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Xmas Manners.

If 'neath the verdant mistletoe a blushing maid is seen,
With downcast eyes and rosy lips a-pout;
'Tis a la mode for gentlemen, with disapproving mien,
To seek the door and piously walk out.

—F. W. M.

THE SPHINX.

Published fortnightly during the College Year
by Students of the University of Wisconsin.

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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



IS CHRISTMAS a time of Good Cheer? We could give many reasons; but most of them lie within the province of churchology—a field whose many gates are all tightly closed to THE SPHINX—so we must rest content with the one reason that it is vacation time. And to us that is reason enough.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We'd almost forgotten the conventional holiday howdydoos; but we do wish you all a merrier Christmas and a happier New Year than any you have yet had, and still not quite so merry and happy as those yet coming to you. You ought to be satisfied with that. We would.

It's a fine greeting, isn't it, even if it is conventional. *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.* How well it sounds, filling one's mouth like a benediction. How suggestive it is of comfort and jollity and prosperity and success. Spoken, it warms the cockles of the heart like rare Bordeaux and stirs up the kindest feelings toward the whole world. Unspoken—well, we have never heard it unspoken. Pessimism and grouchiness sneak out the back door when a friend stamps it with this salutation upon his lips. We shell out our last red without a murmur, if need be, and insist upon waiting forever and a day for its return. So hypnotic is this Christmas atmosphere!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! By all means let us preserve and cherish this ancient and genial salutation. We say this because we fear that the cyclone of reform now sweeping over the land and knocking the pinnacles off the high places may eventually, if unchecked, drop to lower levels and play havoc with the little things of life, turning topsyturvy all our trivial customs and traditions and conventionalities. The Chinese salutation is, "Have you eaten your rice?" The Thanksgiving salutation in the United States has now come to be, "How much turkey did you eat?" And if this Spirit of change wandering restlessly in our midst be not chloroformed, our present salutation is likely to be transformed permanently into one like this:

"What luck did you have under the mistletoe?"



THE FOND PARENT who plans to send his son to the University reaches pages 325 of the catalogue, he reads under the caption "Physical Training".

"The Gymnasium is one of the largest and best equipped buildings of its kind in the country.

Each student on entering the department undergoes a thorough physical examination, in order that his physical condition may be known to the director and suitable exercise prescribed. * * * One examination during each semester is required. * * *

Systematic class work in gymnastics is required of all freshmen and sophomores. * * *

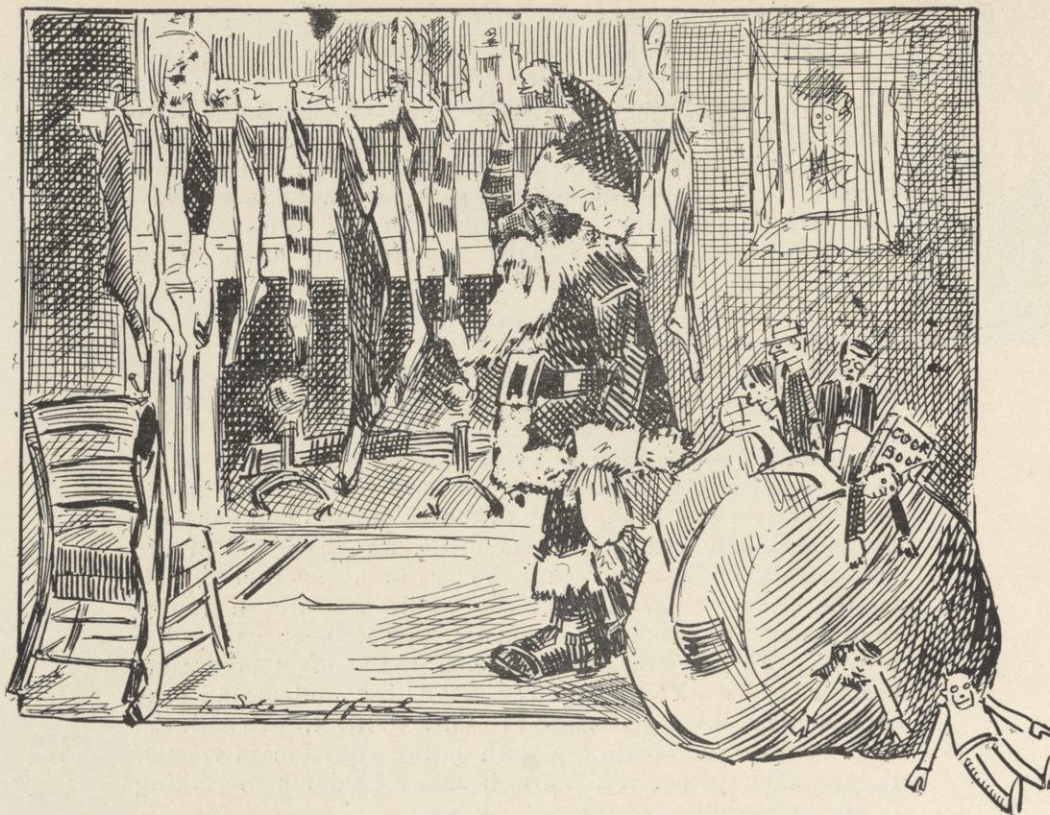
In the scheme of gymnastics, such exercises as are promotive of health, grace and self control are sought for rather than heavy and dangerous athletic performances."

