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come to the conclusion that an intellectual microscope, were such a thing possible, might prove a material aid in finding them. As a matter of fact, however, this is not usually the case; so that the comparison is as well borne out in its fourth and last stage as any other.

**

Little comes to the eye and ear of the outside world from the internal life of the college during the Fall and Winter sessions. But much is both heard and seen of it throughout the term that brings each year to its natural conclusion. And eighteen-ninety-two's promise in this direction goes far ahead of any that has greeted us at any similar point in the past. As we stand on the threshold of the session which has just opened, we see that from beginning to end it is literally crowded with the busiest kind of activity. Ursinus may well brace herself up for the occasion—in everyday phrase—as she contemplates what is before her. By far the most momentous event in her history is close at hand, and it behooves her to rise right up to its demands with becoming dignity.

**

Montgomery county and southeastern Pennsylvania will be called upon at the dedication of Bomberger Memorial Hall to give a more definite and direct judgment on the individual mission of our Alma Mater and her adaptation to it than they have ever handed down before. As a consequence, Ursinus will do wisely if she commences at once to get her household well in order for the critical inspection it must undergo. The large number of worthy, intelligent citizens who are included in her own peculiar field of labor, have a right to expect that things will all be found in first-class condition when they come among us to pass their verdict.
on them. Let us see that they are not disappointed. We have still ample time left to set them straight.

**

A most important work is that which has engaged the earnest attention of the committee appointed to revise and arrange the laws of the college during the last two months or more. It is a work that was badly needed and it was undertaken none too soon. As the necessity for it was plain and urgent, so the final completion of it will be a source of deep satisfaction. General sentiment will concede that it is absolutely essential to the perfect administration of the affairs of the institution, that its rules and regulations should all be clearly defined, carefully systematized and tabulated and made easily accessible to everyone coming within their scope. The Board of Directors and the Faculty, as well as the students themselves, have an equal, common interest in this matter. And they will unite in mutual congratulations that although it has been sadly neglected for years, it is now being speedily adjusted with a proper appreciation of the rights of all concerned.

**

The Literary Societies have made a wise selection in choosing this year’s commencement orator. Mr. Wright understands well not only how to talk to the point, but also how to do it eloquently and entertainingly. Besides this he stands out boldly for a sturdy element in Pennsylvania citizenship whose interests are prominently represented in the aims and purposes of Ursinus College.

**

The crowning act in the Memorial Hall enterprise, whose complete success is now assured, will afford a golden opportunity for emphasizing the ruling principles of the institution and cementing the union of its members and friends in their support which should not be permitted to pass by unimproved under any circumstances.

THE LITERARY SOCIETIES.

ZWINGLIAN.

TWENTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY.

The twenty-second anniversary of the Zwinglian Society—the closing event of the Winter term—took place on Thursday evening, March twenty-fourth. The full program, as previously announced, was rendered in the best of style without a disagreeable flaw of any kind. The society can congratulate itself that the hope of a new assembly-room is before it and that the twenty-third anniversary will see it appear before an audience under circumstances so much more favorable to speakers, musicians and the interested public than those which have existed thus far.

The old chapel on this occasion could not hold the people assembled, who, after its aisles had been filled, overflowed into the hallway, and were forced into all kinds of uncomfortable positions only endurable because of the enjoyable entertainment in store.

The orations were all of such surpassing merit that general opinion could not single out any one as better than another. The applause which greeted each speaker as he took his seat emphasized the fact that a reward invariably awaits careful, painstaking preparation.

The Glee Club in two numbers and the Orchestra in four, fully reached their high standard in the musical part of the program. It is pleasing to note that the Orchestra is showing such marked improvement, and Mr. Middleton is to be commended for his success as its leader. The bright, particular star of the musical program, however, was Miss Mame Todd, of Pottstown, who, in two vocal solos,
carried the audience by storm. At the end of this lady's second number the con-
tinued applause was only appeased by her re-appearance in a third selection.

The Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, Ira L. Bryner, along with
his fellow workers in charge, spared no pains to make the occasion a success; and
they won the hearty thanks of all lucky enough to be present.

