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The Sphinx. Vol. 6, No. 12 May 12, 1905

Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin, May 12, 1905

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Emancipation Day

Get out our Derby, Room Mate, and brush
it nice and clean,
For spring has come upon us, and all the
land is green,
And the Senior Regulations run out this
gladsome day,
For it is the first of May, Room Mate, it is
the first of May.

Get out your old pipe, Room Mate, and
light it up once more,
For you can smoke in safety, though you
could not before,
And isn't it lovely weather—and isn't it
splendid—say
That this is the first of May, Room Mate,
this is the first of May.



But keep off the Gym Fence, Room Mate,
we still are barred from there,
But wait until we're Juniors, and then with
a lofty air,
We'll sit on that icy paling—but now,
Pauline, Nay, Nay,
Though it is the first of May, Room Mate,
it is the first of May.

So put on your Derby Hat, Room Mate,
and put your pipe in your face,
We'll swagger around regardless—as though
we owned the place,
We in our nobby glad rags, (the stylish,
common gray),
For this is the first of May, Room Mate,
this is the first of May.

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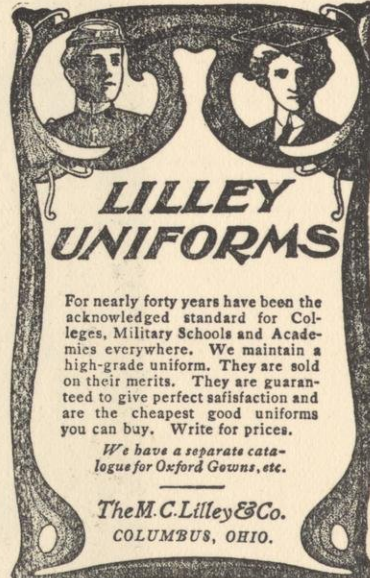
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Fragments

I

It's fun being funny in May
When you swelter and sweat,
And there's not a thing funny to say,
And the pencil is wet
And slips in your hands that perspire;
And the sweat fills your eyes,
And the plague of mosquitoes is dire,
And you fight off the flies.

It's fun being funny in May
When the effort to think
Brings only a longing to play
And a craving for drink.
And though you go beating your brain
To turn out some verse,
The stuff you produce is inane,
(And your prose is still worse).

It's fun being funny in May
(Or trying to be).
Just try it yourself for a day.
I wish you were me,
(I wish you were I, I should write).
I'm too lazy to care,
Three verses will do for to-night;
This ends the thing. There!

II

The North wind shrieks my name,
The South wind calls to me,
Calling me out to the open road,
And beyond the road, the sea.

And the placid days go on
In a steady plodding way,
While my heart is mad for the distant sea,
And the sting of its salty spray.

My books are dead and dry
And the air of my room is dead—
O, for the open road
And the hot sun overhead.

—*Kim.*

THE SPHINX.

Published fortnightly during the College Year
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Entered at the Postoffice of Madison, Wis., as
Second-Class Matter, September 28, 1901.

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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



WHILE THIS TIME of the year is not usually given up to serious discussion, it may not be amiss, nevertheless, to say a word *in re* Graduates *vs.* Undergraduates. It seems to THE SPHINX that the University has of late been over-emphasizing the graduate work. Supposedly the University of Wisconsin is supported by the state in order that the young men and women of the Badger commonwealth may get a thorough college training. This is the main purpose. The idea of building up a strong post graduate school which shall

“attract men from all over the country,” is secondary, or should be.

Yet at present the tendency seems otherwise. President Van Hise works and talks and urges more and higher graduate work; more “research,” and while he does also faithfully labor for undergraduate improvement, it is not his first love, nor does it claim equal enthusiasm. And the President is not the only one. We all know professors who regard teaching as a bore, and are impatient at its “interference” with their “work.”

IN THE NAME of Heaven what is a Professor's proper work if it isn't teaching? “Research” is well enough, but it seems to our callow undergraduate mind that it should be secondary. And the tax payers are rather prone thus to regard it.

“If teaching interferes with your research, quit the research.”

Here's another sample: The undergraduate wants to work out some line of investigation for a debate, perhaps, or a topic, or he wants to get faculty help (merely intellectual, not pecuniary) for a student enterprise which is wholly deserving. He visits innumerable professors who sit smilingly listening to his story, remark that it's an excellent idea” and—help him? Not on your life! He must develop the “sturdy energy” of his character and work out his own salvation “Laizze Faire” with a vengeance.

The undergraduate can debate, orate, write or sketch, and the faculty looks pleased and—does nothing. “Virtue,” reasons that body, “is its own reward”—for an undergraduate.

