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Within the realm of the true human heart the things that are dearest and best never grow old. Their existence or recurrence never tires; their youth continually renews itself. The Story of the Cross, steadfast friendship, "home, sweet home," the scenes of childhood, the memories of youth, the thought of the near approach of Christmas, the brightness of New Year’s Day,—are instances of those realities in the individual experience of every honest man whose influence over the soul retains its power throughout all the disturbances and trials of life down to its very end. The sincere spirit responds with pleasure to their call, thrills to their music, and is willingly swayed by their energy; for they are interwoven with its highest impulses and desires.

Feeling this, the Bulletin sends out to its friends its best wishes for a very Happy New Year, confident that the burden of its message, time-stained though it be, will be none the less welcome on that account, but, meeting on every side with a warm reception, will find a joyous realization in the hearts of a great majority of those to whom it comes.

By the force of immemorial custom New Year’s Day has been made what it is,—a day of peace, good-will and happiness. History tells us that for many centuries, at least from the time of the formation of the Julian Calendar by the great Caesar whose influence is still felt in every college in our land, the first of January has been observed as a public holiday. Through the polished sentences of Latin classics we find that during the Augustan age in the "eternal city" of Rome the day was marked by abstinence from litigation and strife, the smoke of incense-burning altars, white-robed processions to the Capitol, exchanging of visits,
giving and receiving of presents called strenae,—as tokens of a mutual desire for good-luck,—masquerading and feasting. Later, it is recorded, that it became the one great holiday common to all under Roman rule.

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The spirit that breathed through these ancient rites and customs of a heathen nation was on the whole religious and productive of good result, and we of a later day can feel its power. It is well to pause on the threshold of a new year to sum up the record of the days that are passed and contemplate the mystery of the days to come. The experience of a twelve-month is ever rich with lessons for future guidance, and New Year's Day affords a good opportunity for learning them. The opening vista of a twelve-month presents the field on which our untried plans are to prosper or fail, and New Year's Day is an excellent time for setting them in order and eliminating from them all that is bad and unworthy. Behind and before us lies food for meditation, enough and to spare.

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The ancients followed the impulses of commendable motives when on each recurring festival of the New Year they endeavored to forget their differences, and, uniting in mutual expressions of good-will, rejoiced in thanksgiving for the blessings and successes of the time gone by and in honest hope for the fulfillment of the promises of future hours. Their descendants, living in a vastly different age, in the civilization and Gospel light of the last decade of the Nineteenth Century, will do wisely not to lose the genius of their example, but, on each opportunity that presents itself as the years roll by, carry out its principle in the higher, better, nobler way which the conditions of their existence make possible. In conclusion we claim that these reflections are applicable in full degree to college men and college life.

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Once again, a very Happy New Year!

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The prospects for the coming Winter Term at Ursinus are good. A number of new students have applied for admission and some old faces that have been missing for some time will be seen again in her halls.

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The Bulletin has received from Mr. H. S. England, editor of the Havercfordian and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Central Inter-Collegiate Press Association, a kind invitation to join that organization. The Bulletin is warmly in sympathy with the purposes of this body and gives Mr. England the assurance that it will gladly send a representative to its annual meeting in January.

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We have two little criticisms to pass on anniversaries at Ursinus as at present conducted,—the programmes should begin more promptly on time and no seats should be re-
served except for members of the College or very special friends of the institution.

THE LITERARY SOCIETIES.

ANNUAL SCHAFF FESTIVITIES.

Following worthy precedents of years gone by, the work of the Fall Term at Ursinus was very pleasantly concluded on Thursday evening, December 22d, with the Schaff anniversary. The occasion was the seventeenth of its kind in the history of the Society, and, as usual, it was observed in the College Chapel.

Much satisfaction and enjoyment marked the exercises. The weather was propitious. For once Dame Nature smiled on the plans of Schaffite men and donned her most attractive winter garb wherewith to enhance the pleasures prepared by them for anniversary night. A large and appreciative audience greeted the speakers.

After the rendition of a fitting musical selection by the orchestra, Chairman John Lerch, '88, introduced Rev. Henry T. Spangler, '73, of Collegeville, who opened the programme with prayer. The Salutatory Oration was delivered by I. C. Williams, '91, of Yerkes, Pa., on the subject, "Female Heroism." Having given expression to brief phrases containing the customary words of welcome for those assembled, the speaker took up the burden of his production. He said that the generally accepted principle, that praise should be rendered to whom praise is due, was to a large extent lost sight of in the treatment which woman receives at the hands of government, society and history. That the truest and most devoted heroism of the first century of our existence as a people has been displayed in the homes of our Country,—the bulwarks of our Land,—by noble American women. He pleaded for a fuller recognition, by the laws, of woman's worth,—that she might be accorded the position to which she is entitled and for which she is qualified and helped in every possible way in her momentous calling.

