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Volume 5
Number 3
Madison, Wisconsin
October 31, 1903


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Say what can a poor devil do When he's tangled in dates just as I am, And he cannot abscond to Peru Or flee with his troubles to Siam.

Here's a letter from home-"Dearest Jack, I'll be down for the gameYour own,

Mary."


And that nothing of trouble may lask, I've promised to drive out with Carrie.
(She's my Varsity Girl) and-Great Scott, Here's Maud (of Chicago) I met her
Last season at-Mein Lieber Gott,
She's coming down too-here's her letter.


Here's another-a bill-without doubt; Holy smoke! its my Northwestern girlie, She writes, "I shall surely be out For the game.

> Ever lovingly

Curlie."

Each thinks she alone has my heart And they'll all be in town here together And if I can't keep them apart
I think I forsee stormy weather.
Four queens out of different decks,
Yet each the same suit-how unsuitable.
Its a hand that would certainly vex
Even Fate the unmoved and immutable.

Four queens make my hands full-I'm pat, Though I lose, stead of winning the rhino.
Four queens a full hand, surely that
Never happened beforehand that I know.
Oh take me away to Peru,
From a tangle as tangled as I am,
And what's a poor devil to do,
But flee with his trouble to Siam,
A. B, Braley.


## THE SPHINX.

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A. B. Braley, '05, Managing Editor.
H. C. Johnson, '03, Business Editor.
P. M. Binzel, Assistant Business Editor.

Always remember that this is only pretence, so that you are not to believe a word of it, even if it is true.-Kingsley

It is seldom that the greatest services are rendered in the full light of publicity. Those who are most in earnest and who really desire to accomplish that which they set out to do, care least for the personal rewards which their work will bring to them. In a quiet and unostentatious way Breeze J. Stevens labored for the good of the University. For twelve years he was not only a regent, but was, during that entire time, one of the most influential and useful members of the regent body. The fine spirit of the man is shown in his own words when he said that his heart was in the University and he considered it a privilege to give his services. The highest type of civic virtue is that which is unselfish, and there can be no more splendid example of unselfish labor, than that which Mr. Stevens has rendered to the University of Wisconsin. It is no small thing for a busy man of affairs to give freely of his time and energy to the discharge of so arduous a public service. Very few students ever think of the vast amount of work that must be done by the final tribunal of the University and of the debt that is owed to the men who carry it on. In this work Mr. Stevens bore a most important part and in his death the University has lost its most powerful and useful friend, and his is one of the great names to whom this institution will forever stand as a monument.

AT THIS SEASON of the year when the big games are drawing on and the loyalty of the students is being aroused for the support of the team there is a great temptation towards betting. It is useless to doubt that betting gives rise to the greatest curses of college life. And we take no exceptions in making this statement. Not that other things are non-prolific of curses but for hearty, round-cornered-solid-dyed-in-the-wool-curses, the curses that come from the men who bet are the roundcorneredest and the solidest and dyed-in-the-wooledest.

When a man fails to pass an examination he curses, perhaps in a mild sort of a way. This is unpleasant, but necessary. It seldom lasts long. There is usually very little variety about it. A few second-hand cuss-words and it is all over. It could hardly be classed as a self-sufficient, comprehensive curse.

The curse that comes from being turned down is longer and of greater strength. On the spur of the moment the ingenious curser may invent new twists of language that will make posterity's hair curl. The curse delivered by the turn-downee is neither brief nor monotonous. It is generally well sustained, and there is an air of earnestness and conviction about it that tends to convince the hearers. Probably if she heard it she would never turn him down again. But even the curse of the turn downed lacks something.

To get out a good, substantial curse-a warranted not to rip or fade curse-it is necessary to bet. You don't know what it is until you have tried. Perhaps you have not been much of a success in the cursing line. Perhaps your efforts to express yourself have been neither original nor effective. But, O, young man, try betting! Bet your last cent on a game of football and lose it and then try. Give your money to someone else and then after the game is over and your team has galloped in ahead, find that your friend couldn't get your money up. Then try to curse.

More than once a mere amateur under these affecting circumstances has outdone the most hardened professional. Good cursing is the result neither of birth nor breeding but of inspiration. And the best inspiration is betting.

Be game, young man, and learn how.


## MAXIMS OF A SPORT

There's no place like home-to the man on third base.