The program rendered in full is as follows:

Selection..........................Orchestra
Selection..........................Glee Club
Salutatory—"Vanity,"
J. Howard Johnson, Collegeville, Pa.
Vocal Solo—"Florian Song,"............Godard.
Miss Mame Todd, Pottstown, Pa.
Oration—"The Victories of the Past—The Battles of the Future."
J. Hunter Watts, Watontown, Pa.
Selection..........................Orchestra
Oration—"Socrates a Prophecy of Christ,"
Selection..........................Glee Club
Oration—"The Effect of the Crusades on Society,"
Wharton A. Kline, Sell's Station, Pa.
Selection..........................Orchestra
Eulogy—"Samuel J. Tilden,"
William Venser, Lehighton, Pa.
Vocal Solo—"Forget Me Not,". Graben-Huffman
Miss Mame Todd, Pottstown, Pa.
Zwingian Oration—"The Mystery of Language,"
Irvin M. Bachman, Slatington, Pa.
Selection..........................Orchestra
Benediction, Rev. G. W. Willard, D. D., LL. D.

BOMBERGER MEMORIAL HALL.

The friends who look in daily upon the new building do not appreciate the pro-
gress it is making, nor do they realize how nearly it is completed. Those at a
distance have not enjoyed the privilege of watching the growth of the structure,
and the columns of the Bulletin devoted to the Hall have conveyed to them
very inadequate information of its development. For the benefit of the daily
visitors no less than the distant friends,

we shall state in detail the condition of the building on Monday, March 28th.

THE EXTERIOR.

Looking at it from the sidewalk, 300
feet distant, we behold the stately edifice, true in every particular to the pictures of
it published in advance, spreading out
over the east side of the campus with a
dignity and grace that are impressive,
walls, roof, tower, etc. complete, with
the following exceptions: the red Spanish
tile is still packed in barrels standing on
the ground at the base of the tower, in-
stead of covering the sheathing on the roof
of it; the roof and coping of the stone
entrance at the front door are not yet
erected, the steps not placed, nor its floor
tiled; the galvanized cornices are not
painted, and the stained-glass windows
are not placed in the chapel; the outside
doors are not hung, and the stone-work
of the tower is not pointed; the grounds
are not cleared of building rubbish, nor
graded. In all other respects the exter-
or of the building is finished, and it will
require only a few weeks' labor to re-
move these lingering traces of incomple-
teness.

THE INTERIOR.

Beginning on the third floor, we find the
Society Hall in the east end of the build-
ing, 31x37 feet, and 22 feet to the ridge
pole, with open rafters, finished in a buff-
tinted plaster, and natural yellow and
white pine wood highly polished. Only
the rose window in the gable remains to
be placed and the doors to be hung. The
society hall on the opposite side of the
building, which is of the same dimensions
and construction as the one first men-
tioned, is equally far advanced, except
the polishing of the wood work. The art
room, between the society halls, which is
25x26x14 feet, lighted with a large sky-
light, only needs the doors to complete it.

On the second floor, the physical lab-
aboratory, located at the east corner, a room
30x40 feet, lighted by seven windows, is completed in buff-tinted plaster and white pine wood, natural finish. The room is a beautiful one, and in the color of its walls, the style and finish of its wood work is a type of all the rooms in the building. On the north side of the transverse corridor, adjoining this laboratory are two standard size recitation rooms, each 20x30. In the north corner, corresponding in location, size and style to the physical laboratory on the opposite side, is the room for the chemical laboratory. Two rooms, each 15x20 feet, on the west side, and one 20x30 feet on the east side of the chapel gallery, complete the circle of recitation rooms on the second floor, all of which are finished, except the hanging of the doors and the inside blinds.

On the first floor the library, 30x40 feet, examination hall, same size, three recitation rooms, 20x30 feet, and the girls study, 20x30 feet, are in the same state of completeness as the rooms on the second floor. The reception room in the tower, 12x12 feet, and President’s room on the floor above it, are not yet plastered, on account of the unfinished state of the roof of the tower.

The chapel is plastered, except a little of the ornamental work, and the fine wood-work of the ceiling is finished. The screens and doors that separate the chapel from the corridors on the first and second floors are not yet hung. The wainscoting in the corridors is about finished, but the four stairways are not yet erected. The floors in all the rooms are planed and polished, leaving only those in the corridors and chapel to be finished.

The basement will be left unfinished for the present, there being no pressing need for its use, except the toilet rooms, which will be fitted up during the summer vacation. The heating apparatus will also be put in next summer.

