# The Sphinx. Vol. 6, No. 6 December 24, 1904 

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## The Sphinx

## The Old Time Christmas

Perhaps this theme may seem most trite
Hnd yet I bet it isn't so,
Hithough it glow with "candle light,"
Hnd "such a much" of misletoe,
These things grow never old you know.
Egad! They add to all the rest.
So while the winter breazes blow
The Old Time Christmas suits me best.
"H bas" the gas for Christmas night,
Give me the candles all arow,
Hnd on this date the grate is right
Hnd not the furnace down below.
Romance should dance, and punch should flow,
Good will should thrill both host and guest.
New fangled notions shoudn't go,
The Old Time Christmas suits me best.
I care not where the hour's take flight
So that they be not dull or slow,
So that all eyes with joy be bright
And sheer good cheer keep cheeks aglow.
Too quiet nowadays we grow.
Christmas should be a noisy "fest"
With revelry alight, I trow.
The Old Time Christmas suits me best.
Love, Light and Laughter, these we owe
To make the season rightly blest,
Hnd these today wa have, although
The Old Time Christmas suits me best.
-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

[E ARE MOROSELY aware of the responsibility imposed upon us. We must write a Chritmas editorial. It must have the tinge of frost and the jingle of bells, and good will on earth and peace to men-or vicy versy, and it would of course be totally without point if a hint of old Santa were absent. Our memories of old Santa are mixed with mournfulness, for last year a playful friend filled our soc-pardon us, hose, with an inside coating of fly paper, and we were not happy. Still Christmas comes but once a year and so we wish everybody the best sort of a Christmas with all the Santas, holly, turkies, presents, sleigh bells, cards, cigars, pies, mistletoe and girls-or boys, to kiss under the misletoe.

## And lastly,

DON'T STUDY!

WHEN A MAN has honestly done his best, when he has been clean, decent and earnest in his endeavor and yet has failed, he need not be ashamed to look anyone in the face. Wisconsin students are still proud of Arthur Curtis as the greatest tackle the country ever saw, as one of the finest fellows and best students Wisconsin ever knew and his failure as a coach at Wisconsin has abated no whit the respect he deserves as a man.

Art. need not be ashamed to look any Wisconsin man in the face, and any Badger worthy the name will give him the hearty greeting and the strong handclasp that speak beyond all words.

WHAT'S THE MATTER with Wisconsin? We know now, and we are performing the surgical operation to cure. We are cutting out the old abcesses and cutting off the old parasitic growths, and we are bringing Wisconsin to athletic life again. We shall start next year clean, and we shall learn that cleanliness is not only next to godliness, but it is success.

And if Fate is kind, and our resolution strong, this is our last editorial on athletics for several issues.


At Home - The Freshman relates how he was "rushed" -


- but Keeps severely silent as to the post iniation "take down."


Tickled to Death and Trying not to Look It.

I took my father by the hair,
And plunged him into boiling tar, Mother looked up from her work,
She said: "Dear, dear, how rough you are!"

High Souled Young Man (to Gusing Little Freshman)-And do you ever yearn for higher things?
G. L. F.-O, my, yes. Now even yesterday I saw the prettiest pair of high stockI mean-isn't it a lovely day?

## College Economy

Mr. Smiddelbauer: Vell Ikie did you zafe any uf de monish vutt I gafe you veen you vas home fum goll-age de last d!!me?

Ikie: I dink so, fadder. I haf $\$ 25.00$ sdill.

Mr. Smiddelbauer: Gott, Ikie, how dit you doo idd?

Ikie: I bodd an asbestus poked.
Mr. S.: Vy an asbesdus poked?
Ikie: So the monish vudd not burn.


She-Why didn't you call last night?
He-(absently)-Couldn't, all I held was a bob-tailed straight.

