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FEBRUARY 13, 1900

# THE SPHINX



## A Valentine.

Away in the southern sunshine,  
Where the air is warm and mild,  
Where dew on the flowerets sparkles,  
And the brooklet runneth wild;  
The bird in his blithest carol  
Is telling his ardent love  
To a saucy bunch of feathers,  
Who's swaying a bough above.  
So I, as a lonely student,  
Am singing a similar song,  
That thou, my 'Varsity maiden,  
May listen and linger long.  
A glance from those saucy lashes  
Has met another from mine,  
And the heart leaps up within me,  
In claiming my valentine.

—Ω. Σ.



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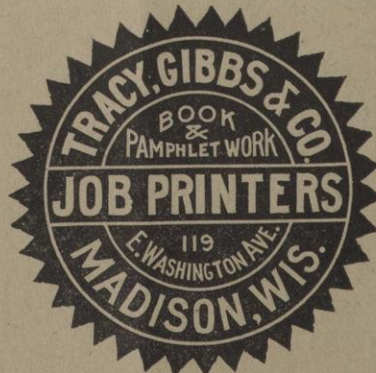
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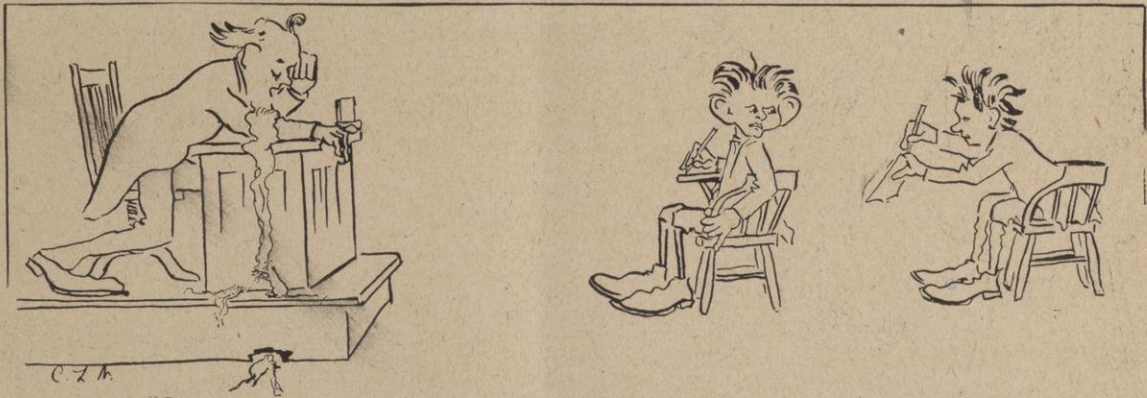


# THE SPHINX.

Vol. I

MADISON, WIS., FEBRUARY 13, 1900.

No. 9



BELLAMY WROTE LOOKING BACKWARD—BUT THERE ARE OTHERS.

## Notice.

A mass meeting of the freshmen will be held immediately after the exam standings are out to practice the following songs: "How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood," "I'm nearer home to-day than I've ever been before," and "Home, Sweet Home."

A large attendance is expected.

## A Valentine.

A bowless cord, a cordless bow,  
Are useless each apart.  
Ah, wilt thou let me be thy beau?  
Be thou my cord, sweetheart.

## Prior to the Exodus.

1 And the Dean spake all these words, saying  
2 I am the Dean thy ruler,  
which have gathered thee together out of divers places, out of the dwellings of thy fathers.  
3 Thou shalt fear no faculty individual before me.  
4 Thou shalt not take unto thee any ponied editions, or any interlinear translations, or any

borrowed wisdom from any friend that is, or any being that is not.

5 Thou shalt not revel in frolics in Exam week, nor enjoy life, for

bucking shall fill thy long hours; and the iniquities of their children shall be shown to the parents even by mailed standings, of such youths as disobey me.

6 Honor thy Dean and thy Class Officers, that thy days may be long in the institution which the state of Wisconsin giveth thee.

