# The Sphinx. Vol. 1, No. 12 March 30, 1900 

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## Watch for the Faculty Number of the Sphinx April 10

MARCH 30, 1900


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## THE SPHINX.

O Tempora! O Mores!
At first it seemed to cramp us
When they built upon the campus
A great white stony building where the students used
to meet;
And the plate glass windows showed us
That, tho' ill it might commode us,
To play baseball we'd have to go a mile along the street.
You'd think if they grew bolder
They'd ha' advertised and sold her,
That is, the little vacant lot we called the campus still.
No! our field for sprints and jumping
Has become the place for dumping
Their dirty excavations brought from half-way up the
hill.
They say they're going to park it,
And with gravel paths they'll mark it,
And around the edge they'll plant a pretty rose-bush
palisade.
Then they'll build a plaster mountain,
And there'll be a pretty fountain
With a little naked Venus there where Football once
was played.


A Pioneer.

## Some Possibilities of Ground.

"This must be ground-hog day," observed the senior with an apologetic air, as, seating himself at dinner, he made a successful stab and secured two wienies.
"Well, of course, maybe," said the G. S. sp., "though speaking of grinds, do you happen to know the difference between Bob Fitzsimmons and a bulldog?"
"Why-er-Bob fit simmons and the bulldog-"
"No, you won't get it that way," interrupted the G. S. sp., who always has a high trump up his sleeve. "Fitz is a fighter from the ground up, and the bulldog is a fighter until he's ground up."

At that the waiter got his chilly face, ground his teeth a lit-
tle, perhaps, and the nervous girl at the end of the table choked and had to leave the room.
"I'd like to submit to you," said the freshman, when equilibrium was restored, "that when a man finds sand in his bread, he has good ground for complaint!"
"Not always, my boy," objected the senior law; "flour has to be ground, you know. There's no use kicking."
"My land, no! No earthly use of it," added the sophomore girl.
"I've noticed quite a similarity between these scalloped oysters and earthquakes," volunteered the quiet young man. "They're both something in the line of ground crackers."
"And the wheels g'round," put in the baseball enthusiast. "How spring-like it is! The lilac buds,
the cat-fishes, the clay pipes, the tailor-maid pants, the marsh rushes, the bed springs, the swell spreads, and only last week the coffee ground. Then, too, the base-balls, the steep pitches, the window catches, the blind bats, the fire-works, the oak-tree roots, the lantern slides, Cyrus fields, and the organ stops."

When he looked up nobody had fled, and he didn't even have to dodge any salt cellars; the sophomore girl was actually laughing, and the P. G. said: "Gee! he's in great form to-day."

GOLFIEND-O, say! have you seen my bicycle suit? It's a peach.

Miss Hotskirt-No, but you ought to see mine; it's a pair.


# THE SPHINX. 

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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.

The next issue of The Sphinx will appear April 10 and will be a Faculty number. Members of the Faculty will contribute their most humorous anecdotes and stories, their funniest verse and best art work. The cover will be designed by two members of the Faculty of the School of Engineering. The whole number will abound in good things. Watch for it.

$$
\text { * } \quad * \quad \%
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Readers of The Sphinx may possibly remember certain occurrences of last fall which led to a faculty investigation, the indefinite suspension of five students, and the suspension for varying periods of a number of others. Suffice it to say in retrospect that offenses of a most disgraceful nature were committed; that after a long and careful investigation a faculty committee found the five men in question to have been among the worst culprits, and others to have been guilty in a less degree; and that the report of the committee was adopted and the punishments recommended thereby were inflicted by vote of the Faculty.

* $\quad$ *

So much for ancient history. Now comes another act in the comedy of University "discipline." At its meeting early in February the Board of Regents adopted a resolution recommending that the Faculty re-admit to membership in the University
at the opening of the next (that is, the present) semester, should such admission be applied for, two of the five men who were indefinitely suspended. The Sphinx is informed that one of these men is now actually in attendance at the University.