J. T. Wagner, '90, Iron-Bridge, Pa., spoke next. His theme was, "Universal Prime Factors." The substance of his argument was based on the premises that the factors of any quantity being those figures which when multiplied together will produce that quantity, land and labor are the only prime forces at work in the progress of society, and that therefore it is a first requisite of good government that the conditions of these two paramount influences should be properly appreciated. Land increases or decreases in value as it is more thickly or thinly populated. The greater the number of persons living in a described area the greater is its monetary worth. Wages move in an adverse ratio, rising in sparsely settled territories and falling in well inhabited districts. A good government should fully understand the workings of these principles, and devise plans and enforce regulations by which labor may receive its proper and reasonable share of the profits of the soil.
J. K. Freed, ’90, Lederachsville, Pa., gave the succeeding oration on "Let in the Light." He said that the same God who provided the light of the sun to dispel the physical gloom of the newly-created world, and—who, centuries later, sent the grander light of Christianity to clear away the spiritual darkness of sin and ignorance into which fallen man was plunged, was now holding his creatures responsible for the spreading of the Gospel’s brightness to every portion of the globe. He urged, especially, the duty incumbent on all good American citizens to further the progress of Christianity in their native land. He cited the evils of Mormonism, Intemperance and Socialism as evidences of the need of such progress, and showed that education, intellectual, moral and spiritual, through schools, churches and missions, is the means by which the desired ends must be reached.

M. R. Longstreth, ’89, Collegeville, Pa., followed with an oration entitled, "A National Dishonor," in which he strongly criticised the course of the United States in its transactions with the American Indian. He said that it was difficult to fit the remaining tribes of Red Men into the remarkable history they represented, and asserted that they had been brought to their present condition to a deplorable extent by unjust and dishonorable treatment on the part of their white brethren. In the view of the speaker, the intercourse of our country with the aborigines of the land has all along been marked by unprovoked aggressions and violated treaties. After proving that the Indians had ever been molested in their lands as soon as they became valuable, that they are without good reason denied the right of individual ownership in the soil on which they live, that they have no certainty of future security or happiness, the speaker concluded by pointing out the way to remedy the wrongs, as far as at this late day it is possible, namely, to arouse in the nation a lively sentiment on the subject, that the voice of the American people,—to which Congress dare not be deaf,—may effectively cry out against this national dishonor.

Henry Ward Beecher was honored with the evening’s eulogy, which was pronounced by R. F. Longacre, ’88, Yerkes, Pa. In the opening words of the speaker, the grandest praise that can be said of any man is, that his life has perpetuated his name in glory and esteem. The orator recited in polished language the leading traits of Beecher’s character and the enduring achievements of his fruitful life. He mentioned his great love of nature and the intense joy and earnestness with which he studied the physical world about him; his matchless eloquence, that was the wonder of the world and his broadness of heart and mind. He described the ridicule with which he was at first received and the magnificent honors that were finally bestowed on him. The course of the great American divine during the civil war, in England and his native land,
was then set forth in glowing terms, and the way in which he quelled English mobs and cooled English hate was effectively pictured. The eulogist closed with a warm tribute to the patriotic life-work of the subject of his speech, and a bright description of the inestimable rewards with which that work was crowned.

The Schaff Oration by A. S. Bromer, '88, Schwenksville, Pa., brought the literary exercises to an end. This speaker's theme was, "Our National Fortress." By way of introduction he laid down the proposition that all national issues originate in the culture of the hearts and minds of the people. He then went on to say, that in a period of great political strife and contention, like that in which we live, there are many who hold and firmly believe that the country is to be saved by party politics. The speaker exposed the fallacy of this view of affairs and strongly advocated the theory that the strength of the nation lies neither in great men or parties but in the love-inspired home life of the land. Here it is that woman becomes a national issue and here we must come to find the secret of our mighty nation's power. Here are instilled the principles of righteousness, the love of God and the truest patriotism. Next to the influence of the home is the power of the common school. Our schools should, in addition to moral and intellectual training, inculcate the elements of true government. The culture of the heart must keep pace with that of the mind. Both must go hand in hand, the one widening the mental, the other increasing the limits of the spiritual horizon. The strength of our country is not in its military forces but in the Christian home and the Christian school. Through these agencies education becomes the true national fortress, and as long as they are preserved in their integrity our native land will remain secure.

