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# THE SPHINX



Vol. VI

Madison, Wis., March 22, 1905

No. 9

== "VANITAS NUMBER" ==



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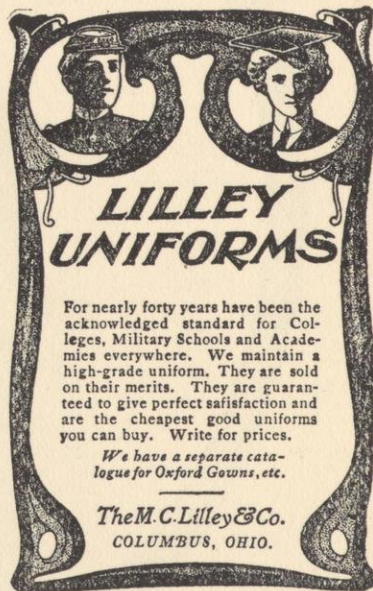
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# The Sphinx

Naramore

## Ale

Host, have you ale that is fit to drink,  
Frothing and brown and clear—  
Bubbling over the goblet's brink  
Smacking of mirth and cheer?  
I have no taste for your Flemish wine,  
Nor rum that you have for sale;  
But bring me a cool and brimming stein,  
A beaker of foaming ale!

Rich and brown  
It gurgles down,  
And plethoric peace comes o'er me,  
All care and fret  
I can forget  
So long as there's ale before me!

They sing of the kiss from a maiden's  
mouth  
As nectar beyond all praise,  
But is it a drink that will cure the drouth  
The dust of the road doth raise?  
In woman's pranks I am illy versed,  
But hearken to this my tale—  
There never was kiss could quench my  
thirst  
Like beakers of foaming ale.

Mellow and brown it gurgles down,  
And plethoric peace comes o'er me—  
Care and fret I can forget  
So long as there's ale before me.



“They sing of the kiss—”



## 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



ELL, fellows, it's all over. Tessie from Tiptown, Phyllis from Philville, Sally from Syene, have tackled the train for home, and now Willie backs into his corduroys and borrows the— whoa, Emma! we're getting too deep into Jordan! Yes, it's over, and we paid the price and you can remark for us that it was worth it. 1906 is a gr-r-eat class, but we hope the tickets will be five dollars next year! Us to the hop!

**W**HOWER invented the present system of electing Badger board members created a lovely method—for the literary societies. Under the existing regime the societies are each allowed to elect two members and then—they may all adjourn to the Hill caucus and vote there. This is neither fair nor right to the other interests. The engineers elect nine members, and have no further vote; the girls elect nine members, and have no further vote; the non-literary society men have but one opportunity to vote, and they must share that caucus (which elects five members) with the literary society men who have already voted.

The literary societies, to repeat, elect eight men and *then go into the Hill caucus and vote for the five members* there. The result is that the literary societies usually get about three out of the five caucus nominees.

THE SPHINX is not unfriendly to these societies. They are excellent bodies and a credit to Wisconsin, but THE SPHINX has always stood for fair play—for the "square deal"—and under the present conditions the cards are stacked. The literary societies should not have double representation. They should be allowed to elect their own quota for the board and should not be allowed to participate in a subsequent caucus.

The one answer that the societies make is, "Well, let the fellows join the literary societies." That is like the cry of the railroads, "If you don't like our rates, you can walk."

**Sphinx for balance of year==8 numbers 75c. All back numbers which we have, included.**

**W**HILE we're on the subject of defective representation, the matter of the conference committee comes up. The present manner of choosing the conference members is right in theory—inequitable in practice.

All the prejudice and politics inseparable from mass meetings are avoided in the present election by "interests," but through a failure to apportion the representatives carefully, some interests are far more potent on the committee than is just.

A thorough revision of the present system and a fair and effective apportionment will do away with the present inequalities and make the committee more truly representative. Do away with the gerrymander!

W W W W W



Train a boy in the way he should go and he will depart from it in the days of his manhood.



The wages of sin is debt—and the devil never refuses more credit.



I wish I didn't have a face;  
I would much like to waive it,  
Because, no matter where I went  
I wouldn't have to shave it.



"Has Watson got the 'bubble fever?'"  
"Has he! Say he soaks his cigars in gasoline and lights them with a sparking plug."



Jim—This window seat would be all right if there weren't such a deuce of a draft.

