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## The Sphinx. Vol. 5, No. 10 March 19, 1904

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*The Sphinx*

*Volume 5 Number 10*

*Madison, Wisconsin, March 19, 1904*



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# The Sphinx

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## A Spring Lyric

*Spring has come and winter's over,  
And the snow has went away  
And the fields is sweet with clover—  
What has growed there day by day  
(Them there lines is blame poetic  
Though I know that they aint true)  
Let your heart be sympathetic,  
I have wrote this verse for you.*

*Lizzie, there aint no one suffers  
Half as much from love as me;  
Dante and them other duffers  
Never was the way I be,  
And although the trees is sprouting,  
And the sky is bright and blue,—  
You has made me glum by flouting  
All my love I've gave to you.*

*Birds is singing some already—  
In the rayses of the sun—  
But if you wont be my steady—  
I wont like the way you done.  
You've been mighty cruel, Lizzie,—  
Like you hadn't ought of to;  
Now that spring is getting busy,  
Let's be married, me and you.*

—A. B. Braley.





## 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

MR. HARRY JOHNSON, whose work as business manager of THE SPHINX has been consistent and progressive, has left the University to take a position with the *Review of Reviews*. Mr. Johnson carries the good will of THE SPHINX Board with him.

It's easy to be optimistic over someone's else misfortune.

IT IS PAINFUL TO NOTE in the late editorials of the *Cardinal* a playful tendency—an inclination toward the lighter things of life, which makes one feel that perhaps our esteemed contemporary is being rejuvenated. For ourselves we do not believe in the airy and lightsome manner of editorials which seems to be the ideal of the *Cardinal*. We prefer something more solid, something that can be read and pondered over. At the same time we do not wish the *Cardinal* to think that we are at all offended with the giggleistic productions of our little friends—we are not even grieved. Still we could wish that the *Cardinal* would show a little more sense of the responsibilities of her position as director of University thought, and evidence it by a little more solid matter in the editorial columns. Understand we are not vexed, we are only agitated.

Is life worth living? Well, it would be if most of us could read our own obituaries.

"The world is but a fleeting show, but no one wants to be a deadhead."



**N**OW AS THE SPRING COMES gently on and the birdlets bob upon the bough,—as the little buds come bursting forth and the sun smiles balmily upon the glad green earth, there is with us once more the old time problem of the Gym Itch and Who's to Blame. That it is a condition and not a theory which affronts us, is probably plain to any one who watches the restless student make nervous and vain jabs at the middle of his back in search of plague spots which wail for relief. The itch is ever busy and the fingers have no rest. It's here, it's unpleasant and it's spreading and the question is how to stop it and who's to blame for its prevalence. The students say that the Gym is unclean and uncleansed, that the janitor force is either unwilling or inadequate to scrub up the place and abolish the bacilli. Dr. Elsom says the students do not wash their gym clothes enough and that therein lies the difficulty. To us this seems rather futile. If the clothes are'n't washed it is Dr. Elsom's duty to see the delinquent students whose gym garb remains unclean, and compel its purification or its removal. We fail to see how he can shift the responsibility for this feature of gym filth. He is director and as such his right to compel cleanliness in the students who use the building, is undeniable.

For one thing, however, the Doctor is not to be blamed. If the force of janitors is really insufficient to thoroughly scrub, fumigate and sterilize the place, then the fault for this lies with the Regents and a gentle jolt to this honorable body is in order. In the Plutonian blackness of our ignorance, however, we have a groping sort of idea, that ten good healthy scrub women armed with new brushes, pails, soap and ammonia could make the Gym compare favorably with the Augean stables when Hercules got through with them.

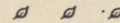


A triolet, my dear,  
For you.  
You asked one, it is here,  
A triolet, my dear,  
Terse, tender and sincere,  
And true.  
A triolet, my dear,  
For you.



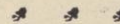
Mr. Blunt—Do you need a telescope to see the North Star?"

Miss Boston—No; one can see it with the—the—unclothed eye.



"I see Doc Elsom says he is not responsible for the Gym Itch."

"Course he isn't. He hasn't got it."



"Are you taking Constitutional Rest?"

"No; but I have a course in Eternal Ease."



The twilight dew was almost due  
To fall upon both yew and ewe.  
Too hot it was for dew to fall,  
So what could all the due dew do?

"Mercy, who is he?"

"Oh, nothing much. Just one of the ex-presidents of the Freshman class."