7 Thou shalt not cram.

8 Thou shalt not bring blue books.

9 Thou shalt not crib.

10 Thou shalt not impart thy wisdom to thy neighbor.

11 Thou shalt not covet thy class-mate's prospects. Thou shalt not covet thy class-mate's blue book, nor his pencil, nor his quick wit, nor his stabbing, nor his bold assurance, nor his nerve, nor anything that is thy class-mate's.

12 Remember the Sabbath day and use it wholly.

13 Seven days shalt thou labor and do all thy work.

14 So the students hearkened to the voice of the Dean, and did all that he had said.



Cupid's Lasso.

I must confess  
A curling tress  
Has snared my heart. Alas, oh!  
I bravely fought;  
'Twas fairly caught—  
(But she's a lovely lass, oh!)  
They firmly hold—  
Those strands of gold—  
In cunning Cupid's lasso!



## THE SPHINX.

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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 time of the \$1.50 subscription rate expires March 1. Leave subscriptions at the Co-op or the College Book Store. Subscriptions unpaid at the above date will be charged at the rate of \$2.00.

THE SPHINX has delayed her appearance for a few days, partly because of the perturbed atmospheric conditions prevalent of late, and partly because so many of her readers have sought the parental roof-tree for a short respite from care and trouble. To those who have returned with no symptoms of serious ocular defect, she extends congratulations.

\* \* \*

SOME of you are now looking forward with varied emotions to that most "swell" of functions, the Junior Prom, and the rest of you are perhaps troubled with the malady described by a recent popular author as "the impossibility of telling what the deuce it all means." Well, THE SPHINX can't help you very much. She doesn't understand it either.

\* \* \*

HERE, in this town of serious aims and high ideals, have been some hundreds of young men, the leaders-to-be of twentieth century civilization, perambulating the streets by day and by night with chronically wrinkled brows, and eternally ruining the tempers and nervous systems of the central girls—and all for what? To fill some thirty

blank spaces on a bit of much-thumbed cardboard. Truly, thought THE SPHINX when she first observed this unwonted commotion, those must be magic lists of heavy import. What, then, was her surprise on being told that the blanks in question represented dances still some weeks in the future!

\* \* \*

THE NATURAL conclusion of course from this was that the affair toward which all thoughts were bent must represent the acme of enjoyment. Apparently this, too, was an illusion. For from no source, save, it may be, the pens of semi-embryonic newspaper reporters, comes a word of pleasurable anticipation; but only discontented characterizations of the whole thing as a "fright" or a "bore"—something to be endured—and paid for.

\* \* \*

THERE is another side to this sad tale. Though it is not told on the street corners, yet the fact has been confided to THE SPHINX by one who knows, that even more grievous anxieties and more bitter heart-burnings exist among the fair co-eds than are experienced by their brothers. It has been whispered that almost with the opening of the col-



lege year begins a longing wonderment; that this grows more and more intense until the invitation comes—if it comes; that then, in the one case, begins the weary pondering, that lasts for many a day and many a night, over what to wear; and in the other case, a search for out-of-town brother, cousin, uncle, or nephew, who can be enlisted in the cause. It is said, too, that never is the program satisfactory; that always are there names included that ought not to have been included, and other names left off that ought not to have been left off; that in short the whole thing is a vexation and a tribulation of spirit.

\* \* \*

HINTS of other things come also to THE SPHINX'S ears; how the supply of carriages is unequal to the demand; how some penurious youths even lament the necessity of paying three hard-earned dollars to carry four people a block and a half; how many a maidenly wish to attend the Prom goes ungratified because it is the proper thing to import somebody; and how many a sleepless night is spent in considering the proposition that the Pi Etas will fill five boxes, while the Eta Pis are to occupy but four. But an expatiation upon all these subjects would take too much space, even if any one could be induced to read it.