Joe—Yes, I've noticed the best place for a window seat is on the other side of the room from the window.



Prof.—What is a draft?  
Foxy Student—A current of air.  
Prof.—Now don't be flip, young man.  
F. S.—Well, it's some sort of currency anyhow.



"Trying to charge up Prom expenses as fees?"

"Naw. Putting 'em down as charity. Folks said it was pure charity to take that girl."



The color question at Wisconsin is one of "saffron sheets" and young men with a desire to paint things vermilion.



One trouble with most any plan  
Reforming all things human,  
Is that there is no perfect man  
Nor any perfect woman.

Dead Beat—I have come to pay—  
Merchant—What? pay—?  
D. B.—My respects to you, and ask if you have a "V" you could lend me.



### The Retort Courteous

[Commencement week, U. of W., June, 1905. A Madison street car. Two attractive young women enter the car, one dressed in green, the other in brown.]

The one in green—How very crowded the cars are to-day.

The one in brown—Yes, indeed, the town is full of visitors at commencement time.

Green—I've just come up from Chicago, myself. My sister graduates, and it's such a fine chance to see old friends. Are you a Wisconsin graduate?

Brown—Yes, my class was '01.

Green—Why, so was mine? What a coincidence! I wonder if we have any mutual friends. Did you know Alice King?

Brown—Only slightly. We were in the same Biology class my second year. Did you ever meet Sammy Sumner or Bess Arthur?

Green—No, I never did. Let me see—well, there was Alan Douglas, I was engaged to him in college.

Brown (in amazement)—Why, so was I!

Green (equally astonished)—Not really? well, what a joke! Two old sweethearts of the same man meeting after all these years! Just fancy!

Brown (laughing)—It is unusual, isn't it?

Green (reminiscently)—You must have been the red-haired girl that Alan told me about, whom he had a crush on, his Freshman year. He was always assuring me that those little flirtations were long since forgotten.

Brown (stiffly)—Indeed!

Green—Yes. Dear old Alan, what a fickle youth he was! I wonder where he is now, poor fellow.

Brown—He lives here in town, has actually risen to the rank of a "prof.," and is married.

Green (somewhat taken back)—Married! Ah! Indeed! I wonder if it was a successful match!

Brown (smiling)—I see him quite often, and he looks well and happy.

Green (with jealous interest)—Can it be possible? You see him frequently, you say?

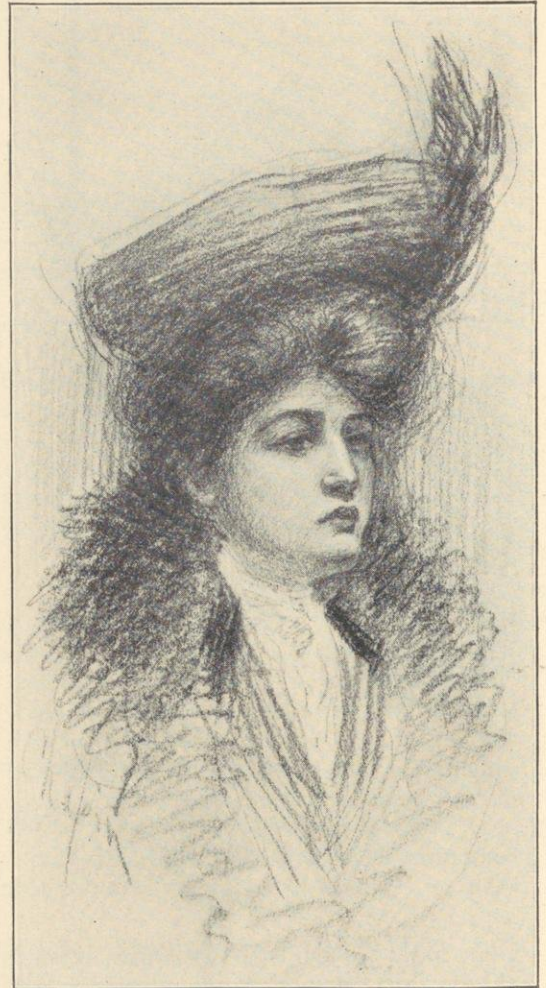
Brown (cheerfully)—Very. In fact, we live in the same flat, and board at the same table.

