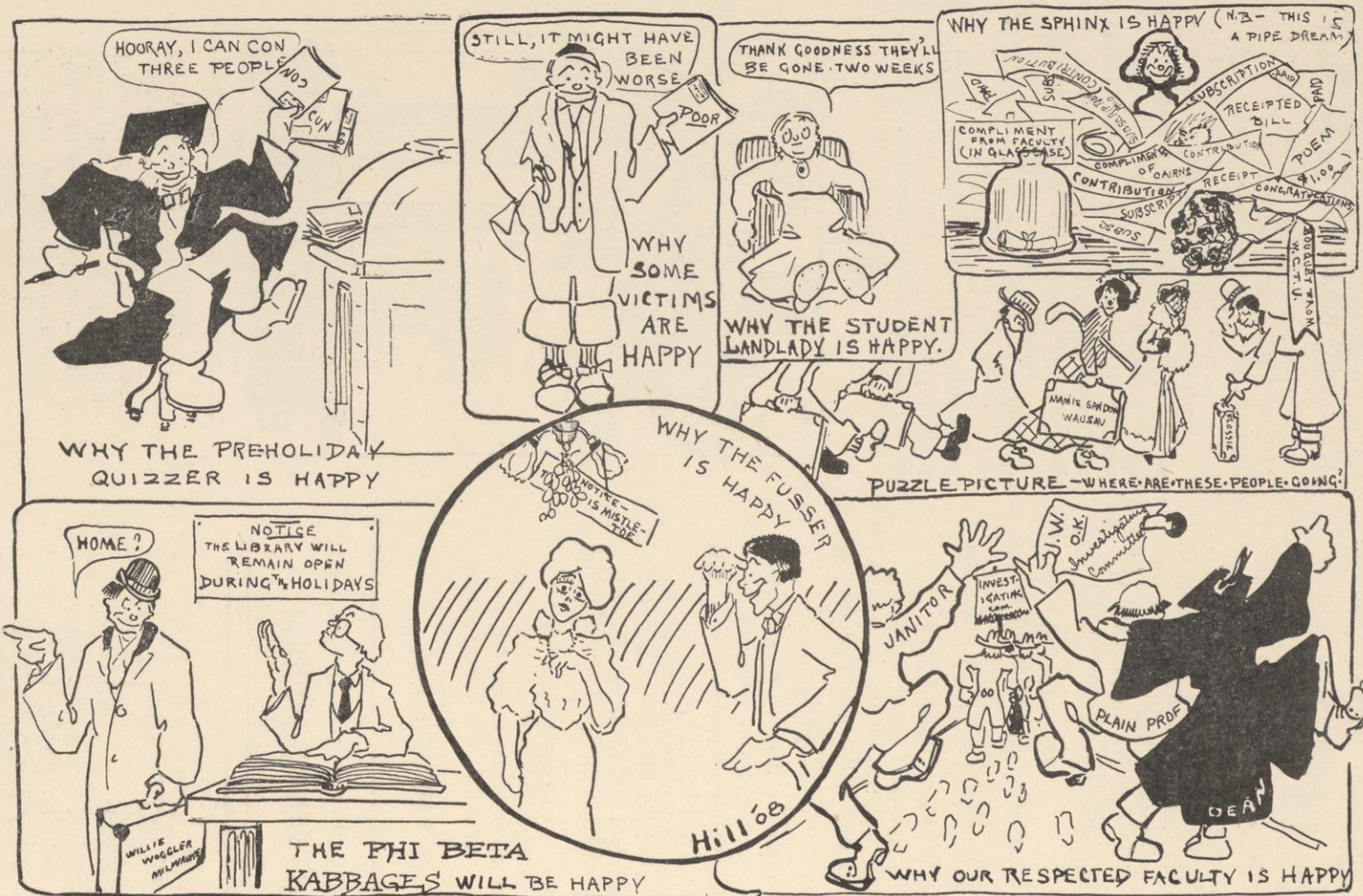
Mr. B. (sarcastically)—You, Monk,  
 make no more of such funny cracks or you  
 pring down der house, und there ain't no  
 insurance. Now, all attend. When I  
 pound on der piano, begin togedder und  
 keep going all at both the once. Coughup-  
 ski, unfasten your collar or maybe you bust  
 der head off der button. Now—open your  
 mouth wide, Rebecca, und show der gold  
 fillings. NOW—ein, zwei, drei, BEGIN.

x x x

"These sophomores are a high-grade  
 bunch, aren't they?"

