# The Sphinx. Vol. 4, No. 5 November 25, 1902 

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## The Sphinx

## A Ballade of Changed Gods.

Of old they loved the battle grim And weltered-joyously, in gore-
To rend their foemen limb from limb, Was game enough for men of yore.
The gladiators stabbed and tore!
The lions ate the saints in glee!
Such games as those are now no moreAnd ping pong is the game for me.

Times past I tumbled in the Gym, Or tried to pull a winning oar,
Went into football with a vim, (Came out much wiser and more sore.)
On baseball and on three or four Such games I spent much energy,
That waste of force I much deplore, For ping pong is the game for me.
The game of love-when lights were dim, I used to play - in times before
Croquet and checkers were my whim,
They used to thrill me to the core;
But now they're really quite a bore,
Along with poker, cinch-and see
How well he served that! What's the score?
Ah, ping pong is the game for me!

## ENVOY.

Prince-vanished to oblivion's shore
Are all the games "that used to be!"
"Love thirty-serve!" ball's on the floor!
Ah , ping pong is the game for me!
A. B. B.


## THE SPHINX.

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Future appointments to the staff will be made on a basis of contributions received.

Always remember that this is only pretence, so that you are not to believe a word of it, even if it is true.-Kingsley
"Now Obadiah and Zephamiah and all the children livin'. Paul and Sophia, Job and Maria, have come to our Thanksgivin.'"

YES, AND SO SHALL we all of us hie ourselves homeward to sit around grandmother's table, to feast with the other children and to forget that exams have ever been or will ever be again. For one day in the year the scream of the American Eagle is heard no more. His place is usurped by the great American Turkey and a most welcome change it is.

All hail to the sturdy Puritan father whose eye was keen and whose aim was true but thrice three times hail to the Puritan mother, who carefully watched and turned and garnished the prize for the feast.

And may we all, like good old Massasoit, the first guest at the first Thanksgiving dinner, be able to eat with "exceeding good appetite." As we dine perhaps not one of us will stop to sigh at the sad fate of this great host of patriots who have so uncomplainingly offered up their lives upon the altar of their country that one of its dearest customs may be perpetuated. Well, after all, we know that the Turkey has made one really fine roast in the world, while we are not sure-at least we all hope that we are not sure, of ever making so good a one either here or-anywhere else.

CERTAIN event, which it is best perhaps not to mention by name, has called forth divers comments in the Daily Scardinall, and The Sphinx has been led to wonder whether such communications are really necessary. On that fateful Saturday afternoon, The Sphinx sadly wended her way homeward from Old Library Hall. A double-sized tear slowly collected itself in the left-hand corner of her off eye, but before she could dislodge it a gust of sand came whirling up the street and brushed it away. Since then she has smiled and at times has been almost happy.

There is no cause to fear that the Badger is about to go into a decline because the Gopher has nipped his tail. The words of "Alumnus" are well meant, but he may rest assured that the undergraduates will not falter in their support of the team. Wisconsin spirit can live without having victories to feed on. Such spirit is mercenary support, not loyalty. Wisconsin asks only that her sons fight, and fight with all their strength. If they win, the victory is ours. If they lose, we will suffer defeat together.


The Swellest Hop of the Season.

He is one of those fellows who always keeps behind in his classes so he can pursue them. The other day I met him up in Main Hall. His face wore a woe-begone, far-away look, and in one hand he was crumbling a blue book. He smiled sadly when he saw me and started to tell his troubles.
"Say," he began, "talk about your hard luck stories. I can tell you one that will discount anything you ever heard before. You know that if there is one hour that I hate more than any other, it's eight o'clock, and I've been dodging eight o'clock for the last three years. Well, this semester I took one, because I was given a tip that it was the biggest, snap in the college, and look at here."

He unfolded the blue book and showed me the mark, "E." I congratulated him.
"Oh, no," he said, "it is not an 'ex.' That mark is on the scale of A, B, C, D, E."
W. E. B.
"Dreamed an elephant sat on my chest last night!"
"Sort of an elephantasy-eh?"

## Sonnets of a Freshman.

V.

Each day I'm here my fame grows wider still.
I joined Athena just a day ago.
They seemed to realize how much I know
Because they cheered and called for me until
I spoke to them-and then as if to fill
My cup of joy with worships overflow,
They made me joint debater-doing so.
Because they wanted one to move and thrill
Men's hearts and plead with "Logic absolute."
And then they said-"The custom is full old

For those elected to the joint debate
To stand for stews and Tommy's steaks to boot,"


I paid-but even now my feet grow cold, Remembering the bill for what they ate!

> VI.