Green (spitefully)—Dear me! How very romantic! The happy, contented lover, and the lone, rejected sweetheart! Quite the opposite of the trite, conventional, novel-

ending. I'd like to see his wife. I wouldn't breathe it to another soul, but since we're both in the same boat,—I never quite recovered from that affair. We were so fond of each other. It was five years ago, and I'm single yet!

Brown (sympathetically)—Is that so?

Green—He used to say he never could care for any girl as much as he did for me. Someone has come between us! I'm sure his wife is a scheming, silly little wretch, and he doesn't care a rap for her!

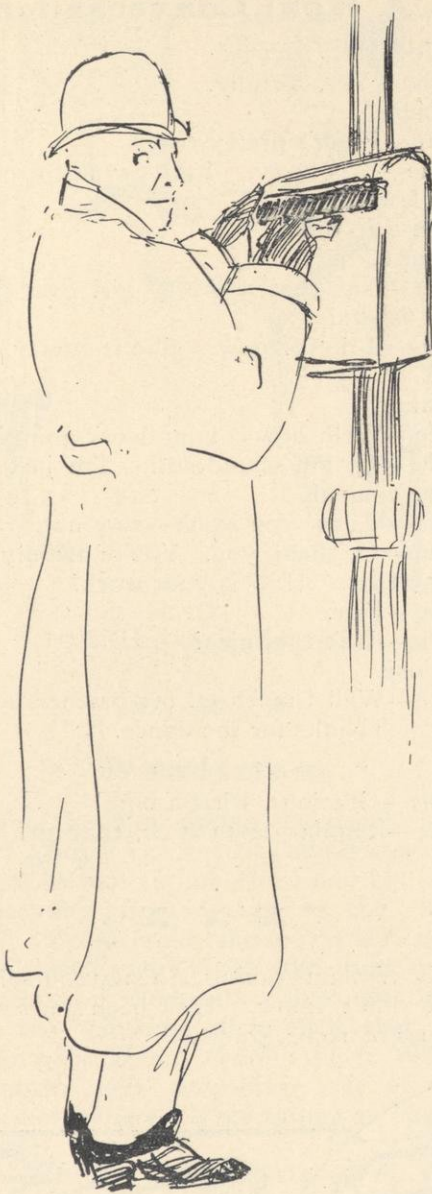


Brown (hotly)—I'm not! He does! He's as much in love with me as ever, and we're perfectly happy!

Green—You! What *are* you taking about? I thought you said—

Brown (very red and confused)—Why, er, yes—ah,—you see, I *do* live near him, we *are* at the same table, and I *was* engaged to him in college, but (rising) he married me! Ah, good-bye, this is my corner.

D. B.



**Relief**

A good old Durham cigarette—  
 It's great to puff on one again.  
 Those tailor-mades are good, and yet  
 You sicken of them soon, and then—  
 You bring that muslin pouch to light  
 And roll a homely home-made "nail,"  
 And scatter all the blues to flight—  
 Nor think of bills that make you pale.

SHE'S gone, and though a vague regret  
 Still lingers in your lazy brain—  
 Content you puff that cigarette,  
 For Prom is gone with all its strain,  
 Your "Happy duds" are laid away,  
 And you are dressed "just anyhow,"

DO IT NOW



Plebeian comfort rules the day—  
 And Durham is the fashion now.

A good old Durham cigarette—  
 No sickly, sweetish, Turkish thing;  
 We're back to sanity you bet,  
 We've had our high falutin fling.  
 We drop the butts upon the floor,  
 And no one looks askance, or frets;  
 We won't be stylish any more,  
 We're back to Durham cigarettes.

—Berton Braley.



"Funny, ain't it?"  
 "What?"

"When a girl wears a solitaire it's a sign  
 she isn't going to be solitary very long."

"Writin' home for a check?"  
 "Oh, of course not. Offering to buy out  
 Charlie Pfister."



Willie (funny little trick),  
 Ate a pound of arsenic;  
 When they called the doctor in  
 Willie gave a gleeful grin.



Reason why he didn't fall?  
 Twasn't arsenic at all.



**Ambiguous**

"I'm puzzled over my Prom Girl's Letter."  
 "Well?"  
 "She says that she had a lovely time. The fellows made her feel 'perfectly at home.'"  
 "Ain't that O. K?"  
 "Well, you see her father is superintendent of a bug house, and she lives there."