The Building Committee expect to make a contract for opera chairs to seat the chapel, for gas fixtures for the building, and for stained glass for the chapel windows early in April, so that these can all be put in place before the middle of June.

NEWS ABOUT COLLEGE.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Regular meetings of the committee were held on March 1st, and March 29th. Considerable business was transacted that is of general interest to the college.

Mr. T. E. Kennedy, of Landisburg, Perry county, was elected Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, and Mr. B. W. Jackson, of Philadelphia, Steward of the Ladies Hall. Both gentlemen have moved their families to Collegeville and give promise of becoming efficient officers of the college.

One of the best improvements that could be made for the comfort of those who daily travel over the rear porch of the old buildings was decided upon. The unsightly frame building, which now shuts out the light and reduces the passageway to the chapel to very narrow dimensions, is to be taken down immediately, that the stone in its massive foundations may be used in the erection of the steam heating station.

Several changes in the assignment of work among members of the Faculty, which will be noted in the forthcoming catalogue, were agreed upon. The rank of Professor Wheeler was advanced from Instructor to full Professor. Professor Reichenbach will be catalogued as Professor of German and Pedagogy, and Instructor in French. To Rev. H. T. Spangler, who was elected a member of the Faculty by the Board at its annual meeting last summer, was assigned the chair of Psychology.

In accordance with an opinion expressed by the Faculty, it was decided
that the Academic Department be continued next year in the old buildings.

The committee appointed by the Board to revise the By-Laws of the College submitted its work for examination and criticism. It passed through the crucible of the Faculty during the month of March, and is now undergoing a second recension, insuring a complete and greatly improved system of laws for the future government of the college.

BOARDING CLUBS.

The success of boarding clubs at Ursinus is an assured fact. The Perkomen Club is progressing very finely. This club is under the managership of Mr. Bleiler, and has sixteen members. The board for the winter term cost them about $1.90 each. They occupy a house on the picturesque banks of the Perkomen. Mrs. Koons, assisted by her daughter, does the cooking. The club occupies only part of the house, the remainder of the house being taken by students. This was the pioneer club of the college and was started in spite of all discouraging remarks and acts. Thus it deserves all the praise it receives, and more.

When certain complications arose at the end of the Fall term and a new person was needed to carry on the boarding department of the college, the college authorities announced their desire to give up all interest in this department and suggested the forming of another club. The general sentiment of the students boarding in the college was found to be in favor of this scheme, so a meeting was held. Welsh, '93, was elected president and manager. The club started with nineteen members and received additions until now it has twenty-four regular members. By reason of the fact that all the furniture and supplies had to be bought this term, the average expense was somewhat higher than that of the other club.

The members paid an initiation fee of $3 to pay expenses incurred in furnishing the dining room and kitchen. Counting the fee, the board averaged about $2.10 for the term. Mrs. Keller, of York county, does the cooking and is assisted in her good work by Alice Ziegler, of Pennsburg. As there is no longer any regular mail delivery at the college, the members of this club have established a system for their own benefit.

Dr. Hamer's house has been leased by some enterprising students, who will rent the rooms to students at a reasonable rate. There will be no meals served in the building.

JUNIOR CLASS.

Early in February the Junior Class decided to hold a banquet. The matter was kept a secret because it was somewhat of a departure at the school and the class did not know how it would be received. It became known to a few about a week before the evening set, but nothing was done. However, as the banquet was to be held on St. Patrick's Day, the class looked out for squalls. Early on the morning of the 17th of March a sudden excitement seemed to take possession of certain persons on Broadway and in some parts of the college. Placards were found in all available places announcing the fact that the class of '93 would hold a "Razzle-Dazzle" at the Weldon House that night, and invited the public to be present. Many, including the class, enjoyed the joke and praised the pluck of the persons who lost sleep to paste up a chestnut which has been used so often in other places. In the evening the class assembled at the house of Rev. Mr. Hendricks from where they proceeded to the Weldon House in teams. The cold, snow and darkness did not cause any mishaps on the way. The class arrived about eight-thirty, and soon made them-
selves comfortable. At nine the supper was served. The menu was:

Oysters on the Half-Shell.
Fried Chicken. Fried Oysters. Roast Beef.
Corn.
Tomatoes.
Mashed Potatoes.
Cold Slaw.
Cranberry Sauce.
Pie.
Ice Cream.