I danced with Her tonight-and She-Oh my-
I fear she's got an awful crush on me.
I'm seventeen and she is twenty-three,
But all my looks my tender years belie!
I seem to fascinate-I don't know why,
Although of course I'm bright-and as you see-
A man of striking personality,
And dance divinely-so She said and I-
Could but believe her-for she understands
My worth as few down here do, and her heart
Is true to me. Why I have held her hands Sometimes ten seconds when we came to part.
Oh, Time, run slowly with your crystal sands,
I've captured one more maiden at the start.
A. B. B.

## John's Dance.

It happened the Wednesday afternoon before the Charity Ball. They were both getting the decorations ready, he being the only fellow among the girls. In the adjacent gun room the band was about to begin their rehearsal and presently broke into the delicious strains of a Herbert waltz.
"Let's dance," he said.
"Let's," she agreed.
"Meet me in the hall. I have to see Dr. Elsom, but will be back directly," and he hurriedly left the room. She followed him into the dusky hall and after a few minutes waiting saw him come back.
"Hurry, Jack, or we can't dance long," she said, and as she saw him stop suddenly she went up to him and gave him her hand. After three false starts they managed to get into step and were just beginning to enjoy the dance, when all the electric lights were suddenly turned off. Objects were hardly discernible before, but now everything was shrouded in darkness. The waltz ended in discordant notes, and cries of "Hickey," "John Hickey," sounded from all corners of the Gym. The fellows in the gun room were faithfully contributing their share to the general uproar, but suddenly stopped, and the director bawled out:

## "Vare iss Higgy?"

The answer came back, loud and strong.
"Here!" shouted a deep masculine voice beside the girl. M. N.

Editor-"I wish we had an engraver here in town."

Artist-"Well, we have. There's A1ford; he engraves tombstones."

Business Manager-"Yes, and out at the cemetery they ingrave corpses."

Restoratives were applied and the victims were at last brought to.

The famous detective gave a low whistle. "I have a clew," he said significantly. "The murderer was a lunatic."
"How was that," asked the Anxious Reader.
"He threw away a copy of The Sphinx."


Jones - "I hear you're out for the foot-ball team."

Brown-"Yes - about one hundred dollars!"


A Proud Boy.
Willie ate up papa's glue-
Ate it from the big, tin cup;
Now no matter what we do Willie's all the time stuck up.

> H. G. W.

## The Cold Question.

Hubbie-What we are going to do for fuel this winter I don't know.

Wifie-We can burn our piano. It is oldfashioned, anyway.

Hubbie-There isn't enough wood in it to last a week.

Wifie-Why, hubbie, dear! There are chords and chords in it.

Mr. X-It is difficult to fully understand the -

Prof. L.-Don't thrust your modifier into the vitals of your infinitive.

Mrs. Y.-I think our new man is not a born coachman.

Mr. Y.-Hasn't even been naturalized.
"Shall I brain him?" cried a hazer; and the victim's courage fell.
"You can't, it is a Freshman. Just hit him on the head."


The Question - (after the game) "Shall I pay that laundry bill and stay here Thanksgiving, or go home and have to wear a sweater till Xmas?"


The Wise One-'It's all right now, but wait till after Exams."

## Those Freshmen.

Once upon an evening dreary, while I pondered, dull and weary,
O'er my notes for Friday's quiz in some deep pedagogic lore-
While my notes were scoffing, mocking, in a measure that was shocking,
Suddenly there came a knocking-knocking at my chamber door.
"' Tis some creditor," I muttered, "knocking at my chamber door;
Only, this and nothing more."
Ah, too well I can remember it was in the sad November,
And Thanksgiving with its turkey danced my drooping eyes before,
But that savory-steaming-platter, and the laughter and the clatter
On that day-what did it matter? for my heart was full sore-
That pink card which they had sent me was enough to make it sore-
Just that card, and nothing more.
Suddenly I felt a yearning, a desire within me burning,
And a longing to discover what was rapping at my door;
But the hall was dark and chilly, making
me feel very silly -
"They have treated me but illy," quoth I as I shut the door,
"Or that everlasting tapping wasn't at my chamber door;"
That I knew, and nothing more.
Open then my window flinging, on my ears there smote a ringing
And a tapping and a rapping louder than I'd heard before,
" O , the villains!" then I muttered, " O , the villains," echo uttered;
"Freshmen, stop!" I fiercely sputtered, "stop, or I will have your gore!"
But the freshmen laughed full gaily, fearing not to lose their gore;
Gaily laughed, and nothing more.
Downward then my window slamming, in my ears my fingers ramming,
Savagely I hissed that for this outrage they would suffer sore;
Still that hammering and cracking, filling me with tortures racking,
Made me feel like quickly tracking to Mendota's other shore,
For on the fire-escape those freshmen still cracked nuts just as before;
Cracked their nuts, and nothing more.
K. H.


Minnesota's spy reports "Madison weather very damp, active and pitching into their work."