**A Real Conversation**

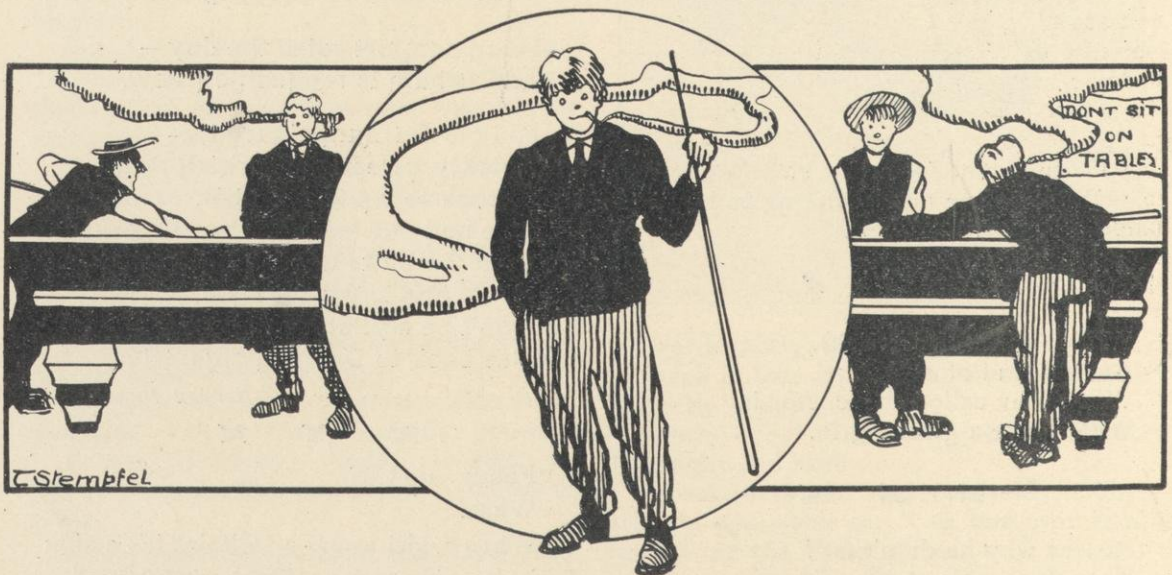
He—Hot, isn't it?  
 She—Yes, awfully.  
 Pause.  
 He—Floor's pretty rough.  
 She—Yes, very. I got awfully tired the first few dances.  
 He—So did I.  
 Pause.  
 He—Isn't that a pretty girl over there? Who is she?  
 She—I don't know. She is pretty, isn't she?  
 Pause.  
 He—Well, how is your work going?  
 She—O, I'm scared stiff. I'm just sure I'll be conned.  
 He—O, no, you won't—sure not.  
 She—O, thank you. You're awfully nice to say that. How is your work?  
 He—Fair.  
 She—Isn't that nice?  
 Pause.  
 He—Well I must get my partner for the next. Thanks for the dance.

\* \* \* \*

She—Gracious, what a bore!  
 He—Regular damn stick, that girl is!  
 J. H. H.

x x x

"Is Williams taking a heavy course?"  
 "I don't know. He's been in several scrapes of some gravity."





"Putting up a tile roof."