\* \* \*

STILL the unaccountable facts remain; the Prom has seemed to produce nothing but mental torment and physical weariness in the past month, and no one appears to expect any pleasure from it when it comes. Why, then, should it ever come? THE SPHINX can hazard but a guess, but for what that guess is worth you may have it. This it is: that all this turmoil and anxiety has been really enjoyable, though the participants knew it not; and that they all expect the occasion to be a pleasure, in realization and in retrospect, though they admit it not, even to themselves. Such are the inconsistency and the assumed cynicism of youthful human nature that this guess may be not be so paradoxical as it seems. However that be, take it at your own estimate of its worth; and THE SPHINX will be ready for observation on the 16th, perched precariously in the girders, threatening the safety of the musicians, even as, so we are told, the latter will threaten the lives of the merry-makers beneath.

#### Physiology.

THE DEAN—What holds the horse's head up?  
MISS STUART—The check rein.



#### At a Babylonian Prom.

FIRST DANCER—Why, what's the matter, old man?  
SECOND DANCER—Confound it! I've busted my program, and for the life of me I can't tell whom I had the last nineteen dances with.

#### Freshman at 4:00 A. M. in Exam Week.

Now I lay me down to sleep,  
My head's so full, it makes me weep.  
O, if I flunk, I want to die;  
I am so scared, O my! O my!

#### Our Box.

1. What are the conventional symbols of mourning worn immediately after exams?

T. RUNDOWN.

If one con has been received, a black necktie with domestic finish shirt bosom must be worn to Y. M. C. A. receptions. Two cons usually demand black shoes and crêpe cuff ties.

2. Are calls from young men during exam week in good taste?

DOUBTFUL DOLLIE.

This is a little late, but may be of service to you in June. Calling upon any other girl would be in exceedingly poor taste, but if upon yourself, the cause must be ascribed either to extreme brilliancy, extreme laziness, or extreme devotion. It should not, however, be carried to too great an extreme.



## THE SPHINX.



"The Promophobia epidemic struck you yet?" said the old man to the Amoeba, who with his *blaséest* manner was carefully crumbling a slice of curve cut to the proper consistency.

"Well, I don't need any prompting, I promise you. Prominent as I am, no promiscuous promulgation of that fact is necessary."

"What are the seating arrangements?" meekly from the O. M.

"Oh, same old receipt—boxing arrangement, you know, spars, band in the ring, and getting in some high swings this year, too."

The silence that ensued was becoming audible, and the Devil timidly asked if it was hard to learn roller-skating.

"Oh, easy as rolling off a log—and about as graceful," from the Protozoan One, "speaking from experience."

"It's a great demonstration of physical laws, too. Why, my potential energy caused such a

heated condition when I struck the floor that I hadn't an ounce of energy left."

"Speaking of hot times," interjected the Old Man, who had recovered, "have you heard about the one at the machine shops?"

"No, I got warm talking to the Registrar. What about it?"

"It was a regular Kipling seance, voices of the night, you know. Why, I distinctly heard the shops say, 'Shiver my timbers!' And the saw-dust in the corner said, 'Oh, blazes!' And the water in the hydrant said, 'The pressure of circumstances forces me to shuffle off this mortal coil and pass up the spout.' The hose then made a remark about 'linked sweetness long drawn out,' and the lathe said lathers of things and—but that is another story, which is Ruddy's favorite method of escaping the consequences of his own rashness."

A few moments later an ambulance was seen to drive to the door.

## Forestalled.



WANTED to send her some token  
Of the jolly old Saint of Hearts,  
And taking my brush and my colors  
I painted a quiver of darts.

Above them I painted a maiden—

'Twas her picture she surely would know,

For there were her eyes like love's starlight,

And her mouth like Dan Cupid's bow.

Below it I penned a few verses,

In letters of glittering gold,  
Which told of my soul's fondest passion—  
The love that would never grow old.

I went and called the next evening,

To offer my homage I went,  
But the air of the parlor was heavy  
With the roses the other man sent.

—S. E. G.

## A Valentine.

"The rose is red, the violet's blue,"

You know the rest, *ma chere*—  
Prom-time is coming soon, you know,  
And flowers are very dear.