We have quoted enough to show that page 325 is calculated to satisfy the aforementioned fond parent. Its merits as a literary effort is apparent to those who are familiar with the gymnasium and its management, who have taken the "systematic class work," and who are in a position to realize the cleverness with which the conditions are misrepresented without making statements that can be easily disproved. For example, the statement to the effect that "systematic class work" is required of all first and second year men sounds a bit euphemistic to THE SPHINX, although she does not care to dispute the truth of the assertion in view of the splendid system which has been evolved for the taking of the attendance.

The chief sin is one of omission. The catalogue fails to state, for the further edification of the fond parent, that the locker accommodations are so inadequate that two men must share each one; that they are built in double and even triple tiers so that the space allowed each man for dressing is limited; that the floor of the shower room is sometimes muddy and the rest of the building always dirty; that the ventilation is so imperfect as to imply serious doubt as to its existence.

The overcrowded condition of the gymnasium cannot be helped for the present and we have, therefore, no quarrel with it. But we cannot find any excuse for the dirt, the evil odors and the bad air which prevail. The first object of a gymnasium is the promotion of health; the first lesson of health is cleanliness. It may be that the expenditure of a little more money is necessary if the building is to be kept in a sanitary condition, but we suspect that the expenditure most needed is that of a little more enterprise on the part of those in charge.

As for "systematic class work," we should like to see some system adopted which would give results. We suppose that the required gymnastics are a mere matter of form on the part of the authorities, as no one could expect real results from twenty periods each week for only a portion of the college year, even if the system were unusually good and unusually well taught. But as long as we have a big gymnasium and a staff of instruction, why not offer the student who really wishes to improve his physical condition an opportunity to do so?



Santa Claus at Chadbourne.

"It isn't the number that bothers me—but how will I ever fill them?"

The Making of the German Book.

The hell-fire gleamed brightly from innumerable hanging lamps. Not a sound was to be heard except the occasional shriek of a damned soul or the rustling of the proof sheets as they were turned over by the Scholastic Imp. His Satanic Majesty stood by waiting impatiently.

"Well, young man," he said at length.

"Sire," returned the Imp grovelling, "the German book has been completed according to your orders."

"It is to be used—"

"As a Freshman text-book."

"Good! Has it a plot?"

"None whatever, sire," replied the Imp, "but there are a great many chapters and a large number of dates to be memorized."

"Good again," chuckled the Devil, rubbing his hands.

"There are also more than the average

number of ridiculous German names—calculated to send the Careless Student way up in the air."

"And the words?"

"Are not to be found in dictionaries, sire. They are all polysyllables—most of them compounds and each compound is a compound that has never before been compounded."

"You are sure the notes throw no light on the subject matter?"

"Absolutely none."

"How is the book listed?"

"Under the title 'Easy German for Beginners'."

"The book has no pony?"

"Sire, I cannot translate it myself."

"Excellent! Send back the proof-sheets to the printers at once and mail circulars to the University of Wisconsin."

And his Satanic Majesty, well pleased with the aeon's work, sought the soft side of an adjacent gridiron.

—A. J.



At Flom's.

The Little One—Before and after taking Peruna.

The Big One—You know who took it!

The Little One—Yes, I guess I did. All right, Professor.

(They sing).

Under the Mistletoe.

'Neath the mistletoe I found her,
At the landing on the stairs;
And so guileless looked she that I
Thought I'd ta'en her unawares.

In her cheeks two dimples frolicked,
In her eyes sly mischief shone—
I'd have given up e'en a kingdom,
Just to claim her for my own.