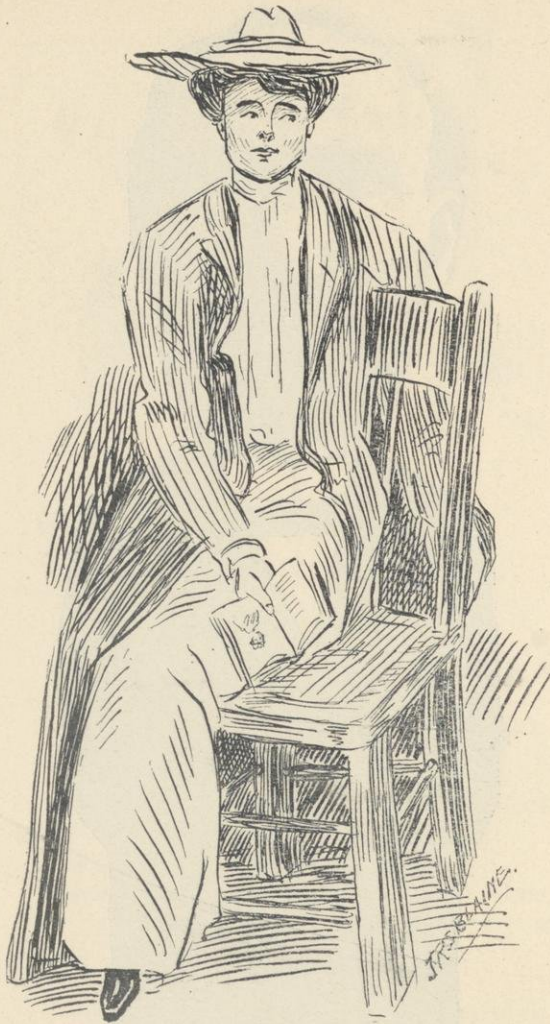


### Wanderlust

"Now the West during this epoch"—the West! Lord, I can hear it calling now, and I've got to wait six months more, but then I'll pack my grip and start on the "long hike." McGovern'll take me on his engine to Chi, and I guess I'll be able to work the engineers on those other lines, an' then'll come the "clickety, click, click" that tells me I'm goin' West. Goin'—West? What'll it matter? goin' *somewhere*, out of this, somewhere where I'll see things an' maybe *do* some.

An' from the Golden Gate,—well, "I'll go, go, go, away from here" an' make for Hawaii on a transport or something an' hear the old screws shakin' an' the deck hands cuss, "an' meet my mate, the wind that tramps the world." An' then, me for Philippines an' Hóng Kong, an' Egppt an' Italy an' all the rest, takin' my time an' livin' someway an' bein' happy all the time. "No sir, I don't know," what'd he ask? Well never mind—an' from Italy to France an' England an' then home with my pockets empty, but my brain free of cobwebs an' my heart not quite so full of unrest. An' maybe Frankie'll go along an' we'll be brown an' tanned, an'—there's that bell!





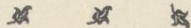
Mr. Smith (having just returned from an auto ride with Mrs. Jones)—How did you enjoy the ride, Mrs. Jones?

Mrs. Jones—Oh, I always enjoy myself when I'm with you.

Mr. S. (noticing his wife standing near)—Do you speak in the singular or plural?

Mrs. J. (looking uneasily at Mrs. S.)—Oh, in the plural, to be sure.

Mrs. S.—Well, it seems to me your plural is very singular.



“He says the world owes him a living.”

“But I notice he collects it from his friends.”



“Does Jangs follow the races?”

“He must; he's always behind on them.”



A fool's natural bent is often a bender.

## The Mary Jane

A NAUTICAL HITCH

A fine old brig were the Mary Jane,  
An' many a trip she made;  
Her helm was taut by a Boston man,  
While a Syene preacher prayed.

A fine old brig were the Nancy Ann,  
(Alas the Mary Jane.)  
Her cargo were ten penny nails an' bran  
An' she scoured the wintry plain.

A fine old brig were the Ellen May,  
(An' Mary Jane were her name.)  
The cap'n were full of army rye,  
An' the skipper hadn't no shame.

He hadn't no shame  
An' the boat went down  
An' all the crew perished at sea—  
In fifty fathom she sunk, she sunk,  
A dreadful fate it be.

She sunk to the bottom, but I am here,  
An' she lies in the cold, cold sand—  
I'm here (you hark), fur I didn't embark  
But staid here safe on land.



**After**

“If it wasn't for that confounded last banquet I gave her I could take the car home. Forty dollars in the last three days—oh Lord!”

**"The Rose that Once—"**

Call me, mother, at half-past eight,  
 (Nine themes I wrote and this is ten)  
 And maybe it's love and perhaps it's fate,  
 (The dead rose never will bloom again).



Call me, ma, when the misty dew  
 (Nine themes I wrote and this makes ten)  
 Swings silent scorn the whole hour through,  
 (The dead rose never will bloom again).

And this is the end of the sorry plot,  
 (Nine themes I wrote and this makes ten)  
 I hope you see, for I do not,  
 (The dead rose never will bloom again).

x x x

Didn't know Sulla was a doctor."  
 "He wasn't."  
 "But this history says, 'Rome was suffering from the prescriptions of Sulla.'"

\* \* \*

**A Sea Tale**

I would tell you a tale of the Kate McGee,  
 That sailed for a port in Spain—  
 A tale of a captain drowned at sea  
 While combing the Spanish main.

I would tell you of this remarkable sail,  
 I repeat, I would tell it to you,  
 Were it not for the fact that such a tale  
 Would never be straight and true.