But let some gentleman from Hahvahd, who comes to take a master's degree and who doesn't give a damn (yes, we say it, and aren't ashamed) for Wisconsin, want to pursue some investigation and our august and usually flaccid faculty humps itself to help him. Maybe it believes that a man from Hahvahd has no “sturdy energy.”

Now if, with 116 graduates and 2,541 undergraduates, the graduate gets so overwhelmingly the advantage, what will it be when the P. G.'s get more numerous. It may be that the faculty is cherishing the "Grad." because he's so few, at present; but the cherishing proclivities of the faculty are, we imagine, rather elastic.

What have the Graduate schools ever done to strengthen college spirit? Nothing. It may be purely a coincidence, but nearly all the fine Graduate schools are in colleges where the spirit and strength of undergraduate life are nil. Look at Columbia and Chicago. "Verily, we say unto you, they have their reward." Further, Columbia and Chicago are supported by private endowment, and special funds are given for Graduate work. Hence, pecuniarily, the undergraduate work does not suffer. But at Wisconsin, as we understand it; the University is supported from one general fund, and any money turned to Graduate work is lost to the "common herd" of Seniors, Juniors, Sophomores and Freshmen.

By all means let us have P. G. work in moderation. We are not howling about *that*; but the threatened over-development of that line, and the special attention which it receives at the expense of the undergraduates, the men and women who truly represent and *make* Wisconsin is, it seems to us, unhealthy and dangerous.

Foot Notes

I always hate to go outdoors,
I do, it makes me swear,
For when I put my rubbers on,
It pulls my golden hair.

I often get disgruntled when
I find a shoestring breaking,
It makes a roaring in my ears,
And sets my teeth to aching.

I am an absent minded man
(These ain't lies, though I weave 'em),
I often leave my feet in bed,
And run away and leave 'em.

A Matter of Spelling

"The baby licked up all the painter's colors."

"Oh! Using his tongue for a palate."



That's All

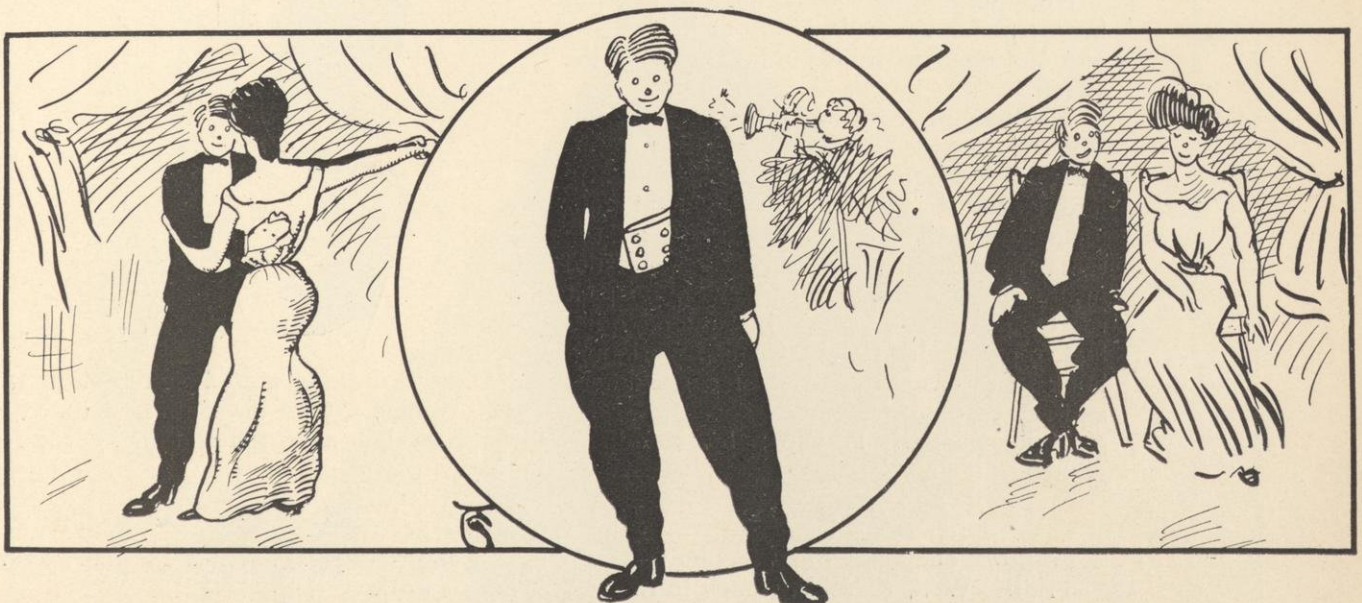
"Say, lend me five dollars, will you?"