The audience was dismissed with brief remarks by Prof. J. Shelly Weinberger, A. M., and the pronouncing of the benediction. The music rendered by Knecht's orchestra, of Philadelphia, was of a high order of merit and was received with warm approval. The programmes displayed the usual neatness and taste exhibited at Ursinus in these matters. Lastly, and of most importance, the productions of the several orators all evinced good information and earnest thought in their construction, and these brought out more clearly and impressively by a free and graceful style of delivery. The general verdict on the 17th Schaff Anniversary was,—well done.

ZWINGLIAN SOCIETY.

The entertainment given on the evening of the 5th of December, by Mr. Stuart Rogers, under the auspices of the Zwinglian Literary Society, passed off in a manner altogether gratifying, both from a financial point of view and as an occasion of pleasant diversion and profit. The recitations given by the gentleman were all well rendered and the speaker
showed that he had an intelligent insight into the emotions of his selections and the purposes they contained. His impersonations exhibited much originality and wit as well as considerable agility and a striking control over the facial muscles. They were all exceedingly laughable, affording an abundance of innocent merriment that frequently changed to hearty applause.

The Arion Glee Club, led by Professor Hyde, made its first public appearance during the evening and acquitted itself very creditably.

COMMENCEMENT ORATOR.

The joint-committee of the Literary Societies of the College has secured the services of the Honorable Robert E. James, of Easton, Pa., to deliver the annual address before them during the next commencement week in June, 1888. Mr. James, who is a graduate of Lafayette, is a lawyer of high standing and an exceptionally fine speaker. Some years ago, when he represented his district in the State Legislature, he was regarded the most fluent speaker on the floor.

The present officers of the Olevian Society are:—
President, Lillie B. Gross; Vice-President, Flora K. Schwenk; Secretary, Flora S. Rahn; Treasurer, Ada Schwenk; Editor, Emma Dismant; Critic, Debbie Phipps.

Officers of the Schaff Society, recently elected, are:—
President, S. P. Stauffer; Vice-President, C. H. Slinghoff; Recording Secretary, G. W. Filbert; Corresponding Secretary, I. C. Williams; Chaplain, A. S. Bromer; Editor, R. G. Magee; Critic, R. F. Longacre; Treasurer, J. G. Francis; Assistant Librarian, J. M. Mensch; Organist, P. M. Spangler.

COLLEGE ITEMS.

The Fall Term of the College closed on Thursday, December 22, 1887. It was marked throughout by many evidences of increasing prosperity. The regular Winter Term will open Monday, January 9, 1888. The Opening Address will be delivered in the College Chapel, on Wednesday, January 11th, at 9 o'clock a.m., by Rev. Francis Hendricks, A. M., Professor of Hebrew and History.

The series of Senior Orations given before the College by the Class of '88, was completed with the efforts of James Leuba and John Lerch,—the former speaking November 29th on "Switzerland's Mission," and the latter on December 6th on "Example More Potent than Precept."

Dr. Hyde has offered to the students in the higher college classes the advantages of an additional elective study. It consists of exercises in reading Latin authors at sight.

Abram Wolfinger, of the Senior Theological Class, has been elected by Brownback's Charge, Chester county, Pa., as its pastor, to enter upon the duties of the field at the close of his theological course. The charge is the same that was vacated some time ago by Rev. J. W. Meninger, of Lancaster, Pa.

The Sophomores recently adopted class colors, choosing old gold and
purple, which they now give a prominent place in their every-day attire. The difficulty of distinguishing them from members of the other classes is accordingly removed,—a very desirable result from a Sophomoric standpoint.

During the closing days of the term the members of the Freshman Class of the College held a meeting, and after adopting a constitution elected the following officers:

President, H. E. Jones; Vice President, Jay G. Francis; Secretary, R. M. Fry; Treasurer, W. R. Smith; Historian, I. C. Williams; Poet, F. B. Miller; Prophet, C. D. Yost; Class Contributor to the Bulletin, P. E. Heimer.

The class numbers sixteen. Its members have fully resolved to work for the interests of the College as well as for their own personal welfare, and thus fully follow out the principles of their motto.