Too many high balls make an awful bat.
A man is never down till he stops.
"Consider the proportion of things,"two yards may be a mile and a half to a tired team.

The paths of glory lead but to the training table.

A half back is known by the company he keeps-his interference.

All things come to an end-on an end run.

## 要

Don't count your goals until they are kicked.
"It is not good for a man to be alone"stick to your interference. Kim.

Mamie, with a rusty ax Hit her brother fourteen cracks, Brother died, now ain't that queer, Such a carelessness, my dear.

Kim.

Notice-For all those students who can draw or write "good stuff," there is a chance to make the Sphinx Board. Send in your work, we'd like to see it, anyhow. Contributions may be mailed to or left at 421 Murray St., or 131 Langdon. Written material may be dropped in the Sphinx box at Main hall.


Dollie-Has James proposed yet?
Janie-No, he seems afraid for some reason.

Dollie-Maybe he thinks you'd accept him.

The hill is very steep and long
To clam or clome or clim or clime.
The man who made the hill, he made A hillish nuisance for all time.

## Max Odlitz.

"As a rule she had refused everyone until he came. But she accepted him."
"The acception that proves the rule, of course."

## CLASS CARDS

Class cards are a labor saving device for helping an undecided professor or instructor. By shuffling them carefully at the end of each semester and drawing out at random a few cards, he can decide whom to flunk. Thus the human liability to err is avoided and a direct appeal is made to the immutable laws of chance. A similar method may be used in choosing candidates for Phi Beta Kappa, thus insuring absolute fairness to all.

[^0]
## THE SPHINX GUIDE TO THE THEATRE

(With apologies to Life.)
The Tenderfoot held the boards for one night last week. If you care for swashbuckling drama or Ibsenic tragedy, it is a good play to stay away from. The chorus is clever and the actors are present most of the time.

The Eternal City, a somewhat wearisome interminability, got a dazed audience. Miss Truax was almost as good as Mr. Morgan. This is a mean thing to say of Miss Truax.

Jeff D'Angelis clowned it for a while last Tuesday night. Jeff is a pleasant gentleman when he doesn't sing. His support was especially good in his inebriated scene -the table seemed well made. The Toreador is all right as an after dinner cigarette, but hasn't enough body for a cigar. Bet Halfe.

A skate doesn't always cut ice.


MADE THAT WAY
"Does she play tennis with good form?"
"I'd like to know how she could help it."

"Come Fido, Dont be a Superstitious Doggie!"

THE DEFEAT OF THE REVOLVERS
"Speakin' of football," said the seedy man, as he helped himself to one of my Egyptian Kings-that's a brand you ought to try-"Did yuh ever hear. of how I upset a revolution down in Venezuela?"

The seedy gentleman had been spending the afternoon with me and had graciously invited himself to preempt my most comfortable chair, while he told hair-raising adventures and smoked my cigarettes.
"Well, that was a most int'rustin' occurence. It was this way. I wuz down there in Venezuela, visiting my friend, the king of the country an' sellin' soap to the natives. One mornin' when me an' the king