No EXPLANATORy facts appear upon the records of the Board. There is no evidence that any further investigation was conducted by the Regents, supposing such investigation to be possible. These things are known: that a far from full attendance of the Board was present at the meeting; that even then the resolution was passed by only a small majority vote; and this further fact, which, whether material or not, is likely to weigh for something in the popular mind, that the two men thus reinstated happen to belong to the same fraternity which boasts among its members the President of this University and the honorable Regent who introduced the resolution in question and who moved its passage.

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A mere statement of the action taken by the Regents is sufficient to show its nature. The Faculty, which cautiously sought the truth and conscientiously acted upon it, is given a slap in the face; the great mass of decent-minded students who insisted that the deeds of last Hallowe'en should
not be considered expressive of the state of morals at the University are insulted and disgraced anew; those men who were found equally guilty with the two favored ones, not to mention those whose terms of banishment extended to Easter or to the end of the year, are most unfairly discriminated against; and the world at large is notified that the University of Wisconsin, as represented by its highest governing body, no longer frowns on indecency, but that a student who has a pull with the authorities may indulge in whatever depravity his unbridled desires may dictate.

Now, no doubt, The Sphinx will be told that comment of this kınd is not wanted from a student publication. Very likely threats of compulsory suspension of publication will be made, as they have been made in the past. And when a question is one merely of policy, students, while free to express opinions, should of course speak with a due deference to the superior wisdom and experience of those in whom the decision of such questions rests. But remember, you who read this, whether you be professor, regent, or merely a citizen of this noble commonwealth, that questions of right and wrong do not need the learning of a doctor of philosophy or the experience of a United States senator for their determination.

Remember that we, though only students, love the University and have, most of us, a deep regard for her good name. Remember that it is not many years since we came here with a naive belief that a university stood for manhood in the truest sense; a belief that the men who were to guide our faltering footsteps were men who could themselves walk uprightly and without wavering; a belief that those who were selected by the executive of the state to supervise the workings of university machinery were men selected for the possession of high ideals combined with practical sense, men who would exercise a jealous care over the prosperity and the reputation of their charge. On the whole, our expectations, though somewhat dimmed by the translation into experience, have been fulfilled. Maybe we have at times been disappointed. Maybe at other times we have mistaken for faults what we shall later learn were virtues in disguise. But when, in a case like the present, we see right and principle entirely set aside and the honor of our University dragged through the mire, all for the pettiest and most ignoble of motives, you must
pardon us for raising our voices in vehement protest. We may not do more than express our abhorrence of the deed, but we must and will at least do that.

The Oiling Stage.<br>Buok!-And his huge, round shoulders bend<br>Over the book with its weary page.<br>Pore!-And his eyes were riveted there, But his thoughts were fleeting a wild rampage. Drink:-And the book was closed with a snap; The student is off for Tommy's, I'1l wage, For after work comes the oiling stage. "Damphino."

S
HE-Did you ever travel with a circus?
He-Yes, I was a parachute leaper, once.

SHE-That's high life, isn't it?

DEAN BIRGE-No, a crosssection of the membranous cochlea is not exactly a regular triangle. It is more the shape of a piece of pie, if you want something that will appeal to you.

## Politics and Pete.

And so Pete is going to be-what do you think ? a Justice of the Peace!-if he gets more votes than the other fellow. 'Tis sad that the fair sex cannot vote-for then Pete would have a walkaway. But even as it is, we who dwell in de bloody fift' will cast as many ballots as we possibly can, that we may see Pete elevated to the bench. And think of Pete wearing the judicial ermine. The sight would inspire reverence among engineers. Wig and gown alone will not do when Pete dispenses justice. We are not at liberty to disclose the plans under consideration for arraying that manly form, but you may rest assured that the inspired words of the prophet-"Justice crieth aloud in the streets"-will find literal fulfillment. She-that is, Justice-will not be blind in the future, but those who view her splendor may be. Truly, the millennium is almost here, for strife and mischief will vanish like mists before the noonday sun when the certainty of facing Pete's stern, reproving gaze arises before the potential wrongdoer, even as the thought of a Thursday eight o'clock looms before the mind of the Wednesday midnight reveler.