P. E. H.

COLLEGE CONTRIBUTIONS.

DOWN THRO' THE AGES.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

Down thro' the ages the story is ringing,
Rich with the mem'ries of mercy divine;
How in the manger, while angels were singing,
Lay the Messiah of Israel's line.

CHORUS.

Welcome to earth, O Thou Saviour so lowly,
Reign in the hearts of Thy children, we pray;
Shine in our souls sacred Day Star, all holy,
Quicken us now by Thy heavenly ray.

See how the song by the seraphs then given
Hastens the shepherds to seek and adore;
Bowing to worship the First-born of Heaven,
Sov'reign of souls in this world evermore.

Kings of the East with their costliest treasures
Come o'er the desert to welcome his birth;
Watching the star thro' the long weary measures,
Leading them on to the monarch of earth.

Saviour, who once in the manger wert lying,
Come to us now in Thy power and grace;
Fill us with love and devotion undying,
Number us now with Thine own chosen race.

EDMUND MORRIS HYDE.

OUR NATION'S RESPONSIBILITIES.

BY C. U. O. DEER.

The American nation, "time's last and noblest offspring," conceived as she was in oppression, born 'midst the most adverse circumstances, and nurtured by the strengthening food of hardship and privation, has been brought to her present high eminence through fields of blood; hither she has threaded her way with reverence among the mouldering bones of myriads of unknown heroes, and from the smoke and ashes of civil conflict, she has emerged to the brighter light of a firmer union.

Gazing back then over the cycles of time, recounting all the incidents, considering all the circumstances, and meditating upon all the forces which have wrought so mightily within the nation, which have wrought such marvels in her inner life, we cannot but exclaim, "God rules among men." And recognizing this truth, seeing the thread of God's goodness running through a century of unprecedented achievements, and believing him still to be looking upon her with an eye of favor, we cannot ignore the fact that a nation so wonderfully blessed, a nation so munificently favored with all that combines to elevate manhood and womanhood to their true level, has resting upon her an awful re-
sponsibility, and upon her citizens who are occupying the very acropolis of opportunity, devolves an imperative duty, the importance and magnitude of which it behooves each and every one to consider well.

Our nation, having been permitted by a beneficent benefactor to rear her magnificent temple upon the corner-stone of liberty, composed of broken hearts and ruined homes, cemented with human blood, took upon herself a great responsibility when she received at the hands of God so rich a gift. But having been privileged to pass the hundredth year of her existence, and as she is enjoying the rare fruitage of so grand a boon, there is danger of her becoming lethargic, of her losing sight of the maxim "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." While she believes herself secure, there are those at work who hope to undermine her institution of liberty, seek to lay in ruin the achievements of time and labor, and bring to naught the proud heritage of her race.

They scorn her treasured prize, and would sink into oblivion what, for ten decades, has been so sacredly guarded; but if it be once forgotten that her liberty, based on the teachings of the Bible, is not to do as she wishes but as she ought, is not a blind and reckless yielding to passion but a guidance by the lamp of reason; if once the new doctrines of anarchism, socialism and libertinism are hailed with delight; if once the idea that liberty grants the right to follow every evil passion gains prepon-
the land unchecked; if her citizens forget to lift their eyes and hearts in honest worship to their sovereign God, thus making their lives a mockery to all the beauty and sweetness of Christ's teachings, they cannot hope to avert the just reward for such turning away from the God of their fathers.

Responsible then as she is for the largest liberty and purest Christianity, she becomes responsible, also, for the natural result of the preservation and furtherance of these, or the highest civilization. These two factors have, as it were, been the levers in past ages whereby mankind has been raised to a higher plane of conduct, and they must in the future serve in the elevation and amelioration of the human race.

Here, too, as a nation, she cannot mistake her responsibility or fail to recognize that she is divinely appointed to become the stay and comfort of down-trodden humanity. Blessed far beyond the nations of the earth in religious institutions of learning, having in her the elements for the development of national righteousness, and being under the protection of an ever vigilant God, she becomes the bearer of a message such as has been given to no other nation, and, "as the beautiful pioneer in the vanguard of progress," she must be the provider of such a civilization as will rouse the other nations. She must by the maintenance of peace and happiness within her borders, disenchant others from which will command the world's the horrors of war, and by the speedy punishment of crime and the abuse of public trusts she must lead them to a realization of the stability of this liberty-loving and Christianized republic. For the prosecution of this noble work God has given her boundless resources, and if she but continues to follow the natural law of progress her civilization will be the noblest and the best, as "she is heir of all the ages in the foremost files of time."