And so I thought, my only own,

These lines to you I'd pen,  
To let you know, tho' flowers were scarce,  
I'm still your truest Ben.

EGOTISTICAL FRESHMAN—  
Well, if I don't draw an ex  
in English, it's funny—Cairns  
said I was a genius.

ELDERLY LADY AT HEAD OF  
TABLE—He was probably think-  
ing of "Genius allied to insanity."

## How 1900 Learned.

The senior and his best girl  
were out riding. They came to  
a fine piece of road, and he said:

"Do you believe in palmistry?"

"Well, I know this much," she  
replied, "if I could see the lines  
in one of your hands, I know  
that we would have a very pleas-  
ant ride."

He therefore grasped the lines  
in one hand—and the situation  
in the other.

## Uncertainty.

If I were sure I'd stay,  
And not be sent away  
By some heartless and unsentimental  
Prof.,  
I'd send the sweetest token  
Of a love I've never spoken  
That would put to shame the gift of  
any Soph.

## Equity.

BIG BROTHER—If you went  
down town and bought ten sticks  
of candy and gave sister Mary  
her share, how many would you  
have left?

BRIGHT YOUTH—Nine.

MANY students like to see  
themselves in print, but  
the co-ed prefers silk or satin.





### At Seventy.

A Valentine lies in my heart,  
 A picture quaint and old,  
 With laughing eyes and shining hair  
 And gown of blue and gold.

My Lady smiles, and breaks the dawn!  
 She frowns, and sinks the night.  
 'Tis dreary winter far away—  
 And summer in her sight.

She has two eyes, so dark I ween  
 Their color can't be guessed;  
 Her hair is spun from out the sun,  
 Her lips are Love's own rest.

I sent her once a valentine  
 Of roses deep and rare,  
 They looked into her face and drooped—  
 Their own was not so fair.

And sighed away their perfume sweet  
 Into her dear, dear hand;  
 She smiled and kissed them once again—  
 They made her understand.

A Valentine! A Valentine!  
 Lies in my heart today;  
 My Valentine with silver hair—  
 My Valentine alway. —E. M. B.



THE SHINX.



E. L. Nelson

THE DARK DANGLERS TROUBLE.



## One Hundred Years Ago.

(New York, January 16, 1800.)

"Ah, Nannie, but now have I come from the maker of swell gowns, and truly mine Assembly costume will be a dream!

"Tis fashioned of blue brocade, the skirt festooned with strands of pearls—beneath the overskirt are three fluffy ruffles of chiffon; there is a half-yard dip; the waist—but, Nannie, methinks thy smile hath vanished. Wherefore this gloom?"

"Yes, Clarice, and would'st thou know what causeth that life is even now a bitter pill? Dost remember one swain vulgarly yclept Jonathan, who hath been my steady for lo these many weeks?"

"What! Is't so, and hast thou scrapped even with thy Johnnie?"

"Nay, worse. If 'twere but that, full easy might I bring him to time, for many youths there be whose scalps would fain dangle from my belt buckle. But from none of these have I received a bid to the Assembly, for that they did assume, as, in sooth, did I, that John would beau me thither. And yet that mark, that it, that son of Belial—what think you he will do? Naught other than import a female from Philadelphia! What say'st thou to such conduct?"

"I' faith, Nannie, 'tis hard. And belike she is not prettier than thou, or not much at least, and it is said that in that burg the young females do all costume

themselves alike—and many of them do believe this still to be the seventeenth century!"

"Yea, they be all notoriously slow. But farewell, my dear, for I must hie me uptown, there to purchase a becoming robe of sackcloth. Think you wood or coal ashes the more appropriate accompaniment?"

"Much depends upon the shade of sackcloth that thou may'st select. But this counsel would. I give thee—think no more upon the doings of that untoward wretch. So only will thy complexion regain its wonted luster."

\* \* \* \*

(February 10th.)