"What for?"

"For about a month."



He—I bet I can't kiss you.
She—You lose.



Freshman Sports

No. IV



There was a young lady named Dacious,
Whose build was both buxom and gracious;
When out on the street
She looked pretty neat,
But down at the seashore—Oh, gracious!



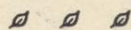
“Hello!”
“Yes, this is Frank.”
“O, I’ve got a lot of work, but I’d just
as soon help keep Herb from his.”
“About ten minutes.”

* * * * *

Herb greeted us with a surly growl, but brightened at the sight of my cigarette case and motioned us to our usual corner of the couch.

Just enough work was dangling over our heads to make loafing deliciously sinful, but not enough to make it poignantly wrong, and we three friends slouched comfortably together on the couch and let the talk run aimlessly over “past regrets and future fears,” as though there were no past regrets nor future fears. Just a good, quiet loaf, replete with talk of friends, work and books, and free from need of concealment and repression.

Time wasted? Perhaps; but gladness gained.



Fradto—They say a kiss has no taste.
Tridit—Well, there’s a smack to it.

True art in writing love stories is to make
“mush” taste like ice cream.



“What’s a Senior Pipe?”
“Any lunch.”



“Ever sit in the spoon holder?”
“No, but I’ve tried the forks of the road.”



Jones—(to deaf man)—Pretty figure that
girl has!

Deaf Man—Hey?

Jones—No, I think it’s all her own.



There is nothing more insufferable to the
dilatory Senior than his smiling classmate,
whose thesis is accepted and filed in the Li-
brary.



“Labor conquers all,” save a man’s aver-
sion to work.



"I wonder how much he wants now!"



Varsity Humorists No. II

Bings—This thesis business is a farce.
 Jings—Yes. But it's a tragedy if you don't write one.

x x x

A topic is a hash of other men's brains served up with a sauce of the student's words.

♦ ♦ ♦

"I wonder how much he wants now."

♦ ♦ ♦

Intensity is no virtue. An onion is stronger than a pound of breath perfume.

You don't get any good out of your income until it's outgo.

Rural Verse

You get a homely subject like the "Mould That's on the Cheese,"
 And then in rural dialect you model lines like these:
 "I kin hear the cows a-lowin' ez they have the pasture lot,
 I kin smell the pork a-zizzlin' an' the coffee in the pot,
 I kin smell it like I used to when I lived out on the farm,
 An' I wish't that I was back there, fur there isn't any charm
 Like bein' in ihe country when the wells be-gin-to freeze,
 An' the ice is on the pitcher an the 'Mould is on the Cheese!"



Before May 1st

"He seems to be carrying the world on his shoulders."
 "On, no! Merely 2 fifths Olin."



The Modern Nimrod



The Old Time Student



The New Time College Man

Rondeau.

The scent returned of violets she wore
 That time I met her in the days of yore,
 And in the fragrance from that early day
 My thoughts ran back and wandered far
 away,
 Seeking in vain one picture to restore.

At last five words I wrote of ancient lore:
 "A penny for your thoughts," and nothing
 more.

But ah, that I still live, perforce to say:
 The cent returned.

And still, I thought, that dream which I
 adore

And which we lived cannot be wholly o'er,—
 And so the Boy, blithe messenger and
 gay,

I sent to her to second my essay:
 But, through the years in vain I've waited
 for

The sent returned.

—Arden M. Wilson, in *The Chaparral*.

♫ ♫ ♫

I drink no ruby wine
 Or liquor,
 I never had my tongue
 Grow thicker,
 I never had a shine—
 Amusing
 To see what songs I've sung,
 On boozing.

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"Awful thing happened to Jones at the picnic."
 "What?"
 "Sun got hot and melted his ice cream trousers."

Essays of Synical Sym

I.

In the Spring the shaggy-haired individual with the pre-occupied air, whom we charitably call the poet, wanders aimlessly along the lake shore. He mutters an unintelligible jargon about spring, and sing and love, and dove and pink pajamas. Anon, he deftly extracts a chunk of Art from the atmosphere between his thumb and forefinger, and turning to an imaginary audience, he gurgles, in the words of *the Poet*, "Bless you, my children, for the precious thought! Thank you for understanding me!" Then he sighs deeply, and wonders if it is going to rain.