Such then are the responsibilities resting upon our nation. And though she may be surrounded by perils seemingly threatening her stability, though dangers beset her pathway, rendering it precarious, she need not despair, for these will all vanish if she but clings to the anchor of her hope, if she proves faithful in the discharge of her duties and maintains "the virtues of her religious intellectuality." That this may be accomplished the weight of the responsibility falls upon our generation, it falls upon the young men and women who are making our nation "a magazine of the grandest possibilities;" it falls upon those in our institutions of learning who are preparing for the great University,—the world; and it is for them to remember whose sons and daughters they are,—it is for them to remember the price of all their privileges. Remembering these things let them perform their duty manfully, let them strive earnestly to reach the "Gibraltar of the ages,"
Succeeding in this, attaining the desired goal, they will perpetuate the largest liberty man has ever enjoyed, foster the purest Christianity, whose softening influence will spread to all nations, and with the mighty power of her high civilization America will become the beacon light of the world. Sending her rays far into the future, she will mould the destinies of unborn millions. Having reached this by the blessing of God, posterity will raise for us such shouts of admiration and blessing as will echo all along the ages, and, "having fulfilled the purpose of God, no power will dim the glory which will shine in the realization of such divine intentions."

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

NEW YEAR BELLS.

BY A. W. BOMBERGER.

On breezes that blow over the snow,
A chorus of thrilling numbers
Downward floats, till its golden notes
Waken the valley's slumbers.

'Tis the wonderful anthem of New Year bells,
On far-away hill tops ringing;
Full of measureless beauty its music swells,
Rich with magical sweetness its chiming tells
The tale of their midnight singing.

There is wildest delight in their merry song,
Suffusing the air with gladness;
And the ravishing tones of its grand ding-dong,
That in soul-stirring melodies roll along,
Dispel the encroaching sadness.

Now it throbs with fond hope for the coming days,
Now pulses of strong ambition
Seem to beat in the strains of its lofty praise;
Now the lingering breath of its softer lays
Speaks murmurs of love's fruition.

But its jubilant voices that warmly thrill
With dreams of the future's pleasures,
In the forest obscure kindle sounds that chill,
Whose mysterious cadences swiftly fill
The breezes with sombre measures.

For, afar in the gloom of the star-lit night,
The numberless echoes, dying,
Carry sorrowful news in their final flight,—
Mournful meanings of grief where the heavens were bright,—
Of singing that turned to sighing.

And the pensive response of the echo-choir,
In accents of peace ascending,
Ever hallowed the joy that the bells inspire,
As their music imbued with its chastened fire,
To a sweeter hymn is blending:
Whose harmony caught by zephyrs fraught
With awe at its wondrous story,
Upward floats, till its silver notes
Fade in celestial glory.

ALUMNI PERSONALS.

[Alumni and others can render a service by sending items of interest for this column.]

'75. Rev. L. G. Kremer, after a useful and self-denying pastorate of nine years at Hagerstown, Md., has taken charge of the East Vincent and Spring City churches, Chester county, Pa. The Bulletin extends a cordial welcome to him and his good lady to the nearer influence of Alma Mater.

'76. Rev. G. S. Sorber, of the Paradise charge, Northumberland county, Pa., is making full proof of his ministry by preaching three times every other Sunday, conducting two prayer meetings and two catechetical classes a week, and faithful pastoral visitation. Besides, the churches in that section are given to a great deal of social activity, which makes large demands on a pastor's time.

'76. Rev. F. C. Yost, Milton, Pa., is engaged in the erection of a very
large two-story church, to take the place of the one hastily built after the fire in 1880. His congregation has been worshiping in the opera house for a number of months, and to improve the opportunity he has been preaching a series of Sunday night sermons adapted to the place, which are drawing as largely as any play that visits the town.

77. Rev. A. B. Stoner, a graduate of the Theological Department, is enjoying unabated success in his pastorate of the Mechanicstown, Md., charge. The benevolent activity of the people has been signally increased under his ministry.

85. On the 12th of December, Rev. S. L. Messinger, of Blain, Pennsylvania, received from one of his congregations a liberal donation made up of a great variety of provisions, provender, chickens, turkeys and other articles. Mr. Messinger highly appreciates the benevolent regard shown toward him by the members of his charge.