"Truly, Nannie, this is most fortunate. Meseems 'twere many moons since last I saw thee. But

## A Freshman's Campaign.

When the senior announced that he was not going to take a girl to the Prom, no one said a word, but the freshman smiled. All the fellows knew why the senior had decided thus, in fact every one in college knew that Conway had the swellest girl at the Prom last year and also knew that they had had some "unpleasantness." Now if you were listening to the "Black Cat" instead of the "Sphinx" you probably would never know why the freshman smiled, but the SPHINX generally tries to explain everything.

The freshman knew Pauline very well. They lived in the same town, and she had told him all about her quarrel with Conway. Pauline did not say so, girls never do, but the freshman thought she and Conway "had it pretty bad." So he planned a campaign. He told the fellows he was to take a "friend of the family" to the Prom, and as he never talked about her, or was found gazing at her picture when he should have been answering the 'phone, no one asked any questions, but all decided the freshman's girl was harmless.

The first gun was fired the week before the Prom. The freshman had arranged everything, but the senior was particular about whom he danced with and might not be willing to take the last three dances. Finally one night, like all good soldiers, the freshman took him by surprise and won a complete victory. "Thanks awfully, you helped me out beautifully." "Well, of course," the senior said con-



IS IT ENOUGH FOR THE PROM?



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**In Physics**—Manifestations of celestial magnetic energy in connection with the divulgement of the esoteric mysteries of sophomore physics.

**In History**—A statistical study of the inter-relation between the Mohammedan Hegira and the recent lowering of prices by Madison laundries.

**In Sociology**—An investigation into the causes and consequences of the marked recrudescence of library conversation, with notes upon its increase in volume as connected with migrations from the north to the south end, and *vice versa*.

This is but a taste of the good things in store for early buyers. Inspection by underclassmen is always welcomed. CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED.

descendingly. "We want the little girl to have a good time." "And the last three dances with you will leave a good impression." Oh, the freshman was not bad. Conway looked at him. He seemed perfectly sincere, so he put down the ink bottle and said "Yes."

\* \* \* \* \*

It was the day of the Prom; there had been rumors of a battle all day, but the freshman had avoided open fire with the senior, and the enemy was not to come into camp until late in the afternoon. Of course they would meet at dinner, if not before, but only a little long range firing could be enjoyed, which would have little or no effect. Everything was in the freshman's favor. Conway was late for dinner, so that the enemy as the freshman had hoped would meet at the Prom, where he knew Pauline could conquer anything.

\* \* \* \* \*

It seemed to the freshman that he had been asleep for hours when Conway came in. You see the freshman had left Pauline with Conway because he did want "the little girl to have a good time." As Conway came in he was unusually quiet and considerate, and smiled at the freshman in a most friendly way. "Did you have a good time?" he asked. "It certainly was the most successful Prom we have ever had; everything was all right,

don't you think so?" "Yes," the freshman said, as he rolled over and went to sleep, "the decorations were beautiful," and this time it is not necessary to explain why the freshman smiled.

### A Mystery.

Two men were walking slowly up the street,  
Talking of girls and all such flip-flap talk,  
When lo! a well-known friend they chanced to meet.  
They nodded, said "Hello," resumed their walk;  
But he with gentle grace their steps did balk.  
"Beware," he said, "Stop short! There's danger there.  
A dreadful, rumbling noise I've heard; beware!"

The two pooh-poohed him—said they had no fear;  
"Some train perhaps—or e'en the Freshman yell."  
"No, no, not that," he answered, "can't you hear  
That murmur low and dull like funeral knell?"  
They listened—ay, 'twas true; one said, "Well, well,  
This mystery we must investigate.  
Away with fear! Come on e'er 'tis too late."

With stealthy step they stole their silent way  
Three blocks up State street, and the sound still grew.  
Trembled the earth, the leaves from trees did stray,  
And buildings quaked. Yet they not faltering drew  
Still nearer—Lake street passed—not yet they knew  
The cause. Till one, now at the end of State,  
"Eureka!" cries, "It is the JOINT DEBATE."



—turn thee toward the light—surely thou’rt of a more cheerful countenance—hast gotten over thy grouch? And hast thou received a bid?”