Extract from the Daily Cardinal-"Herbert Munson and James Hinley returned from a three days trip to Minneapolis today. They visited several towns enroute."


Singing for the drinks.


Harold-So you are tired of college life? Too hard work?
Paul-Yes, I am looking for a dead snap.
Harold-Then why don't you take to the undertaking business?

## The Story of Little John.

Little John was a very careful little boy and always remembered what his parents said to him.
"Now, John," said his mother one night, "do not disturb us unless something unusual occurs," and John was a good little boy and said, "Yes, mama, I will do as you say."

Well, about 9 o'clock a burglar came into the house and took all the silver and killed John's little sister. But John remembered what his mother had said and did not disturb her. And about half past nine another burglar came and took all the furniture and killed John's little brother. But John remembered the words of his mother and did not disturb her.

And about ten o'clock a man came and set the house on fire and cut the cook into four pieces, but John still remembered the words of his mother.

And about half past ten a boy came and cut off John's head, but John remembering his mother's words did not disturb her.

But about 11 o'clock his nurse came and told John that his head was cut off and he was dead, and he would not believe her. He went and called his mother and asked her and though she was very angry at being disturbed, she saw that he was indeed dead. And she told him it was so and then John saw that it was indeed true and thanked his mother, as all good children do and then went out to find his head.

This story teaches us that "We cannot see ourselves as others see us."
W. I. W.

## "Pins."

He was an "old grad," and he sat on the edge of a freshman's bed and told stories as only an old grad can-stories of orators and scholars and athletes of the "olden, golden" days when the chapter was young, and when life was different from now. He said his name was Payne, and that he had been known as "Pins Payne" when he was in college; and so we called him "Pins" and believ ed the tales he told, for who can doubt the truth of the statements an old grad makes, since no one knows anything of the time he tells about?
"Say," he said one night when we had all gathered in the "ice box," as we called the room over the front porch, "did you fellows ever hear about the time Harry Foreman and I had trying to rush the whole freshman class?
"Well, it was-let's see-it was in the fall of ' 88 . We were sophomores then. One night Hank and I were going down to the-well, we'll call it the post office, though it wasn't-and down where Louis Sumner's is now we ran plumb into a gang of freshmen coming down West Gilman, and they were looking for trouble. We didn't have a chance to duck so we gave the freshman yell and joined the bunch. They were after the sophomore class president, they said, and seeing that I held that position myself, the coincidence didn't make me feel any happier. We didn't see any one in the crowd that we knew, though, so we thought we might just as well have some fun.
"I gave Hank the wink and then I said to a big fellow near me, 'Have you got after those sophomores that live down on Francis street next to the lake?'


## Troubles.

An angry balloonist once said:
"This thing makes me tired, on the dead; When I rise in the air All you people down there Go shooting off bombs at my head."
H. G. W.
"Of course they hadn't, so we volunteered to show them where the victims roomed, and went on a little ahead, and the crowd followed, cheering and giving their yell. Of course, the victims weren't sophomores; they were both freshmen; it was Tommy Andrews and Ted Polleys-you fellows must have heard of them.
"Well, we led the way down State and on over Francis street and were getting down pretty near the lake, when all of a sudden we heard the gang coming behind us yelling like mad. Hank turned around.
"It's all off, Pins," he said, "take a look."
"There were about twice as many freshmen as there had been at first, and right in the front of the crowd were Tommy and Ted, yelling 'Sophomores! Sophomores! Put 'em in the lake!' They must have spotted us when we were passing under the street light on the corner of Langdon and Francis."

The old grad stopped and demanded a pipe, tobacco and a match, which were furnished him.
"What did the Freshmen do when they caught you?" asked one of the freshmen, innocently. "Did they really put you two fellows in the lake?"
"Pins" winked his off eye, so the rest of us could see, while the freshmen could not.
"When I was in college," he said sternly, "a freshman who asked questions got a black mark after his name for every question, and each black mark meant a lick at initiation. The best thing for you to do, kid, is to crawl into that hole you call a room and buck, you look as if you needed to do a lot of studying if you don't want to get conned out."
W. E. B.

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Still, he seems to scrape along. -Tiger.

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Sailor-Rot my timbers, Cap'n, if the Jamaica ain't gone!
Cap'n-Blast your optics, sir, but that's a rum go!-The Harvard Lampoon.

Where are you going my pretty maid? I'm going to the College Book Store, kind sir, she said.
And what are you going for, he said? For a Fountain Pen, a Seal Fob, and The Sphinx, she said.

Newest things in Fall shirts are the narrow pleated kind in plain white and neat figures. Also colored flannel negliges. Shown at "The Hub."

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Willie did not love his mother-
Tied her throat and let her smother;
When pacame home-how Willie cried!
"Don't cry darling," papa sighed, "I'll bury her and get another." -Widow.

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