86. Edwin C. Hibshman, who since his graduation from Ursinus has been a student in the Theological Department of Heidelberg College, Tiffin, O., will return to his Alma Mater with the opening of the coming Winter Term, to complete his theological studies.

86. At present writing Miss May Royer is lying critically ill at the residence of her uncle in Woodbury, N. J., where she was stricken with sickness while on a visit. She has the earnest wishes of all who know her for a safe recovery.

87. Rev. John A. Mertz, of Linfield, Pa., united with his Sunday School in celebrating their Christmas festival on the evening of December 17th. A pleasant part of the occasion was the receipt by the pastor of a present of $20 in gold. Mr. J. L. Fluck, '88, took part in the exercises, delivering an address to the children.

GENERAL TOPICS.

REFORMATION DAY.

Third Sunday in January, 15th, 1888.

WHY OBSERVE IT.

1. It is the anniversary of the birth of Protestantism.

2. Recalling the events connected with the Reformation strengthens our confidence in its principles.

3. The people need to be taught the history of their faith, that they may not depart from it.

HOW OBSERVE IT.

1. By preaching a sermon on some person, principle or event connected with the history of the Reformed church in its birth period. See List of Texts in January Bulletin, 1887.

2. By taking up a collection in every church in aid of theological education, as directed by the General Synod in the following action:

That the churches within the bounds of this Synod be earnestly requested to take up contributions at their celebration of Reformation Day on the third Sunday in January, (or any other day they may adopt,) in aid of the theological schools of our church.
WHY A COLLECTION.

1. In theological schools the students pay no tuition, hence the Professors must be supported by collections taken in the churches or by the income from endowment funds contributed by members of the church.

2. The preservation of the Protestant faith depends so largely upon the character of our theological schools that this day should yield its offerings to the support of the institutions which conserve its life.

3. The people have sufficient appreciation of a living gospel to be willing to give the offerings of one Sunday in the year to the support of the men who prepare the preachers of such a gospel.

WHY SPECIAL OFFERINGS FOR URSIUS.

1. Its theological department having no endowment, the instruction must be entirely provided for by special contributions.

2. Ursinus College is planted squarely on Reformation principles and emphasizes the evangelical side of Protestantism, with which the people have always been in sympathy.

ANNO DOMINI 1888.

Opens a new period of time for Colleges and college work, as well as for Corn Exchanges, Agriculture and Commerce, not to name such matters of far inferior significance as the athletic games in which some fanatical advocates of muscular education seem to find supreme delight. And it opens upon all interested in the aims and purposes of true Colleges with offers of as many days and hours, as grand opportunities, and inspiring incentives to a worthy improvement of their time, as are given to any other class of men. To affirm this is to say the least that might be confidently asserted. But how much is involved in the fact.

Let the student engaged in the academic course devote some moments of the first day of the year to taking account of the stock with which he is permitted to begin. The day and hour summon him to do so for his own sake and from due regard for the high ends of life. Such a review and reckoning cannot fail to exert a salutary influence. It will quicken his manly sense of personal responsibility. It will stimulate zeal to improve the moments as they fly, and to secure from a faithful use of passing opportunities profits which never present themselves but once. It will purify exulting hope with a chastening fear of the penalty of wasted powers and privileges despised until they are gone beyond recovery.

This is no new-year homily,—but it may serve as an ad hominem appeal deserving the consideration of every young man who is willing to know his situation with its perils and demands.

AN ANNUAL HOROSCOPE.

Although no reliance be placed on astrological conceits based upon superstitious studies of the stars, there are lights which reveal surer signs to open eyes and docile hearts. Those signs teach lessons, also,
which concern personal and common interests, far more vital than any taught by the fictions of astrology or other hidden arts.

There are futurities which lie covered from mortal vision under shadows, clouds and darkness. It would not help man could they be known. They concern events beyond his control. Leave them with him who can rule and manage them.

But there are facts of the future which, in a true moral sense, are subject to man's own moulding and direction. There are things to come in months before us which are, conditionally, under man's power to make them tributary to his welfare or elements of woe.

What are they, is it asked? Every thoughtful heart may forecast them and answer the question. They lie so plainly in the vista of the material and spiritual worlds as to be easily discerned at long distances, and are so completely under the operation of natural or moral laws that they may be set down as certain.

In this view each one's to-morrow for each successive day of the year will be what he makes it. And to make it what every one should desire it to be he must strive to be and to do each day what true duty demands. By constant and faithful culture and discipline according to the highest standard of right and truth, and by an honest use of the best means at hand, such a future may be secured as will fit for any emergency and insure a triumphant issue of life.