"Naw. They're only second-class."







### Provocation

Sing a song of History,  
Prof. two minutes late;  
Four and twenty students glad,  
Make up their minds to "skate;"  
When they leave the class-room,  
They meet him on the stair;  
Isn't that the darndest thing  
To make a student swear?



### Skydoo

Santa Claus gazed awestruckedly on the hard-worked chimney of the heating plant. "Gee," he mused, "if I go down that I'll need a diving dress.

Despairing, he shinned back into his sleigh and clucked to the reindeer.

(NOTE:—We would like to say a lot about the University's private smoke nuisance; but as this is a peace-and-good-will number, we will, instead, merely point out the delicate pastel effect of that rich, black gob of smoke on our baby-blue winter sky.)

x x x

### N. B.

The year's subscription to THE SPHINX is \$1.00, if the same is forwarded to the business manager before the first of January. New subscribers will receive all back copies. After Jan. 1st the price is \$1.50. Obviously, you need to subscribe—now.



### Illustrated Emotions—II.

"Her eyes danced with merriment."

### My Engineer

I dearly love a big engineer,  
And the big engineer loves me.  
We both do love each other  
Most tenderly.

My engineer is a sporty man  
And belongs to a sporty frat,  
But still I love him just the same  
For all o' that.

We go to every hop and play,  
My engineer and I—  
And when he hugs me on the steps  
I never cry.

For my engineer is the dearest dear  
I ever loved, as yet;  
He is the nicest civil one  
I ever met.

He wears an old blue flannel shirt  
And a funny little hat,  
But his father is a banker  
For all o' that.

And when we get through college  
(I never tell a lie)  
We probably will marry,  
My engineer and I.

—G. M. S.

x x x

### Lamentation

Roomer: "Murphy woke up his roommate this morning by lamming him with an umbrella."

Boarder: "Didn't it make a racket?"

Roomer: "Yes; regular bed lam."



## Heimgeh

Breathes there a youth—or fair co-ed—  
 Who never to himself hath said  
 When for the year he's closed his books:  
 "I'm going home the quickest way  
 To spend a merry Christmas day,  
 And see just how the old home looks.  
 I'll lay aside my college ways  
 And go back to those olden days  
 Of ignorance, and also bliss—  
 The old arm chair still shy one leg;  
 The blazing hearth, the cider keg,  
 The mistletoe, the maid, the kiss"—  
 If such there breathes, forget his name,  
 He has no honor, love, nor shame.  
 Pry open such a clammish heart  
 And give the wretch another start;  
 Though others may his name extol  
 KICK him for me, with heart and sole.

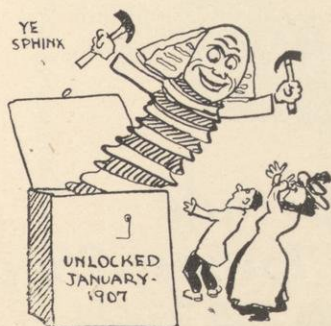
x x x

## Literary Note

The feature of the November *Lit* is indubitably the society novelette *Clyde Downing*. It is virile; strong; almost brutal in its intensity. The author has consented to collaborate with Hall Caine and Jack London in a continuation of his story, which has been secured for exclusive publication in THE SPHINX.

## CHAPTER II.

I pasted my wife with the poker.  
 She wept, which compelled me to choke  
 her.  
 I was pounding her head,  
 When she lovingly said:  
 "Gee! Isn't my hubby the joker?"



There.

We have succeeded in writing all these pages without knocking. True, we haven't said much; without her little hammer THE

SPHINX is tongue-tied (that metaphor is very much mixed, like a pousse cafe when you shake it, but it conveys the idea.)