Soon, through the sheer force of habit, he plucks another hunk of Art from the unresisting ether, and eyes it hungrily. But in doing so his glance strays beyond the tip of his stubby, Art-begrimed thumb, and comes to rest upon a group of Long Spoon worshippers, gathered in pairs for their evening service underneath the willows that fringe the shore. At this his ingrowing face brightens reminiscently, and he forgets to wonder if it is going to rain.

"Ah!" he babbles softly. "This is indeed Art! How forgetful of earthly existence are yon couples! What artlessness do their attitudes bespeak! And Art to be Art must be artless. Bless me for the privilege of beholding at last Art that is truly artless! It must have been this that suggested the immortal lines to my friend, the Vagabond, when he said:

'Make me anything but neuter
 When the sap begins to stir.'

The Poet clasped his hands behind his back for a time in blissful contemplation. Then he sighed deeply *noch einmal*, and decided that it was going to rain. —Sym.

Clipped Quips

Concerning Mother's Cooking

The more I think about the cake
That mother sometimes used to bake,
The less I can account for my survival;
It was leaden—without question,
As a source of indigestion,
In all New Hampshire State it had no rival.

And yet, 'twas not her cake alone
That made Ma's name so widely known.
Her bread was also notably tenacious;
And being tough as leather
And proof 'gainst wind and weather,
For patching barns was found quite efficacious.

But when I think of mother's pies
At night, I scarce can close my eyes
(Of nightmares mother's pastry was prolific);
The crust was adamantine,
The weight was elephantine;
Pa's dental powers must have been terrific.

Much more besides I might relate
Respecting toughness, strength and weight,
But all would merely point to this conclusion:

That for indigestibility
And all-around utility,
Ma's cooking could win medals in profusion.

—Chaparral.

Mike—"Indade an' I had a drame last av'ning."

Bridget—"Ye did, an, p'hat was it?"

Mike—"I dramed that I was awake, an' awoke, an' be gorra I found I was."—*Punch Bowl.*

The Tragedy that Wasn't

Willie—

Put acid in mother's tea.
Mother didn't drink it—see!

Stung!

—*Record.*



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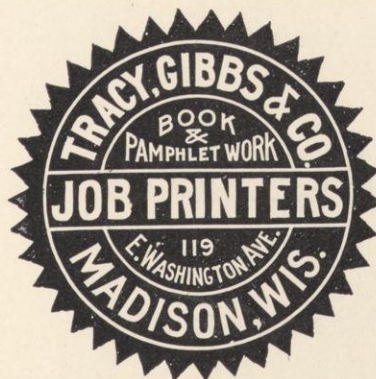
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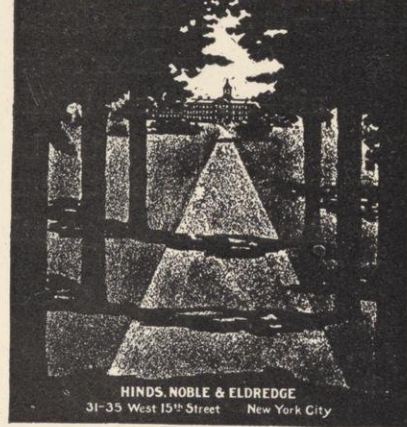
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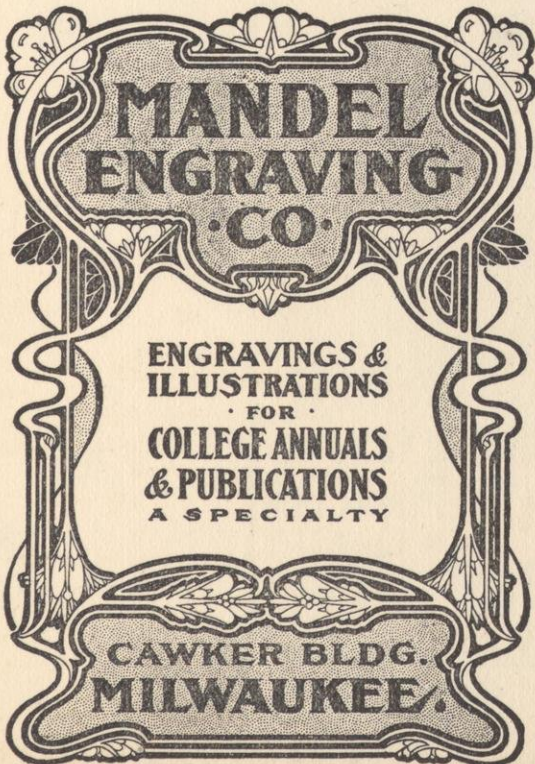
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