## An Early Christmas

"May, you are looking like the spring daisies."
"Meant well, Tom, but the spring daisies are faded long since; it's winter now."
"That compliment is perfectly apt, for the very breath of spring seems to float always about you, and the only things faded are the fairies who try to travel in your class; also-"
"Also you were about to make several remarks as to my 'lissome slenderness' and 'languorous grace,' my 'patrician perfection of feature' and-"
"And all the other over-elaborate' phrases which my English Prof. cavils at? No, honestly, I've just descended to the lucidly simple diction of my childhood and shall hereafter plead my suit in words of one syl-lab-le, and this doesn't tend to variety. I think I will try the effect of a constant repetition of that refrain, 'I love you,' May.,'
"Try it? Have you tried anything else in the last six months? Truly I've got a great idea of your versatility in wooing if you think you've been particularly varied."
"May, my life centers about you. You are the hub of the universe, the center of the solar system, the capitol square of my thoughts, and every time I see you I cannot help saying, 'you,' and leading up to that word which contains all existence, by two most perfect steps, 'I love,' hence-"
"Hence you have forgotten the dictum of Dodge as to pretentious Diction, - 'scuse the alliteration,' and you're wandering in the fields with Lesbia, decidedly."
"I'm not wandering in the fields with Lesbia, but I am philandering before the fire with May, and I must say it's far preferable to pedestrian strolls in the snow. Yet this is a fact, May, I would rather plough through three feet of snow with you than sit before the grate with some one else and watch the sparks fly upward. But 'a bas' the sentimental. What are you going to give me for Christmas?"
"Mercenary man; commercialism is the curse of the country" "And the sustenance of the average man; don't mock my progenitor, May. Father made his money in lard. What are you going to give me for Christmas?"
"Why, I had thought of something filmy and gossamer like in ties, something that-"
"Oh, I see, something in family ties, a nuptial knot I presume; that's so filmy in some cases that it parts at the least strain!"
"You're perfectly horrid, I shan't give you anything if you keep on twisting my words awry. I thought some of a cigar case, or a box of cigars, but then I concluded you smoked too much and-"
"That I had got to the end of my rope. Rather apt, for I've been smoking Pittsburg stogies."
"Then, I thought of a scarf pin, a pair of cuffbuttons, a-"
"May, listen. There's just one thing I want for Christmas, just one. It isn't much, it is intangible, priceless, perfect. It is something I have longed for since I knew you, something I should long ago have stolen had I not feared to lose your friendship, which I have, and you, whom I have hoped to win. May, I want you to give me a kiss for Christmas!"
"Tom, I-I, you foolish boy! please don't make any more horrid jokes like that. You aren't a bit nice when you do."
"Joke! Do you think I'm always joking? I am asking you in all humility and earnestness for what is more than all the riches of the world to me."
"But Tom, I-, you know I said I would never kiss any man but the one I intended to marry."
"I know! and that is why I'm asking. I have proposed directly so many times that a little indirection seems fitting. May, are you going to give me my present?"
"You must take all the incumbrances and conditions with it."
"I don't fear the incumbrances. Am I to get the present I want?"
"I-I guess so."
"Well, I said it was to be a Christmas present, Tom, and I think you're horrid to take it now."
"What are those incumbrances you spoke about, May?"
"Well, there's me, and several extravagant tastes, and a perfectly gluttonous appetite, and an awful temper and-"
"We'll compromise, May. I took the present now, but I'll wait for the incumbrances 'till Christmas."
-A. B. Braley.


One reason for going home - and

## Our Home News Column.

Ned Jordan Sundayed at the Alpha Phi House.

Hamlet Barry took the car out to his best's house, Sunday. Ah there, Ham!

Harry Wheelock is down with dyspepsia. Doc. says it's caused by overwork. Get well soon, Wheels.

Louis Turner has a new pair of pants. Pretty nice, Louis. Louis is a good fellow and always dresses good.

Red Feldkamp is doing well in his course. Red is a nice fellow, and we like to watch him succeed.

Mr. James (at the office an hour later)Why didn't you hold that lady?

Clerk-I did sir, for a while, but my arm went to sleep and she got away.
"Why all these ceremonies in hanging the man?"
"Because every one says he should be hanged by rites."


- another reason.


## Natural History

The scare-crow is a funny bird, He cannot fly nor croak, But flops all day upon his perch (This is a dum poor joke).

The goat is always butting in, He hasn't any knowledge, He has a most unpleasant blatt, There's lots of him in college.

The pony, he is small but strong, There's lot of us have tried him. We know of course it's very wrong But just the same we ride him.
x 2n 2

## L'Envoi

We know this stuff is very crude. We're sorry that we wrote it. You needn't read it; if you do, You know you needn't quote it!

## Then

She was a stunner! No concoction of tantalizing loveliness had ever before drugged college masculinity into such a state of speechless admiration. When she swept by them on the Hill, grave-eyed seniors cast dignity and etiquette to the winds and turned to gaze after her. Before vagrant shots from her wondrous eyes, the philosophy of cynical juniors was shattered like a card fortress. Sophomores and freshmen alike she trampled under her dainty little feet with serene unconcern, nor did she seem to hear when they worshipped humbly at her shine.