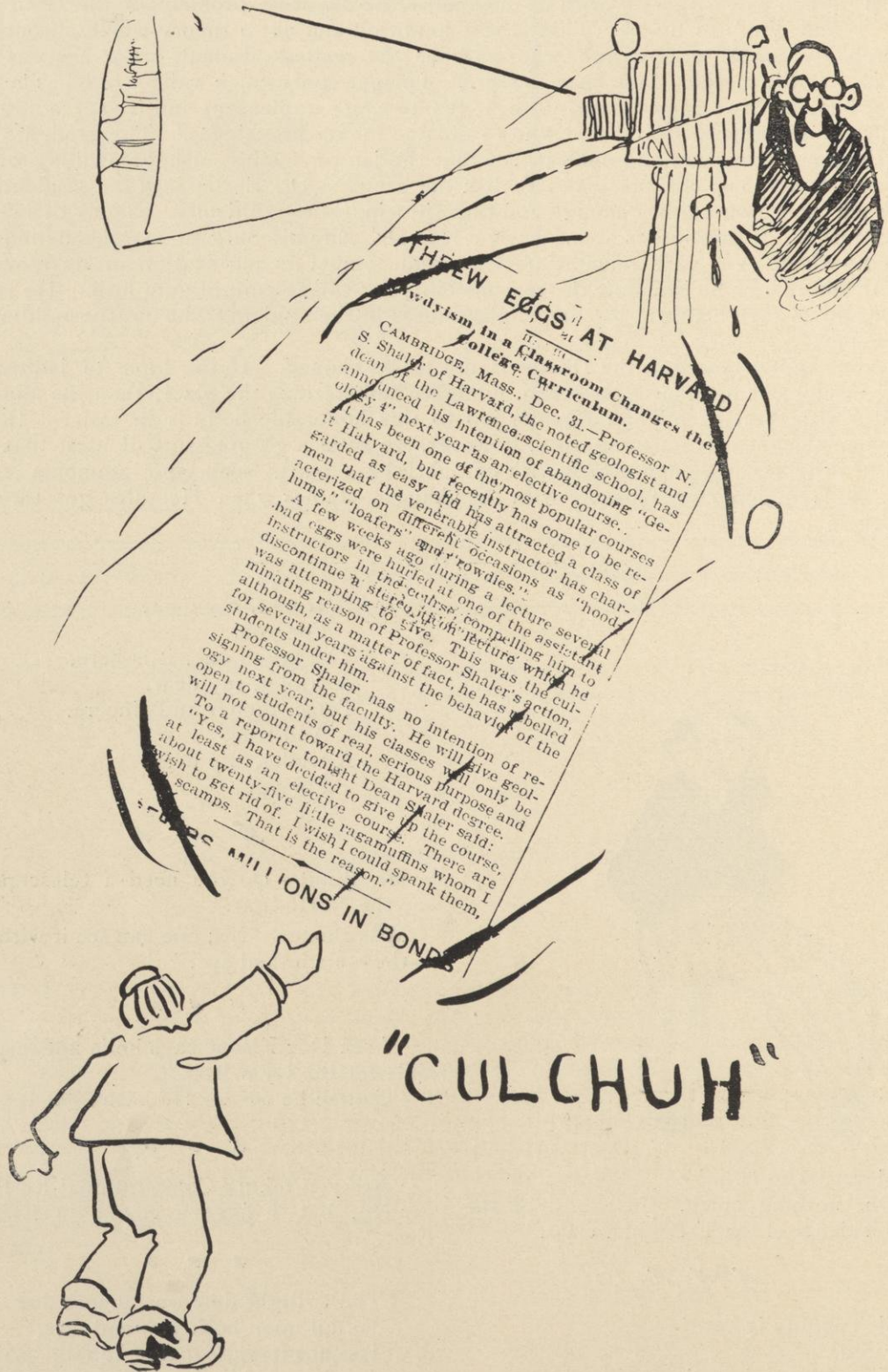


"McTuggurs is hot."

"Fired?"

"Nope; roasted by the faculty."







He—May I have just one kiss?

She—Promise you'll only take one?

He—Yes.

She—But I'm afraid you'll break your word.

He—On my honor I won't.

She—Then you shan't have any.

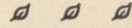


James—There were three dishes on the table, a beet, pork chop and some colored candy. They told me to choose.

Barnes—A case of root, hog or dye.

"Miss Oldthyme has her gowns made at several different tailors."

"She probably believes that 'Nine tailors make a man' and that maybe she'll get him."



"Got any work under Fish?"

"Yep, German."

"Fish doesn't teach German."

"No, but my German recitation is beneath his lecture room."

## The Feeling that Comes with the Thaw



HORATIO  
WINSLOW

It ain't what's here but what's coming,  
And we feel it in the air,  
We want to get out in the open,  
We don't want to stay in there  
Where the steam heat sizzles and sizzles,  
And everything's tight as a drum;  
Where the Profs are talking and quizzing,  
And the whole is a far away hum.