Probably you don't realize what a strain it is to do this stunt. It requires the self-restraint of a Job or a kid in the pantry Christmas morning. There are a number of things around this University that have been offending THE SPHINX's artistic eye, for some time. There are a number of courses, for example, that have no special license for existence. We have even



## Pretty slick ter do it, B'gosh

"That air feller Schlicter down to Madison must be a purty cheap carpenter. My boy writes he bought one of his log tables for fifteen cents."

x x x

## 2 A. M.

Landlady (down stairs) — "Bo-ees! Haven't those Tanque brothers come home yet?"

Tanque Brothers (up stairs)—Yesh, Mrs; we're (hic) all in."

had our attention directed to another freshman who has given no heed to the Gypsy's Warning, and has strayed from the strait and narrow path, and into a derby hat. But we haven't said anything, because this is Christmas.

There is sure to be a reaction. We can feel it coming. It is about due to arrive in our next issue. At that time we will give voice to all the accumulated meanness now pent in our system.

x x x

**WATCH for the REACTION NUMBER**



This stuff don't belong here at all. It ought to have gone in the Reform number, and it isn't worth reading, anyway, but it was all set up, and we hated to waste the type.

Visitor from New Janesville: What's them buildings scattered along up that there hill with the fence across the front?

Weary Stude: That? Oh, that's the reform school.

King Henry 8 was a gay old skate,

Who hadn't a bit of reputation,  
And once (Prof. Sellery knows the date)  
He started an English Reformation.

His motive was coarse; it was plain divorce.

(He never had heard of South Dakota.)

\* \* \* \* \*

Is our Reformation from some such source,  
Down here at Sodom-upon-Mendota?

Hen chucked his monks in the cold and wet;

The football analogy's simply splendid!  
We'd like to bet that the Regents get  
The marrying habit, just like Hen did.



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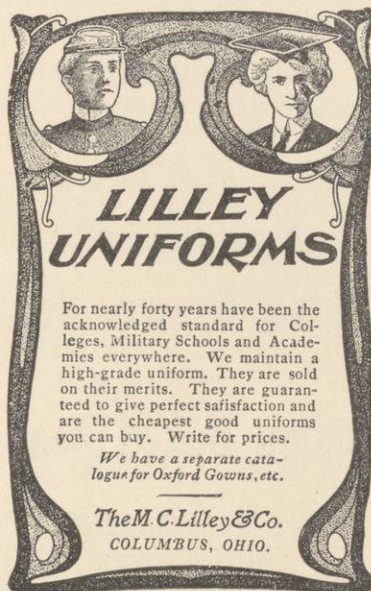
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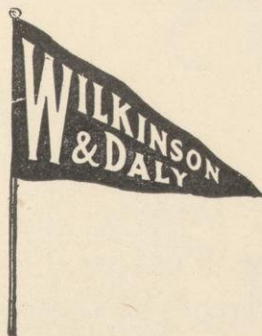
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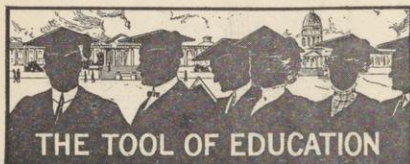
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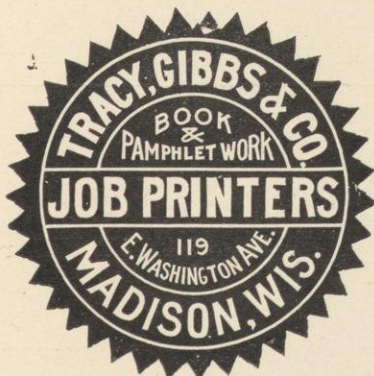
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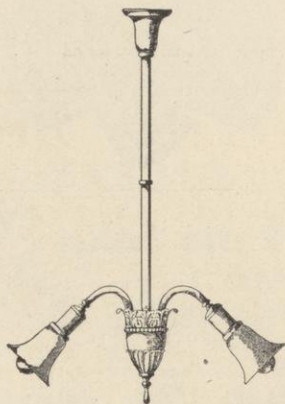
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