On such a basis every personal future may be confidently predicted. And shall the prediction be the less impressive and valuable, because the wisdom which makes it has been inspired from above, because taught by God through His Word? Most surely a "say ye to the righteous it shall be well with him," should be at least as worthy of acceptance because it comes from Oracles divine, as if it came from those of Delphi or the Sybil. The proverbs of Solomon and of Agur are fully as good, to claim no more, as those of Zoroaster or of Confucius, and have a far more effectively potent bearing upon the great mission of man.

Away then with all that morbid antipathy to Christian piety which rather than be Christian affects higher admiration for "the Light of Asia" and other equally hazy heathenisms.

PRINCIPLES OR RULES.

Doubtless it is better to begin the year with some seriously adopted rules of conduct, private and public, than to start upon it with heedless frivolity. "Ernst ist das Leben." And it is the part of true wisdom to regard it with earnestness.

But a still more excellent way is to enter upon the new stadium with fixed principles formed on the noblest model, and go by these as the safest guiding star and compass. Special rules may need frequent modification. Principles are invariable and abiding. They are for man's moral and highest ends, the same yesterday, to-day and forever.
The character moulded by them, and resting in them, will develop into greater "beauty and strength" as days pass on, until the stature of perfect manhood be attained. A heart immovably so fixed in God is more to him that has it than all the "vain pomp and glory of the world" beside.

President McCosh, writing from the College of New Jersey, gives expression to his views on the subject of college fraternities in the following concise manner: "I am opposed to secret societies in colleges. Any good they can do can be better accomplished by open societies, which, of course, can be made as private as the members please, without being secret. When they existed here they were causes of mischief, holding out temptations to the students and producing dissension between the Faculty and the students. It took us some trouble to put them down, but now that they no longer exist, the college is in a much better condition. The great body of the students would oppose their introduction into Princeton College."

THE AMERICAN PROTECTIVE TARIFF LEAGUE has made a second offer of prizes to students of Senior Classes of Colleges and Universities in the United States. The prizes are $250, $100 and $50, for the first, second and third best essays on the theme, "Home Production Indispensable to a Supply, at Low Prices, of the Manufactured Commodities Required for the People of the United States, and Adequate Home Production of These Commodities Impossible without a Protective Tariff."

The essays must be handed in before April 1, 1888. Particulars and conditions in the premises can be had by addressing "The League," No. 23 West Twenty-third street, New York City, N. Y.

GENERAL COLLEGE AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

The largest university is Oxford. It consists of twenty-one colleges and five halls.

The training colleges in England have accommodation for 3,395 students.

An unknown friend has given Yale College $125,000 to be expended in building a recitation hall.

There are at present one hundred women studying in the Harvard Annex.

Miss Story, the daughter of a clergyman in the North of Ireland, has won the Literature Scholarship of $500 a year for five years, awarded by the Royal University of Ireland.

Professor Max Muller estimates that in six generations, two hundred years, the English tongue will be universal, and spoken by more people than are now living.

Miss Alice Freeman, who recently resigned the presidency of Wellesley College "with matrimonial intentions," was married to George Herbert Palmer, professor of philosophy in Harvard University, on December 23d, at Boston, Mass.
MONTHLY SUMMARY.

COLLEGIATE.

The attendance during the Fall term at Heidelberg College ran up to 202 students.

President Apple reports the total number of students at Franklin and Marshall as 91: Seniors 17, Juniors 25, Sophomores 27, Freshmen 22; of whom 90 per cent. are members of the church. The Theological Seminary at Lancaster has 41 students.

Allentown Female College has recently received a present of two new pianos from friends in Allentown. The money to pay for them was raised by a friend who headed the subscription with twenty dollars. Where is the friend and the town who will do the same kindness for Ursinus?

On account of the unfinished state of the building, Wichita University, Kansas, will not be opened until next Fall. The teachers in music and art are carrying forward the work in rented quarters and at their personal risk. Prof. Bushong has returned east, the Board bearing the loss incurred by him through the failure of the engagement, and Rev. Welker, the President-elect, is expected to engage in pastoral work again until the institution will need his services.

SYNDICAL.

The affairs of the Board of Publication, Philadelphia, have finally been wound up by the transfer of the real and personal property to Rev. C. G. Fisher, Superintendent, who assumes all the liabilities of the concern and carries forward the publication of the periodicals under a lease of ten years, agreeing to pay to the Synods a commission-of three per cent. on the whole business for the privilege.