After the supper was disposed of, the following toasts were responded to:


The class then adjourned to the parlors where songs, games and pleasantities followed each other in quick succession.

Besides the members responding to toasts, there were present: W. A. Kline, President; Miss Sallie Hendricks; Miss Ida Robison, Philadelphia; Miss Laura Koons, Collegeville; Miss Sallie Tyson, Limerick; Miss Nora Shuler, Trappe; Miss Lillian Rhoades, Trappe; Miss Katie M. Becker, Philadelphia; Elias Noll, and George Rahn. The party reached home early in the morning well pleased with everything.

The Junior Class will hold an exhibition during commencement week.

LOCAL Y. M. C. A. NOTES.

The Y. M. C. A. has decided to hold a reception on the second Saturday of the Spring term.

The meetings are being very well attended. Much interest is shown, and it is hoped much good will come from the gatherings. The average attendance is thirty-five.

On Saturday evenings a class meets in the President's room for the purpose of studying the different books of the Bible. Hicks, '95, is the leader. There are about fifteen members.

On Sunday afternoons another class meets in the same room to study the "Life of Christ." Jones, '91, is the leader.

The Y. M. C. A. has adopted the International Constitution.

On Monday, March 21st, the Association elected the following officers: President, Hicks, '95; Vice-President, Walter, '96; Corresponding Secretary, Noll, '93; Recording Secretary, Fogel, '94; Treasurer, Shellenberger, '95.

Wiest, T. D., is conducting a mission at the Almshouse.

Royer, T. D., recently delivered a well prepared address in Trinity Church, of Collegeville. It was on the subject of the "Students' Volunteer Association." This is a great movement, which took its rise in the schools of England. It received new impulse at the convention at Plainfield, Mass., where a student of Princeton introduced the subject. Its main object is to get supplies for the foreign mission field. From a small band at Plainfield it has spread to nearly all the large educational centres in the Union. The number of the members reaches into the thousands.

IN THE MUSICAL LINE.

The Glee Club's February trip to Lehigh, Slatington and Allentown, reported in last month's Bulletin, was attended with its usual success until it arrived at Allentown, where it struck a snag. The expenses were high, the crowd was small, and the club was out of pocket a nice little sum. But the members are none of those who mourn over spilt milk and so they immediately began to contrive means to get out of the mists.

The club started in a humble way by giving a concert at Schwenksville, and cleared some money. A still bolder venture was then proposed. This is a trip to Philadelphia. The club wishes to see whether the members of the Reformed
Church there are not more interested in the boys than the Reformed people who held entertainments of their own on the night that the club appeared in this town.

It is thought that Association Hall will be secured and every effort will be made to make it a success both as to the singing and the receipts. The club asks the assistance of all the friends in the Reformed Churches of Philadelphia to carry out this plan.

Great preparations are being made to give a grand concert during commencement week. The two clubs will be united, so there will be a grand chorus of over twenty-four male voices.

A second club was formed some time ago to furnish material for the first, in case there are any vacancies. This club practices now with the first. But this is not good policy, for the new men retard the progress of the older and more proficient ones.

The new musical organization under the leadership of Miss Park, is called the Aeolian Symphony Octette. It practices every Monday in the Ladies Hall, and the sweet strains floating out on the air mingle with those of the male club until sweet harmony fills the whole neighborhood.

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COLLEGE ATHLETICS.

Athletics at Ursinus seemed to wear a very rose colored appearance at the beginning of the Fall term; but the usual difficulties have arisen. We have a good manager, we have plenty of games, but the money necessary for carrying out the plans is not forthcoming. At other colleges the Alumni are not backward in sending subscriptions to assist the local committee in carrying out its work. Now, while Ursinus has made rapid strides in the last year, could not the Alumni take a departure from their past way of doing things and contribute something to the support of the athletics of the college. The Glee Club has done a good work in advertising the college. The Base Ball Club, if managed rightly, will do the same. Who of our Alumni will be the first to send help to the Association.

The committee appointed to solicit subscriptions about college for new base ball suits and other necessary expenses met with cordial endorsement of their plan from professors, students and town friends. The committee consisted of Messrs. Bryner, Hunsicker and Bomberger. The substantial encouragement which rewarded their efforts will go far, it is hoped, toward winning the contests of the season.