"Why, it's Jim!" she cried, and turning,
Held out both her hands, as though
Glad I came—but still she waited
Underneath the mistletoe.

Now what *could* I do but take what
Was so plainly meant for me?
And I make no boast in saying
That I took it gracefully.

She seemed glad, too, that I took it,
Till I said, with boyish glee:
"That beats all I've got this Christmas!"—
Then she looked blue flames at me.

"Oh, is *that* your little game, sir!
You're comparing notes, I see;
Which am I, the sixth or seventh?
Who's your next divinity?"

And in vain I've tried to tell her
It was *gifts* I meant to say,
And not *kisses*, when I told her
It beat all I'd got that day.

—F. W. M.



The Primer Class.

This, child-ren, is a pic-ture. See how the girl turns up her smell-er! Isn't she the haughty one? Yes, Tom-my, haughty means stuck-up. And see the idi-otic look on the boy's face. No, Jim-my idi-otic doesn't mean happy—just fool-ish, that's all. Why does the girl look haughty and the boy idi-otic? Be-cause, child-ren, they have never met before. No, Tom-my, all people don't look that way the first time they meet. But you mustn't inter-rupt me. They are pass-ing each other on the Hill. The Hill, child-ren, is a place where so-ci-e-ty boys wear their hats only half time. The boy has just met ano-ther fel-low who said some-thing fun-ny to him. That, child-ren, made him laugh. Then when he met the girl a se-cond la-ter he was still smil-ing at what the other fel-low had said, and the girl, you see, thought he was smil-ing at her. That, child-ren, is what makes the girl look haughty and the boy idi-otic.



HOME FOR CHRISTMAS.

Percy shows the gang how they roll 'em at the Varsity.



One reason for going home—



—and another.

The Stabber Makes a Recitation.

Professor—Mr. Huckleberry, name the Ten Commandments.

Mr. H.—Er—ahem—what was the question, please? (nudges his seat mate).

Professor—I asked you to give me the Ten Commandments. You remember Moses wrote ten commandments upon the mount, upon the tablet of stone. Well, I wish you to state them to me, briefly.

Mr. H.—Oh, yes—the ten commandments—er—the commandments—the ten—ahem—were written by a man named Moses—er—according to some authorities. There seems to be some difference of opinion concerning the—er—ten commandments. Some writers claim that they were wrote—written—upon the mount, and others say Moses wrote—written—*wrote* them on the Tablet of Stone. Er—er—

Professor—I do not want you to go into an extended discussion of the subject at this time, Mr. Huckleberry,—merely a brief statement of the Ten Commandments. Just name them over, briefly. What, for instance, was the First Commandment?

Mr. H.—(catching the word “steal” out

of confused whisperings in the rear). Er—I don’t just recall the exact wording now, but there was something about stealing in it.

Professor—No, Mr. Huckleberry, that is not the *First* Commandment. We will come to that one later. Don’t you remember the one that deals with blasphemy? It is a very easy one to say, if once you get started on it.

Mr. H.—Um-m-m—oh, yes, I have it now. To swear or not to swe—. Oh, no, I mean, Thou shalt not swear. That’s it—Thou shalt not swear.

Professor—That’s the idea exactly. You have expressed it in your own words, which are somewhat different from the phraseology of the text; but I must do you the justice, Mr. Huckleberry, to say that I consider your wording much superior to that in the book, in the matter of conciseness and simplicity. Always aim at conciseness and simplicity, for therein lies true strength and nobility of expression. Very good indeed, Mr. Huckleberry. Now, Mr. Wildman, you may state the Second Commandment.

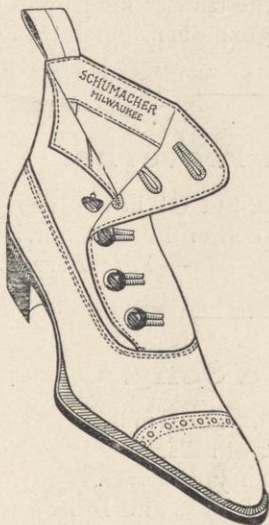


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Son—Pa, what's the law of gravitation?"
Pa—"I ain't got the time to keep up in the
proceedin's of our gosh darn legislatur'."—
Widow.

Painful Proverbs.

'Tis sweet to love, but O! how bitter,
To love a girl and then not get her.
—*Yale Record.*

Sing a Song.