The Amœba had that afternoon seen sundry pairs of explosively loud golf trousers perched upon the gym. fence. The aspiring young men who accompanied these garments had been smoking vile and variegated pipes. It had produced two effects. First, it proved conclusively that spring, which "hopes eternal in the human breast" or some such thing, had definitely arrived. Second, it suggested a conundrum to the Amœba.

He proceeded to spring it. "Why," said he to the long-suffering Old Man, 'are the Sphinx artists, a meerschaum pipe, and a game of poker much alike?"
"Because they can't climb a tree," timidly suggested the Devil.
"Nay," spake then the Gorey Crawley, "because, forsooth, the pleasure thereof consists in its drawing well."
"Why," said the Old Man to relieve the embarrassed silence that followed, "why is one hobo
treating another to a glass of beer like the freshman ball team? Because it's on the bum. H, a; h, a."
"Ah," sighed the Amœba, "what wouldn't I give for a train of ideas; just think of it, the whole outfit with a wheezy, snorting engine of senior ideas, a useful though plebeian baggage car of junior ideas, an odoriferous smoker of sophomore ideas, and, trailing behind, the twinkling green lights of incipient freshman ideas. It would be quite ideal."
"Yes," grunted the Devil, "quite a deal. With the joker conspicuous and the Jack on top. Nothing personal at all."
"Well, the young idea seems to have shot with unaccustomed accuracy for once," murmured the Amœba, in smooth, lubricative tones that had a foreboding of evil for the Devil, and he carefully stepped on the tail of the bull-pup.

Wanted-A nine-room furnished house. Library must contain a few well-known books and be done in red. Address,

Henry J. Bilkins, City.

## WHY IT WAS DONE.

Bilkins and his wife having lived all their married life in a small flat, were talking of building. Of course the new house was to be complete in every particular. But its strong point was to be the library. "Which will be a library as is a library," Bilkins said. With this end in view, Bilkins sent letters to every publishing house in the country for lists of 'books that should be in every well-read man's library," as he expressed it.

His wife on the other hand set out to determine the color scheme of the room. From the first her heart's desire had been red, but
every letter she had received so far from 'Ladies' Home Companions" and "Journals" advised against it.

One night the two sat together in their cozy little parlor.

Bilkins was troubled. He held in his hand a list which stretched down to the floor and curled all over the carpet around his feet. This list was a work of art, for it was the result of a careful comparison of all his letters and lists.

He was now engaged in checking off the books he had read.

His wife sat on the other side of the table with a pile of unopened letters in her lap.

She read them through, one by one, and after each perusal shook her head sadly. But she was not one of the kind to give up, so she took up the last letter hopefully. Alas for Maria! The verdict was dead against red.
"Henry," she said at last, "of all the fool things! The Ladies' Home Furnisher says red is bad for the brain."

Now Henry must be pardoned for his reply-for he was hopeless. He caught the word "red" and saw that he had only three books in his list checked off as yet. So he said, soothingly-
"Well, Maria, I don't see as it makes very much difference, there's so much to be read!"


## "Methods of Education."

Prof. O'Shea (Lecturing on Value of Mathematics) - How shall we be able to make dates without number?

Certain young ladies smilethey know!

## A Privileged Sorrow.

Mrs. Chalmers was at her desk writing all the burdens of her troubles to her dearest friend. The pent-up sorrows of days must have an outlet, and the dense flow seemed to come almost too fast to get them on paper. "And, dear Clara," she continued, "to
think that for days the poor fellow has eaten nothing, and just lies there without seeming to know who I am, with pain heavy upon his brow, as I surely know from the occasional quiver of his lips, which are usually so firm and sweet. O would that I could only do something to help him to be well again! It is dreadful to see him lie there so helpless. It just seems as if his poor heart were taken in on'e's hands and the life blood were being squeezed out slowly drop by drop. If he dies it will drive me almost crazy, for it does seem that without him my life must be a perfect blank.

There is one consolation, however. Mr. Chalmers says he knows where I can get another poodle just like him.'
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