SCHEDULE OF GAMES.

Manager E. G. Small has announced that the following games have been arranged by him to date:

April 16, J. E. Amrhein, at Collegeville.
April 21, Collegeville at Collegeville.
April 23, Phoenixville at Collegeville.
April 28, Collegeville at Collegeville.
April 30, Pottstown at Pottstown.
May 5, Chambersburg at Chambersburg.
May 6, Chambersburg at Chambersburg.
May 7, Dickinson at Carlisle.
May 12, Royersford at Collegeville.
May 14, P. M. A. at Chester.
May 19, T. A. C. of Bethlehem, at Collegeville.
May 21, Rutgers at New Brunswick.
May 27, West Chester at West Chester.
May 28, Shortridge Academy at Media.
May 30, Doylestown at Doylestown.
Two games.

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A FIELD LEASED.

The authorities of the college have leased from Dr. James Hamer a plot of ground four hundred and fifty feet square immediately adjoining the college campus, and as soon as the weather permits will put it in first-class order. A baseball diamond will be laid out and there
will be plenty of room for tennis courts. It is hoped that the ground can be gotten into condition by April 16th, or even before that date.

**OTHER ITEMS.**

The prominent candidates for the team are: Shinehouse, Kalbach, '92, Grimacy, Middleton, Bomberger, '89, Shuler, Rahn, '93, Wiest, West, '92, Welsh, Roth, Kalbach, 95.

It is hoped that Professor Wheeler will play with the team. He had an excellent record at the University which he attended and would make a fine addition to the team.

The orders for the making of the suits for the base ball club have been placed with the Chester L. Smith Company, of Norristown, Pa. They will be made of the best gray flannel. The stockings and trimmings are to be garnet. They are to be finished by April 10th.

The reserve team has been donated the suits of last spring by the Athletic Association. They are in good condition.

**OPENING OF THE SPRING TERM.**

The Spring term of the college opened Monday, April 4th, with bright and cheery conditions, as well in the roll of new students in the assembly room, as in the cloudless, vernal skies overhead. The additions were large, and therefore most encouraging.

The opening address of the session was delivered Tuesday morning by Professor Samuel Vernon Ruby, Esq., A. M., Ph. D., on the theme "The National Language in the College Curriculum." It was an able production, entirely worthy a place of high honor in the archives of the institution; and, with its author's consent, it will appear in full in the May issue of the Bulletin.

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.**

Mr. James R. Bergey, of the Theological Department, has recovered from his recent severe illness, and was seen on the campus on Thursday, March 24th.

Among the audience at the Zwinglian anniversary were noticed: Rev. C. U. O. Derr, '88; Rev. Wallace H. Worthing, '89; Dr. John Todd and family, of Pottstown; Howard Levan, ex-'95, and Miss Ida Robison, ex-'93.

Rev. W. H. Gottschall, '89, was about college renewing acquaintanceships and examining Memorial Hall one day during the closing week of the term.

**THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.**

**MATRIMONIAL.**

**MURTHA-BURNHAM.**

For the Bulletin.

One of the prettiest weddings of the season took place in Philadelphia, on the evening of February 16th, 1892, when Miss Grace Burnham, of 2011 Diamond street, was married to D. Charles Murtha, of the class of '86.

The ceremony took place at the Union M. E. Church, the Rev. John T. Crouch officiating. The bride was escorted by her father, and was attended by Miss Alice Lutz, of North Broad Street, as maid of honor, and six bridesmaids. The best man was P. Calvin Mensch, of the class of '87. Fully a thousand persons were present.

After the ceremony a reception was held at Mr. Burnham’s residence, where a sumptuous repast had been prepared. Among those present were friends from Boston, Bennington, Vermont; New York, Brooklyn, Troy, Newark, Camden, Baltimore, Fortress Monroe, Bellefonit and Germantown, in all about 250 guests.

To her bridesmaids Mrs. Murtha presented small lace pins in the love-knot form, composed of diamonds and pearls.
After the reception the couple left for a trip to Old Point Comfort, and other places of interest in the South.

In his short business career Mr. Murtha has enjoyed remarkable success, and is at present the owner of one of the largest individual brick manufacturing plants in Philadelphia.

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PERSONALS.