Yes, we want to get out in the open,  
And feel the first breath of the Spring,  
Away from the law and the logic,  
And the jokes that the Profs always fling.  
Oh, Lord! get us out in the open,  
(Thy pardon though cutting's a sin),  
But you know, Lord, the Springtime is on  
us,  
And we're took with the fever agin.

—E. J. Walker.



# The Heart of the Peach.

Peaches are rarities—there, that's plain!—  
 So the peach has worshipers by the slew,  
 And it isn't the boy with the biggest brain  
 Who wrings her heart with his billet  
 doux.

He talks and chatters of Swiss and Sioux,  
 And all the things the instructors teach.  
 But, oh, he can talk till his face is blue—  
 The Smoothest Jollier Cops the Peach.



Dollars are frequent pent in vain;  
 Money can talk but can't talk goo,  
 Wealth means autos and homes in Spain,  
 But it can't stack with the gentle coo  
 From the nervy who sticks like glue.  
 And whispers the meetings—Each to Each,  
 So the gold-kings in a frightful stew,  
 While the Smoothest Jollier Cops the  
 Peach.

Athletes may prattle of how they train,  
 Rowers may chat of the next year's crew,  
 Footballers babble themselves inane,  
 Baseballists boast of the throws they  
 threw,  
 But the weakly youth can let out some,  
 too.  
 While the athletes burble of "weight" and  
 "reach,"  
 He hands her the talk that is always new—  
 And the Smoothest Jollier Cops the Peach.



## ENVOY.

Prince, my prince, you're an ass, it's true,  
 Yet list, I prithee, to what I preach;  
 Intellect?—Handsomeness?—Bank-book?—  
 Pooh!  
 The Smoothest Jollier Cops the Peach.  
 —Horatio Winslow.



## The Missing Sense

Lawless noticed at once after the first few steps that she danced differently. It was a continuous easy gliding, seemingly without any effort whatever, but yet in perfect time, and as her steps were short and the waltz already rather slow, the effect was peculiar. Lawless liked it.

"We dance slower in Virginia than you Northerners do," she explained. "The Major, dad's cousin, taught me to waltz. He'd never let me dance fast, 'racing' he called it, and so I've always been slow"—the black eyes darted a challenge—but if—you—"

No, not by any means. He enjoyed it ever so much, it was so new to him, so different, so refreshing, and besides, southern manners and southern girls always were his ideal; indeed, he liked this dance more than—

"And is that the 'Varsity band up there? How nice they play."

By craning his neck he could get a glimpse of her face. It seemed sincere, he could discover no ironical smile, only the eyes sparkled dangerously. He decided to change the subject. He would tell her one of his funny stories, the one he told the little freshman girl with whom he had the last dance and who laughed so much that she couldn't dance any more. And then, if she should laugh, he would admire her fine perception, her keen sense of humor and the other fine perfections which he already knew so well that he could say them backwards.

She was very attentive and the story progressed splendidly. The carefully suspended climax was approaching, which must surely throw her into convulsions. Likewise they were approaching the platform on which the regimental band was performing.

The soft, purring strain of the waltz ended and a new one began fortissimo. In a fit of desperation the snare-drummer commenced to belabor his drum mercilessly, and the trombones not to be outdone brayed deep and loud, while the piccolo made courageous efforts to drown the rest of the band.

To avoid the platform and its noise was Lawless' one object. His story absolutely demanded it. He had reached the climax—which consisted essentially of a pun—and to delay any longer would spoil the effect. But his frantic efforts were all in vain, and the crowd bore him along below the platform, where disaster must surely await his story.

Suddenly a brilliant idea flashed before his mind. He was yell master at the football games, he would overshout the band! And as loud as he dared he yelled the pun at her again and again, only to have his voice drowned by the furiously persistent blasts of the trombones.

The story was a failure, he could feel that. Of course she smiled when he finally made himself audible, but the smile seemed to him to be too sympathetic and not sufficiently appreciative.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Darn it," he muttered as they sat down, "girls have no sense of humor. Now—"

"I beg your pardon?" she asked sweetly, unconcernedly.

"Oh—ah—I was just admiring your eyes. Dark eyes always—"

\* \* \* \* \*

"Certainly, Mr. Lawless,—with pleasure." She gave him her fan and smiled encouragingly. "I enjoyed the waltz with you ever so much. This is another waltz, is it not? I *do* like to dance with such big, tall fellows as you—"

The music began and she arose. Lawless, taken aback, was glad that a reply was saved him.

"Before, I could recognize you when you were on the other side of the floor," he ventured guardedly.

"Could you, really? But that is so far—way across the floor. How could you recognize me?"

Lawless was expecting that question.