"I Wuz Down in Venezuela."
wuz breakfustin' in state-seventeen niggers waitin' on us, an' a brass band playin' in the piazza-the king sez to me, 'Boney,' he sez (he called me Boney because I wuz Boneparte's counteparte, as he said), 'Boney, I've got a revolution on my hands, an' it's a unpleasant possession for a monarchial dictator of a disgruntled community,' he sez (bein' a well eddicated man, he didn't talk like you n' me). 'Now, Boney,' he sez, 'T'll give you five hundred thousand pesa (that a million dollars) if you'll just take this revolution off'n my hands. It's a good revolution-a revolution that 'ud be a pride to any man, an' I hate to part with it, but the truth is, I ain't got the time for it, an' so I'll pass it over to you.'"
"Thanks, Don Quixote," I sez, familiar. "I'll be glad to help yuh out; just forget this revolution an' I'll make it look like a smashed 'loop th' loop.'"
"Well, I didn't delay any, I bein' a good friend of th' king, and needin' the million for a little business deal; so I just cables to New York fer 22 football suits, an' noseguards, head protectors, 'n everythin'. Then while I wuz waitin' for them to come, I called up the king's army an' sez, 'Soldiers, it is up to you to do honor to yer country. Th' best way for yuh to do that is to disband. But before yuh go, I want all of yuh over 4 feet 8 to come forward. The rest kin go home an' support one er two of their families.' Twenty-five men trotted out, an' I took the best twen-ty-two of 'em an' led 'em in the palace. Then I addresses 'em as follers:
"Soldiers," I sez, "ye are about to learn the great American game of football; it is a dangerous an' solemn undertakin' but a good one fer the undertaker.' (They didn't laugh, these Eyetalians haven't no humor), an' I have chosen you for it because I seen what brave an' big, an' strong men ye were. Are ye willin' to risk yer life for yer country?'"
"Well, they jabbered some among themselves, an' then the biggest-(he wuz five foot two and weighed a hundred pound), stepped out an' says: 'Senor, I playa da game in Chicago, when 1 runna da banana stand. We glada to playa like Hella,-but whera da suita?'
"I tells 'em the suits would be there before long, an' then I picks out eleven of the gang fer the first team, an' starts showin' 'em the game, the banana stand man helpin' me. Say, he wuz a peach, an' after a couple of weeks' work in the court yard I had two of the fastest little elevens you ever seen. The suits wuz a long time comin' an' I had to pad the teams with hay an' zhum zhum (that bein' the national motto, meanin' Excelsior), fer the scrimmages. Th' only other trouble I had wuz in gettin' the half back on the scrubs to start fast-an' I fixed that by shootin' a pistol off behind him.
" An' all this while the revolvers wuz marchin' round the town, but not bein' shot at they wuz afraid somethin' would happen,
so they didn't dare come in ceptin' to buy tobacco or cigarette papers.

Well, the suits came at last an' I fitted all my men out, an' say you'd a busted to a seen 'em. I forgot that they wuz so small an' got full size suits, an' the pants tripped 'em up, an' the sweaters went round 'em twice, an' the only way they could see over the sweater necks wuz to look through 'em. Their heads shook around in th' head guards like a marble in a roulette wheel, an' th' only thing that fitted wuz the shoes, the Eyetalians havin' very large trilbies. But they played good ball just the same, and now I wuz ready for the revolvers who wuz waitin' outside the city.

I gets my men together an' addresses 'em sayin':
'Men, this your trile. If you flinch now all is lost. We will march outside the city an' give a exhibition game to the revolvers, they bein' unfamiliar with this regal sport, an' not bein' in your Shoes' (they didn't laugh at the joke about regal shoes, not havin' as I said before, any sense of humor). 'Will ye come?'

Then my banana stand man came out an' sez: "We playa, they shoota damn head off."
"Bananas," I sez (him bein' a fruit seller), "Bananas, youse is nutty, dey couldn't hit an' elephant wid a carpet beater,' (usin' the Bowery langwuadge which he could understand). They wuzen't any more hesitation an' we went out.

When the revolvers seen us (we bein' dressed in them misfit suits) they wuz scared, thinkin' we wuz a gatlin gun er somethin', an' when we commenced playin' me shootin' at the scrub halfback's heels, the band playin' Hot Time, an' Bananas swearin' Billy Hell while the two teams played football it 'ud a' done you good to see, why the revolvers began to look puzzled an' white an' shaky. They shot some but they couldn't hit anythin' (they havin' bought bullets from a Jew peddler an' the 'bullets bein' half paper mash, they not knowin' it) an' Bananas gave the signals so's they sounded like some magic spell.

All of a sudden I called out to Bananas, "Work yer team down towards them revolvers an' send a few whirling tandens an' guards back into'em." An' Bananas grinned an' started fer them revolvers. He jabbered n'swore an' yelled, yawped out his signals,

pushed an' hauled his men, made 'em play rough an' howl, hurdled an' jumped an' cussed, an' sudden give the signal fer the new play I'd taught 'em, 'an both teams charged into them revolvers in one yellin', clawin' solid mass. Say it wuz great, twenty-two excited little devils playin' the fastest kind of ball an' all in one team, with every man in the play.

The revolvers didn't stop at all. Revolutioning was'nt any use to them after that. They lit out with my two teams after 'em and for once I didn't have to shoot at the scrub halfback, he bein' busy walkin' on an old enemy of his with his spiked shoes.

Well, the king gives me the money he promised an' sez: 'Boney' he sez: "That exhibition was intrinsically worth the entire pecuniary remuneration demanded," (he bein' as I said before, addicted to the use of fine langwudge).