The Sunday School Board of the General Synod met at Altoona November 29th and organized by the election of Rev. C. S. Gerhard, of Reading, as President. Having been invested with plenary power by all the Synods the Board adopted the international lessons for the use of all the Sunday schools of the Reformed church, with special lessons for Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. A new teachers' help is to be published under the name of "Heidelberg Teacher," devoting four pages to each lesson. The "Scholars' Quarterly" is to be enlarged, and a special editor for primary lessons is to be appointed. The arrangement is to go into effect July 1, 1888.

BENEFICIARY EDUCATION.

Brownback's, Chester Co., Rev. J. W. Meminger .................................................. $7 00
McEwensville S. S., Rev. G. S. Sorber .... 5 65
Bangor, Northampton Co., Rev. T. A. Huber .......................................................... 3 38

URSIUS.

The Watson Run church, of the Saegersville charge, Crawford county, was rededicated November 6th.

St. Paul's church, Mechanicsburg, Pa., Rev. W. I. Stewart pastor, was reoccupied November 13th after being under repairs for three months.

The corner-stone of a new church at Lewistown, Ill., Rev. Metger pastor, was laid November 10th.

The church of Grace Mission, Washington, D. C., Rev. C. F. Sontag, has been thoroughly renovated, and was rededicated November 20th.

Bethel Mission, Twenty-first and Tasker streets, Philadelphia, celebrated its second anniversary November 27th. The membership is 40, Sunday school 190, collection $82.11, an increase of 100 per cent. during the year. Wilson Delany, who is now studying theology at Ursinus, is Superintendent of the school and Jacob S. Sechler treasurer.

MINISTRIAL.

Beade, J. C., installed at Winimac, Ind.
Casselman, A., installed at Lyons, Kan.
Fulcason, D. K., installed at Leighton, Kan.
Gerhard, D. W., address changed from New Holland to 131 S. Duke street, Lancaster, Pa.
Gring, A. D., address 725 Marietta avenue, Lancaster, Pa.
Hartzell, G. P., removed from Sunbury, Pa., to Hoopes town, III.
Ihle, J., installed at Mohican, O.
Kremer, E. N., Bedford, Pa., elected at Salem's church, Harrisburg, will take charge February 1st.
Keam, S., removed from Lake, O., to Liscomb, Ia.
Slagle, C. S., installed at Westminster, Md.
Souder, G. H., from Port Jefferson to Bellevue, O.
Shonta, J. B., Akron, O., elected at St. John's, Chambersburg, Pa.
Wetzel, F., address 927 W. Seventh street, Sioux City, Ia.

CONGREGATIONAL.

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This is a book Christian mothers may read with real profit, as they will be sure to get from it many suggestions as to homely yet effective ways of doing good. They will see how many opportunities of honoring Christ and blessing others they really have even in the plainest circumstances, and when their hands are fullest of household work and care.

After the Failure; or, A Loss and a Gain. By Annette Lucille Noble, author of “The Professor's Girls,” etc. 16mo. pp. 336; illustrated. Price, $1.15.

It was a bad failure which involved others besides the family of Mr. Barton. It was a dishonest failure, too, which left shame as well as loss. Doris was suddenly thrown out of a home of luxury and compelled to think and act for herself. Many a young girl in such circumstances would have given up in despair, but she did not. Her misfortune was the making of her. She met it calmly, with common sense and with readiness for hard work, and she grew in it into rich strength.

The Westminster Question Book needs no introduction to the many thousands who have been using it in past years. The new volume for 1888 is better than any of its predecessors. It contains the International Lessons for the year, with Golden Texts, Home Readings for all the days of the year, Lessons Plans, Notes, questions, practical thoughts, and maps, and is a most complete manual. 192 pages. Price, $1.25 per 100; by mail 15 cents a copy.

The two Church Almanacs for 1888 have made their appearance in due time and in very fine style, in Philadelphia and Dayton. It is to be regretted that some more definite calendar notice is not taken in them of the third Sunday in January as Reformation Day than the mere mention of a Lecture and Maurice, whom few will likely recognize as prominent Reformers.

It is found that the List of Subscriptions to the Bulletin received since March 1, 1887, which it was proposed to publish in full, is so long that it will be impracticable to insert it. Receipts will be sent by mail to all parties that have requested them, or to all who will notify us by postal card of their desire to have such receipts for monies sent us in the past.
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