Sing a song of Christmas,
Pocket full of bills,
Four and twenty relatives,
Janes, and Johns, and Bills.
When the thing is over,
The creditors will sing,
Isn't that a pretty mess
To set before a king?

—*Life.*

Maxims of Adam Bad Habit.

1. A girl's figure is often more than her face value.
2. Never cross a bridge until you see somebody else cross it first.
3. Don't hitch your wagon to a star—begin with one of the chorus.
4. People who live in glass houses can't throw bluffs.
5. When sailing with a girl it is not polite to hug the shore.
6. A drinking man grabs at a straw.—*Tiger.*

"I see they're going to stop the public sale of Bromo Seltzer."

"Why?"

"So that it won't be a drug on the market."—*Yale Record.*

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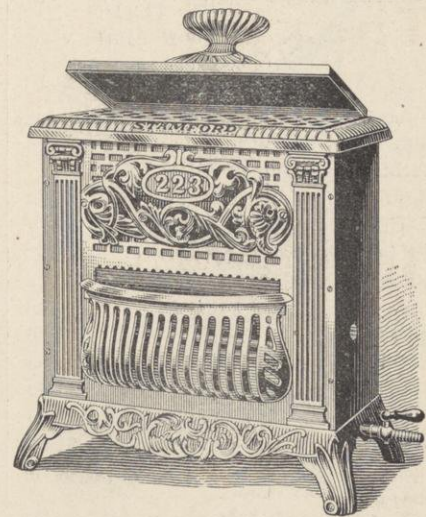
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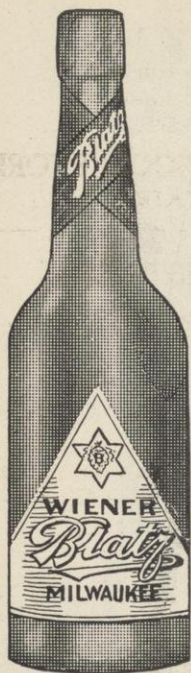
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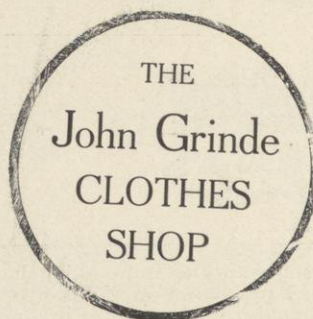


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Rozan, 25c. 4 1/2 lb.....	\$1.00
Hotel Blend, 22c. 4 3/4 lb.....	\$1.00
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First Freshman—Well, come along, then.—*Chaparral.*

"Was Jim trying for the Glee Club?"

"I should say he was rather more trying to the Glee Club."—*Lampoon.*



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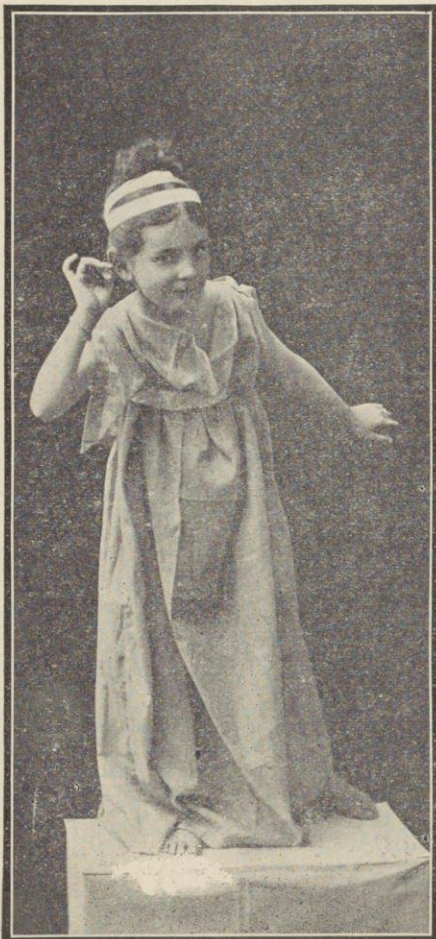
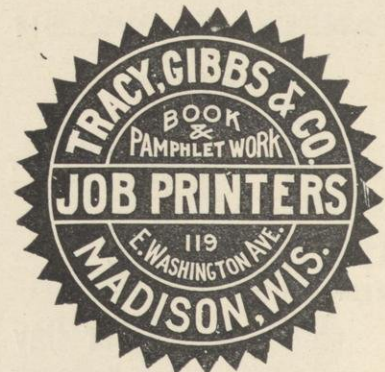
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