"Your black hair"—he began eagerly—"was so—"

"—And, Mr. Lawless! I recognized *you* when you were over in that corner. I knew you right away because you have such—broad shoulders."

"Aw—er, now—;" he squinted down at her and found only a pleasant, noncommittal smile. He felt uncomfortable.



"Know Bings, absent-minded cuss?"

"Yep."

"He's dead."

"How's that?"

"Came home last night, very absent-minded, put his overcoat to bed and then went down and hung himself on the hat-rack."

x x x

"That rich corset manufacturer has built a house near us."

"I bet he didn't have much waste in building it. What kind is it?"

"Straight front, steel construction, and built to stay."

♦ ♦ ♦

I had a caterpillar and I used to make it sing,

The neighbors often kicked about his caterpillaring;

They talked of putting him in stocks, and so at last they did,

But, oh, it broke my heart to see my caterpilloried.

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"Mr. Lawless."

"Yep?"

"I want to tell you something."

"Eh?" unsympathetically.

"You—look—so splendid in your uniform." The black eyes fairly danced.

He made a desperate attempt to get below the band platform. There, at least, conversation would be impossible. He had a vague idea of remaining there by merely dancing around under it in a small circle.

"Oh, Mr. Lawless!" he felt a soft mass of hair against his cheek, "—won't you please go over there where the open window is? It's so close here."

And with a painful smile he left his point of vantage.

"Do you find it warm?" he asked cunningly. "If you do, I know a nice cool place where you can sit down and rest." He carefully veered over towards the corner where the chaperones sat.

"Why no, not at all. I feel very cool now, and then—I wouldn't want to miss *this* dance."

"Ar—a—, is that so?" He grinned sheepishly. "Why? —I mean"—quickly—"I myself would not for anything miss—"

"Why? Oh—because—you dance so gracefully; not so jerky like the other—"

"How do you find the floor? It's a little rough in some places."

But the merry black eyes refused to have pity on him, in spite of his dazed look of helplessness.

"Now, I don't mind the floor a bit, it all depends upon with whom you dance. Before—"

\* \* \* \* \*

They were all smoking their pipes as they lounged around the fire in the big chair, comparing notes on the hop.

"Yes," Lawless said, as he finished his account, "she's a pippin, she is—no mistake about that,"—he sucked his pipe reminiscently—"but she's fierce."

—Mark Notz.



## Exchanges

First Student—A funny thing happened to me today.

Second Student—The ideal

First Student—Yes. The Prof. called me up and then called me down.

—*Princeton Tiger*.

Feb. 22, '04. (See also Madison High School Annual, 1901, and High School exchanges for the last ten years.)

I saw nine women climb a tree,  
I wanted to see another;  
But my wife she dragged me away from there  
And took me home to her mother.

—*Yale Record*.

"I hear Miss Flyaway has eloped with the butler."

"Ah, won by waiting."

—*Princeton Tiger*.

"Going to the show tonight?—comic opera with a bully chorus."

"I'm strapped. Guess I'll go into the Art School and look at the statues."

—*Record*.

"Oh, my!" exclaimed the window pane,  
And rudely bit her lip,  
Then while the blood rose to her cheek,  
"I saw the weather-strip."

—*Stanford Chapparral*.



Though we mount the ladder round by round,  
it doesn't help any to be a rounder.



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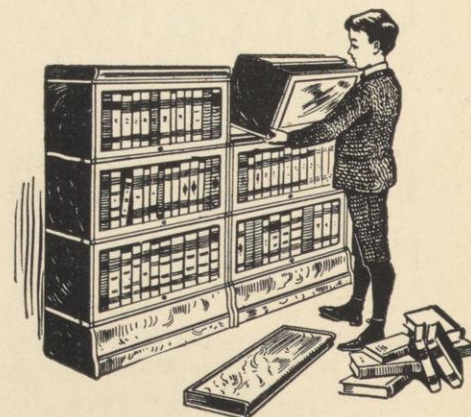
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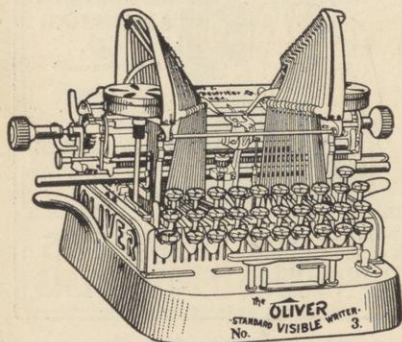


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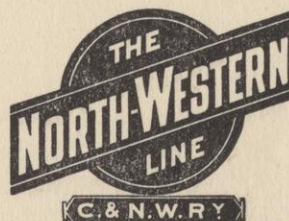
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