[Alumni and others can render a service by sending items of interest for this column. All such items, to receive prompt attention, must be addressed to Ursinus College Bulletin, Collegeville, Montgomery County, Pa.]

'73. J. A. Strassburger, Esq., A. M., of Norristown, is spoken of favorably as a delegate to the National Republican Convention at Minneapolis.

'74. The Rev. J. H. Shuford, A. B., has resigned his charge at Middlebrook, Virginia.

'75. The Rev. D. U. Wolff, A. M., of Myerstown, Pa., mourns the death of his mother, which occurred unexpectedly early in March. As the companion of one of the most self-sacrificing ministers of the past generation, the Rev. George Wolff, D. D., who served Ursinus College faithfully for seventeen years as a director and was always one of its staunchest friends, Mrs. Wolff endured the many trials incident to frontier missionary pastors, before being permitted to enter upon the thirty years' peaceful and prosperous residence in the Lebanon Valley. The years of her widowhood were comforted by the nearness to her of her only son, who joined her at the family altar of morning worship less than an hour before her soul was summoned to the spirit land. The Bulletin extends sympathy to the bereaved.

'83. The Rev. Morvin Custer, A. B., is closing his third year as pastor of the Presbyterian Church, at Ashley, Luzerne County, Pa., with great encouragement. At a recent communion he received sixty-five persons into church fellowship, making the additions during his pastorate more than 200. His congregation now numbers 530 members, and his Sunday school 500. A new chapel, with a seating capacity of 700, has recently been erected.

'84. The Rev. P. W. Snyder, A. B., is in his first pastorate at Red Lion, York County, Pa.

'85. The Rev. J. B. May has been unanimously elected pastor of the Reformed Church at Bangor, Pa.

'87. The Rev. J. A. Mertz, A. M., is engaged with Dr. Williard in a canvass of his St. Vincent congregation in the interests of the college.

'88. The Rev. J. D. Peters, A. B., recently resigned as pastor of the Second Reformed Church, at Hanover, Pa., but there is a strong sentiment in his congregation against his leaving.

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GENERAL TOPICS.

THE CHRISTO-CENTRIC PRINCIPLE OF THEOLOGY.*

The work to which special reference is here made is the product of an able and distinguished scholar, who is a theological professor in the Reformed (German) Church. He is the author of an article in the Schaff-Herzog Encyclopaedia, which clearly foreshadowed the distinctive principle of the work before us, and the moulding influence of that principle, as a constructive one, upon the whole system of theology. This assists us, in view of the fact that only the first volume of the "Institutes" has as yet been issued, in estimating the comprehensive sweep and

the modifying effect of Dr. Gerhart’s fundamental assumption, in relation to his theology as a whole.

It is not intended in these remarks to attempt an articulate examination of the author’s theological system, but to devote particular attention to its constructive principle. The whole system is based upon what is denominated the “christocentric principle.” Proceeding upon the supposition—and it is acknowledged to be valid—that the human mind is impelled as by the force of an irresistible instinct to seek for unity in every department of knowledge, whether scientific, philosophical, or theological, Dr. Gerhart professes to find the unifying principle of theology in what he terms the “Christ-idea.” If we understand him, it is the doctrine concerning Christ, the “christological” doctrine, which is fundamental to theology, and imparts to all its truths their bond of unity. This is the “central” theological principle. It pervades, shapes, controls the whole theological system. “Governed by this fundamental truth,” the author says, “a system may begin by presenting the import of this truth, and setting forth its regulative force for the construction of all Christian doctrines; then pass on to treat the manifold parts of the Christian religion in its light, and under its guidance.” This is the method which he avowedly pursues.

He claims for it novelty, so far as this country is concerned. Upon this point he makes the following remarks, which savor of a condemnatory criticism of all previous and existing systems of theology:

“Thus far no system of theology, developed from the Christ-idea as its standpoint, of American or English authorship, has greeted the church. Works of this class have been fashioned after the Augustinian or Arminian type. As a consequence there is in many circles a sense of the lack of harmony, perhaps it may be said a sense of dissonance, not only between a large proportion of influential pulpits, but also between much of the soundest Christian thought of our times and regent theological systems. And from many directions has come the expression of a desire for a construction of all Christian doctrines proceeding from what is now generally felt and acknowledged to be the central truth of Christianity.