“Yes, Clarice, once more are my spirits joyous and lightsome. Sit thee down upon the window-seat and listen. ’Tis a long tale, yet will I cut it short, for I know that this is thy busy day. I’ll seat me here, and thus do I begin:

“Some days after imparting to thee my tale of woe, it came to my ears that the Philadelphia damsel of whom we spoke was stricken seriously ill, so that it were impossible that she should recuperate in time to attend the Assembly. Then said I to myself: ‘John Smith, I see thy finish!’

“Imagine then my surprise when, even in the next forenoon, the maid did announce Mr. Smith. I met him with an icy gaze, but liquid air would scarce affect his nerve, which of a truth is galvanized.

“‘Miss Lilibert,’ said he, ‘I would venture to inquire if thou wilt favor me with a dance at the Assembly.’

“‘One dance, think you, Clarice! At once saw I ’twas but a bluff that he was running.

“‘Surely, Mr. Smith,’ said I, ‘I shall be delighted. I have but the seventeenth left unengaged. If that will fit thy program, ’twill be a pleasure to bestow it upon thee.’”

“But, Nannie, I thought—”

“Nay, nay, let me finish my story. His jaw did slightly droop, but he instantly recovered and said in a tone of sadness that ’twas already taken. Whatever may have been his hopes, the temperature of the room did not rise, and ere many moments had gone by he was without the door.

“‘There,’ thought I, ‘is the last of John Smith.’ But little did



THE ONE IN THE SWEATER—Going to the Prom.?

THE OTHER—No, just thought I’d go out iceboating an hour or so.

I know the seriousness of his crush.

“Within a se’nnight he appeared again. Again did his reception rival in frigidity the Klondike, and again was his nerve equal to the occasion. Na’theless, the paleness of his features and the uneasy movements of his hands showed me that he was about to climb down.

“‘Nannie,’ he began, ‘I wish thee to understand, and, if possible, condone, the slight I have seemed to put upon thee.’

“‘Haughtily I arose and said:

“‘Need there is none for an explanation, Mr. Smith. If that be thy only errand, thy departure need not be delayed.’

“‘This shot brought him to his knees, and thou knowest, Clarice, that one *must* listen to a man upon his knees. Therefore did I hover within the room, while

in broken accents he explained his conduct.

“‘It seemeth, Clarice, that in the past summer, ere yet he knew me, he did meet this Quaker damsel at Ocean Beach, and that there and then he did ask her to this winter’s Assembly, not foreseeing, in his masculine blindness, that a summer crush could scarce outlive the summer’s foliage. And thus, in despite of vain regrets, he found himself compelled to keep his rashly formed engagement. Neither knew he how to explain to me, and so could only hope that, with a woman’s intuition, I might perceive the truth.

“‘Thou knowest my experience hath been such that I could but suspect all this to be an artistic lie. But ere John had finished his sad recital, he brought to view the most *beautiful* solitaire ring,





A SPRING TONIC.



THE SPHINX.

and—well—you see—I am going to the Assembly—and—”

“But, Nannie, what hast done with the other gallant who asked thee, and thy program so nearly filled?”

“Oh stupid, dost thou not see? There was no other man, and the program was eke a bluff.”

“I may not have been a Sunday-school superintendent all my life,” said Nero, “but no one can accuse me of ever having written a coon song.”

**S**LAUGHTER (in Latin)—Miss Sherman—stretch your “nec” over a line.

Miss S. [indignantly]—Sir, I never rubber.



**Puzzling.**

There are valentines—and valentines!

I wonder which she meant

When she looked so sweetly down

Upon the picture that I sent.

She said, “You are a valentine,”

A twinkle in her eyes.

I cannot rest until I know—

Comic or otherwise.

**S**MITH—I feel like studying.

**J**ONES—I feel like H—ll.

**S**MITH—Same thing.

**A Modern Knight.**

Johnny had a little horse,

And it was made of paper white.