An' they never had another revolution in Venezuela while my friend th' king lived.
"What became of the $\$ 1,000,000$," I asked, as the seedy man paused.
"Oh Bananas swiped that from me an' lit out for New Orleans. He's a fruit merchant prince there now, an' I'm goin' to call on him before long, just to show there ain't no hard feelin's. It wuz worth the million just to watch him play that game."

And with a sigh of regret for old times and two boxes of my cigarettes, the seedy man left me to meditate on the uncertainties of this terrestrial sphere.
A. B. Braley.

THE FOOTBALL GIRL
We've sung of girls with tender eyes, And tuned our voices to the praise Of maids whose languishings and sighs Have set our hearts and brains ablaze. But now we lift the brimming cup, And heavenward our shouts we hurl, And drink a bumper standing up. "The football girl, the football girl"


No "clinging vine" is she we sing, No "sinuous siren" wan and pale.
She walks with mannish strength and swing, Her cheeks are ruddy from the gale,

Her eyes are bright with life and glow With zest amid the game's mad whirl. We drink to her we worship so, "The football girl, the football girl!"

She breaks traditions rules and hearts And smashed conventions mark her way. She seems immune to Cupid's darts, She'd rather watch the teams at play. Oh sturdy, plucky, healthy maid You've set our sluggish blood aswirl, We drink to you-strong, unafraid, To you! to you! the football girl.

Kim.

## ONWARD TO GLORY

"I wish," said the trembling applicant, "to secure a position on the Cardinal staff."
"Yes", said the august editor.
"I should like to be a reporter,"
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"With the people of the Cardinal staff it is not a matter of choice as to their becoming famous. It is a necessity. When a young man comes back to us after many years he teems with gratitude. He writes us letters teeming with gratitude. We get an average of two teeming letters a day.
"Will you be willing to accept the pen-alty-the responsibility-in part of becoming famous, if so we shall be glad to have you on our staff.
"As an evidence of good faith you may visit the business manager, subscribe for the Cardinal four years in advance. Then deposit twenty-five cents for a week's supply of pencils and paper and get an interview with Dr. Elsom on the probable location of a new gymnasium.

WInslow.

## $x \quad x \quad x$

"Of all things," said an Indian Chief as he pushed his enemy over the cliff and listened with eager ear for a squashy sound, "I like to see a man spread himself," and noting that his enemy had splashed over about three acres his heart was glad within him.


## JUST FOOLISH

The Meligolampus is clearly absurd, It isn't a beast, and it isn't a bird;
It's lacking in hearing, in taste and in smell,
And yet it's incessantly ringing a bell.
Its smile is most pleasing, its bite is cold pizen,
To catch it you have to climb up the horizon;
You charm it with cheering and fires on the campus-
It is such a foolish old Meligolampus.
Winslow.
"He played the game of his life."
"Yes, but he's a dead one."
"Pat and I wuz at the saloon lasht noight."
"Yis?"
"Well, he says: Yez will stand me the dhrinks, or I'll hand ye one."
"Did ye draw?"
"Naw the Barkeep did that, I stood Pat."

## CURIOSITIES OF NATURAL HISTORY

A strange beast is the trotting horse Wherever he is found,
For when two feet are in the air Two more are on the ground.
The dog he is a funny beast His like is hard to find,
He has two fore feet on before Two hind feet on behind.
The pig he has a dreadful time Down in his muddy pen, For if he lifts his foot he must
Soon put it down again.
The cat, poor thing, she has some fur Now children do not scoff,
She did not put it on and so
She cannot take it off.
X. M.

The Father-My boy, the early bird gets the worm.
The Son-But father, I don't eat worms.


He-Do you like a beard on a man?
She-No, it always gets in your mouwhat a glorious sunset|

## ADVENTURES OF JOHNNIE

Johnnie fired a gun at sister, Lucky shot, but almost miss'd her! Father cried, "You're wasting powder!" Mother said, "She'll make good chowder."
Johnnie's mother had a cat, So he took a smash at that; Father cried, "Now don't be rash." Mother said, "We'll now have hash."

Johnnie hit a horse a lick, Horse sent back a left-hind kick; Johnnie's days are now quite over, For he rests beneath the clover.
"McArgle is much given to telling his stories several times."
"Ah, a successful re-taler."
"He installs store counters."
"A counterfitter I perceive."

I like to watch the little calves About their evening meal,
It makes me very glad to think That they will soon be veal.

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Storms show how the wind blows.

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