“The scientific labor of all Christian thinkers from Clement and Origen onward through the middle ages, I appreciate and honor, especially the great ideas of Augustine, which, as reproduced and matured by John Calvin, mark a mighty epoch of progress in Evangelical theology and practical religion. But the Reformation did not propose to break the bondage of Romanism in order to replace it by a Calvinistic yoke.” [1]

Upon these utterances, in which a charge in general is made against previous systems of theology, and in particular against the Calvinistic, of inadequacy and of inconsistency with the soundest Christian thought of our times, we cannot forbear pausing to make a few comments. While we steadfastly maintain that there is no legitimate development of the contents of the Scriptures by substantive addition, subtraction or substitution, inasmuch as they are a fixed and unchanging quantity, and that they can only be developed by logical influence which explicitly evolves what they implicitly contain; we do not deny that there may be a legitimate development of the church’s knowledge of the doctrines of Scripture. This development may be conceived to be actualized in one or the other of three ways: either by a more thorough-going and enlightened explanation of some doctrinal field, or by a fuller expansion of the logical contents of some doctrine or doctrines, or by a correction of some doctrinal statement which has been discovered to be wrong, and the substitution of a more scriptural one in its place. The results, if any, thus attained may in a proper way, a way provided for in the constitutions of ecclesiastical bodies be, with due deliberation and caution, and with much prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, formally in-
It is obvious that any theologian who undertakes to formulate such results, and to advocate their adoption, assumes a most responsible office. The presumption is against him, and it is incumbent on him to rebut it by reasons of the most convincing character. In the case before us the changes proposed are radical, because corrective and substitutionary. We advert to one or two eminent examples. By the acceptance of a central and ruling principle it is claimed that theologies hitherto constructed after the Augustinian or Arminian type may be brought into harmony with each other, if not reduced to unity. Of course, this could only be effected by the elimination of the distinctive features of Augustinianism and Arminianism and the substitution of others in their place. And we here only suggest that a central principle which will be potent enough to achieve this office will succeed in bringing fire and water into harmony and reducing contradictories to identity. It is as hopeless, as it is too late to expect, by the adoption of any generic principle to accomplish such a result.

A special instance of such a change which the author signalizes is in connection with the Calvinistic theology, which, he remarks, reproduces and maintains the Augustinian. To any one who has studied the Calvinistic system it is evident that it rests upon two main pillars: Unconditional Election and Federal Representation. Take away either, you mutilate it. Take away both you destroy it. Rejecting the regulative—we say not central and unifying—force of these two great principles of Calvinism, Dr. Gerhart would enthrone in their place a principle, in accordance with which God's love subjugates to itself every other attribute of his character, stamps its controlling influence upon his moral government, and absolutely dominates theology. The supremacy of this principle, it is contended, renders it impossible that God should be sovereign to the exclusion of man's sovereignty, or that man should be sovereign to the exclusion of God's sovereignty. It reduces the two sovereignties to unity. This is an extraordinary fact of logical unification. What can the unity be? We confess that it passes our ability to imagine it, unless it be a verbal creation styled "divine-human" sovereignty. And what meaning could be extracted from those terms we cannot possibly conceive. To our humble minds it seems clear that either God is sovereign or man. To affirm the latter is untrue to us, untrue alike to Scripture and to fact. It remains that God alone is sovereign. Now, this is one of the main contentions of the Calvinistic theology, and to deny its tenableness is not to modify that system, not to improve upon it and better it; it is to break down one of its principal supports. A similar course of remarks would hold in regard to the federal and representative principle—the complement of unconditional election on the one hand and of particular atonement on the other. Deny both these principles, absolutely sovereign election and federal representation, and you wipe out Calvinism as a distinctive system. The same is true, mutatis mutandis, of Arminianism. Take away its two leading principles, conditional election, involving the sovereignty of the human will in the matter of appropriating salvation, and, secondly, universal atonement, and the system is not modified, it is as distinctive blotted out.

To bring, therefore, these two contradictory systems, hoary with age and scarred by blows mutually inflicted in a conflict of centuries duration, into unity under the moulding influences of a unifying principle is simply impossible. The
attempt would suppose the destruction of both. Nothing could be effected but the substitution in their room of a system radically new and radically different. This is the end to which Professor Gerhart seems to be directing his splendid powers, and nothing is risked in predicting failure as the result.