A. B. S.

## Pabst Blue Ribbon

The Beer  
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experts and laymen the  
standard brew of America

I had a little tiger that I hung up by the tail,

Though my mother didn't like it, and it made the tiger pale;

But the tiger was good natured, and he never even cursed,

But remarked with subtle humor that his "views had been reversed."

Then he reached up in his pocket and discovered twenty cents.

"Will you take a present, Mister, do not keep me in suspense."

"Truly, I am getting weary and I presently shall frown

"Brush me off my fur is covered with a lot of upside down."

Now this ballad it is clever, it is full of funny scenes,

But I cannot, though I wrote it, tell the teacher what it means.

x x x

"Jinks' auto ran down—"

"Who got in front of it?"

"No one; it just ran down—goes by a/ockwork, you know."

## Clipped Quips

### On the Brain

Pots—What vas der matter mit Heinrich yet? I see dot he is flunked already.

Tausend—Ach! Heinrich vas ein goot student but he got Vassar on der brain.—*Tiger.*

Mike—I say Bridget, why d'ye go to slape for in th' av'ning?

Bridget—Faith and that's aisy me darlint, so ez I kin wake up in the mornin'.—*Punch Bowl.*

Sunday-School Teacher—"Johnny, what are the chief curses of mankind?"

Johnny—"Hell, damn and—Say, yer don't want me ter blurt 'em *allout*, do yer?"—*Widow.*

Hiram (reading letter from son at college): Mary, our son John's losin' all his religion at that there Stanford's school. Here he says he's goin' to cut out the foundations o' the early church and take the life o' Christ.—*Chaparral.*

Ikey—"Brofessor, vos it der Dutch vot bought Manhattan Island for dventy-four dollars?"

History Professor—"It was."

Ikey—"How vos it der Hebrews missed such a pargain?"—*Widow.*

Father (who has been called upon in the city and asked for his daughter's hand): Louise, do you know what a solemn thing it is to be married?

Louise—Oh, yes, pa; but it is a good deal more solemn being single.—*Fudy.*

I wish I had a funny face;

There is no doubt about it.

I'd sell it to a funny sheet,

And go about without it.

—*Record.*

### Modern Pugilism

Jones—I always thought Bill was a scrapper.

Smith—Huh! The only scraps he has are scraps of conversation.—*Punch Bowl.*



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"Haaaat's sakes, no."

"Well, whoever he was, he was a staaa."

"Yes, them Haaavad boys all plays haaad."

"Say, did you see him when he daaated right between them two Daaatmouth men?"

"No, I didn't see him; it was getting daaak."

"He cert'ny is a shaaak."

"Change Caaaas!"

"Well, I must depaaat. So long."

"So long." — *Lampoon.*



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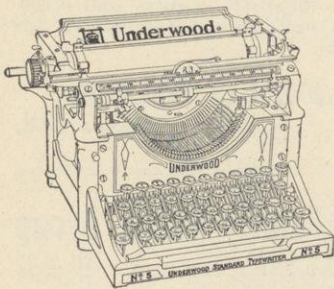
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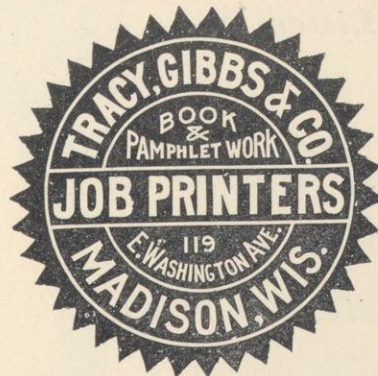
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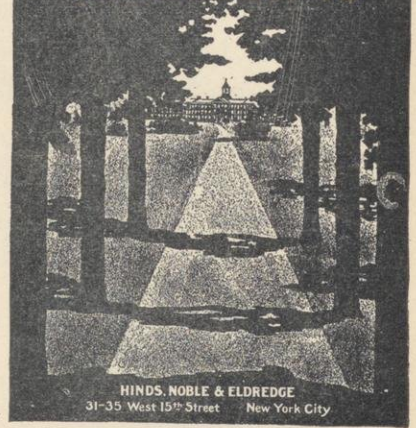
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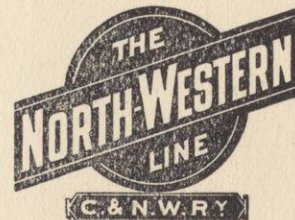
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