Like the flight of a comet was her college course, leaving in its wake a general epidemic of enlarged masculine hearts, scores of crumbled Dream castles, and a panic of frenzied finance. College Lotharios vied with one another in offering her a happy home, but she cast them all unceremoniously into a common Slough of Despond. For she had other and greater worlds to dazzle into subjection.

> Now.

She sits prim and sedate within the dreary walls of a high school building, teaching stupid mathematics and German to droning sluggards.

## MORAL.

Gather your roses while you may.

$$
-F . W . M
$$

Miss Agnes McGargle McGlue Is skinny and singular, too,

Her voice-well it jangles--
She's no curves and all angles-
But then, "She's so good and so true."

A funny old fake is the Finkle,
His face is just merely a wrinkle;
He sits by the hour
Making cats out of flour,
And holding his ears while they tinkle.

These are not very funny jokes,
Nor are they very sage,
And yet they fill their purpose,
And they also fill the page.

# Editorials by the Laity 

The Modern Skirt

PROF. JEROME DOWD.

OOKING BACK through the centuries which have intervened since the boa con ${ }^{-}$ strictor offered the first suggestions on spring fashions, there has been a marked evolution in the feminine skirt, which from a sociological standpoint is worthy of more than passing consideration. It is a far cry from the contents of the wash tub on the first Monday to the contents of the Christmas Delineator. There still remains the same intense satisfaction that comes in giving nature a boost in the problem of personal adornment. It is safe to say that Eve and all her understudies down through Cleopatra, Isabella and Carrie Nation, have been equally industrious in diversifying the styles of wearing apparel. While the Garden of Eden was the place where fashions got their first hunch, the city of Paris, where the most unique styles now have their origin, according to the best authorities I can find, is for pure simplicity in some styles of its native dress not far behind the morning gown of the woman who never worried about a peroxide stenographer. The class will take twenty pages in advance.

## Poetry In Woman's Garb

MR. BEATTY.

AMOST CAREFUL examination into the origin of poetry, the drama and the dance, brings us to the conclusion that feminine apparel played a most important part in determining the degree of evolution which has marked the growth of these arts. If we look into the life and the huts of the primitive Australian and cast a side glance at the life and the steamer trunks of the modern ballet dancer, we see a marked diversity in the apparel, yet a definite similarity in the artistic attributes. The modern vaudeville, in being continuous, shows its origin in the love dances of the Victorian Indian. The vaudeville artist does turns in order that she may eat; the primitive artist did turns after she had eaten, therefore we see that eating and skirts have both been potent factors in the growth of poetry, hence poetry and eating are closely related. (Question by Mr. Adams, who has butted into the class). Returning to the subject of the modern skirt, I must say that my best authority does not agree with me in this matter. I contend that my theory, such as I have just presented to you, is entirely correct, although I have not studied the subject at all. Taking a liberal view of this skirt proposition, I would say that further discussion is unnecessary. I would like to have as many members of the class present at future recitations as have a desire to hear me lecture.

## The Economics of the Skirt

PROF. W. A. SCOTT

IIN ORDER TO get a perfect understanding of this important matter which we will take up this morning, it is necessary to understand perfectly just what we mean by a skirt. In the first place a skirt is cloth. Now cloth is of various kinds. There is cheese cloth, sack cloth, and other kinds of cloth, including men of the cloth. But we will consider cloth only in its relation to skirts, which as I said before, are the subjects of our study. Now to make it perfectly clear to all students, for I notice that many do not seem to be able to grasp this matter fully, we will take a little illustration. In the first place students should not confuse the outskirts of a town with the matter under discussion. All up-to-date economists have found a logical connection between the general subject of cloth and that of the skirt. This requires somewhat minute explanation, which we will take up at the next hour.

Mr. Wheelock, I want to see you after class.

"Blanks looks pretty lugubrious, must be broke."
"Yep, fellow's face usually is long when he's short."

Clerk-(over the 'phone)-Mr. James, ther's a lady wants to see you at the office. James-All right, hold her till I come.

## Roundel

Who knows the ways of mystic sprites,
Of Will-o-wisp, and Pankypoo,
Of Elfin dances and delights-?
Who?
Of women and of statesmen, too,
Who knows their ways, their days, their nights?
Not I at least and scarcely you.
Who, who can figure "dope" on fights, Or pick a winning team or crew? And who'll stick up for "Freshman rights?" Who?

$$
\therefore \therefore x
$$

"Well, I'm square with the world except for my tailor's bill, livery, board, room anfd tobacco."
"Great Scott! what did you pay?"
"Keeley's and the Bon Ton."
"How does that make you square?"
"It makes me square with Molly, and she's all the world to me."

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