Proud was Johnny of his horse,

And he could ride like any knight.

When exams were come at length,  
Brave Johnny rode his horse thereto.  
Firm was Johnny in his seat,  
He knew the horse would bring him through.

When the prof. would walk about  
I know, forsooth, you'd scarce believe;  
That this horse with lightning speed  
Would take his course up Johnny's sleeve.

But ill luck will have its way;  
The horse slipped down in panic sore,  
Sad it was he could not stop,  
But fell in shame upon the floor.

Near at hand the master stood;  
The horse he put his hand upon,  
And, to cut the matter short,  
Poor hapless Johnny got a CON.

“Rather singular,” remarked the baker,  
“that I'm busiest when I'm loafing.”—*Ex.*

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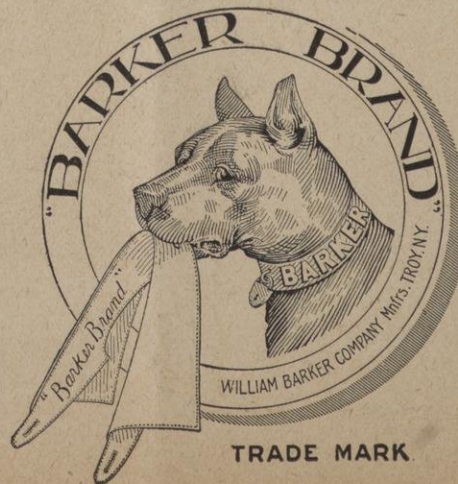
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## THE SPHINX.

### EXCHANGES.

"Your replies are very tart," said the young husband. Then he hastily added, "but they are not as tart as those mother made."—*Ex.*

—At the new U. W. shoe store you will find just what you want for winter shoes and at the right prices. They cater to the exact wants of each student, and make a specialty of fine repairing. You can't forget the place—708 University avenue.

'Twas yesterdeigh  
I heard him seigh,  
"My darling Meigh,  
Come, let us aweigh,  
And take a sleigh.  
Let others preigh,  
But we'll be geigh  
The livelong deigh."  
Did she say neigh?  
Well, you can leigh  
Your whole week's peigh  
She said "Yeigh, yeigh."

—*Ex.*

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Street Arab (eagerly)—"Hi there, Professor! bet I know where yo' got that hat."

Sedate Professor (stopping in astonishment)—"Why, er—where, my boy?"

S. A. (retreating rapidly)—"On yer head."—*Ex.*

—Having decided to close out my entire stock of pipes, I will sell at actual cost all pipes and smokers' articles. It will pay you to see my line and prices before buying elsewhere.

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—Develop a faculty for work, but be shy about trying to work the faculty.—*The Mirror.*

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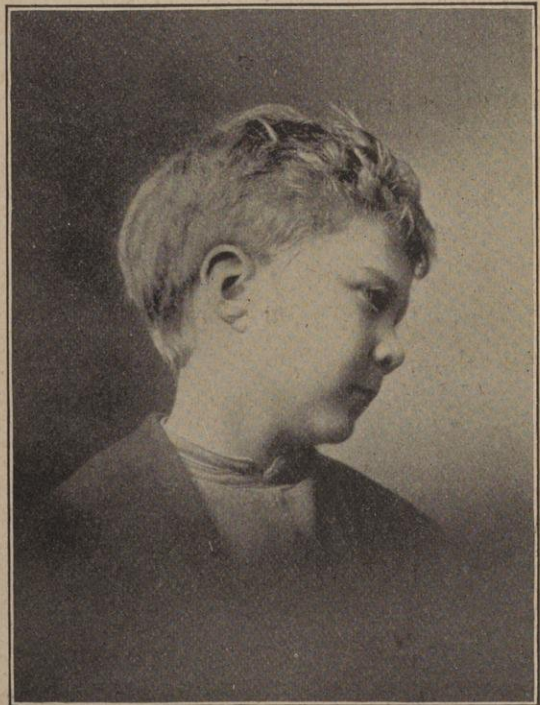
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