It may be observed, further, that it is difficult to see how the author's positions hang together. On the one hand, he magnifies the Augustinian and Calvinistic systems as epoch-making, and as producing signal benefits in the past. On the other, he rejects both, so far as they are distinctive, and impeaches them as productive of dissonance in Christian communities, and as conflicting with the Christian thought of our times. Was what is now false in theology once true in theology? Is the "Homo Mensura" theory tenable in asserting that there is no invariable standard of truth, that truth is as it appears to each man to be? Is theological truth determined by circumstances and environment? Augustine was once right, Calvin was once right, but now they are both wrong! One is reminded of Mr. Herbert Spencer's position that every past religion as a necessary product of evolution was absolutely right, but as compared with the last and climactic result of the same wondrous law, relatively wrong. Fetichism is right for the Tasmanian, but wrong for the Englishman. Christianity is to be commended for the ignorant fanatic, but to be disdained by the enlightened agnostic. If he repudiates these analogies, and would be consistent, Dr. Gerhart must hold that what is now wrong in Augustinianism and Calvinism was wrong when Augustine and Calvin wrote; and then he would prove himself the greatest theological reformer that the Reformed Church ever saw.

As it is to be presumed that the pious author would not decline to wear the yoke of Scripture, his splenetic fling at "a Calvinistic yoke" must be construed as indicating his contempt for the Calvinistic theology; and it is only adverted to now, as a remark emanating somewhat strangely and significantly from a learned professor in a church of which Ursinus and Olevianus were illustrious ornaments.—John L. Girardeau, D. D., L.L. D., Professor of Theology in the Seminary at Columbia, S. C., in the "Presbyterian Quarterly," for Jan'y '92.

EXCHANGES.

Our exchanges during the past month have had a great deal to say in reference to athletics, especially those from colleges where great interest is taken in this matter during the Spring term. Some of them look with alarm at the attention which is being given to the subject in its different phases. We do not, because we believe that a perfect education consists in the development of man physically, intellectually and spiritually. However, we concede that the the physical is often pushed forward to the exclusion of the other two. In our development what we want is to strike the "happy mean." This we can do only by being temperate in all things.

Among our weekly college papers none is more worthy of note than The University News, Syracuse University, New York. All its departments are well conducted, but its Editorials and General College News are particularly strong.

A writer in the Red and Blue, University of Pennsylvania, calls attention to the discredit and dishonor that is being brought upon the University by class suppers at which wine is used freely. We trust his article may be effectual in arousing among the students a sentiment that will not tolerate a continuance of this evil on such occasions. We are glad that
at Ursinus the precedent of "no wine" has already been firmly established.

A writer in the *Dickinson Liberal* takes exception to the prevalent opinion that "Valedictorians are never heard of after leaving college." He substantiates his point by numerous examples. His conclusion is that he who is first in college is generally first through life.

The *Pennsylvania College Monthly* rejoices that a chair in Biblical instruction has been added to the curriculum of that college. It will be known as the Strong Professorship of the English Bible. The *Monthly* calls attention also to the need of another dormitory.

Judging from the *Earlhamite*, great things may be expected from Earlham, as she has entered the Indiana State Oratorical Association, State Athletic Association, and the Inter-Collegiate Press Association. May she be successful in helping to keep these enterprises alive.

We clip the following from the *Wooster Voice*:

**COLLEGE ETHICS.**

"There is a large amount of sentiment floating under the above title that proves upon examination to be the merest trash. If the term means that the collegeman is exposed to peculiar temptations involving questions of ethics foreign to other circles, it expresses a truth and has a right to live; but if it means that the moral law, as touching students, is subject to modifications, it contains a falsehood and should be branded accordingly. If it is right for college boys to call upon one of their fellows and subject him to any indignity, then fun-loving citizens of all classes may follow the same custom. If it be right for students to dance, may not the faculty indulge in the same pastime? And if college men may openly or secretly break the agreement which they make on entering their institution, why should business men be held more responsible for the obligations which they sign?"

"The boys,' though wholly responsible, are not the only ones to blame for the present state of affairs in many colleges. So long as the people will speak lightly of 'college pranks,' or blame them upon the institution, the faculty, or any one else except the ones who committed them, so long 'the boys' will see to it that the supply of pranks is undiminished, and so long will 'college ethics' stand for something less than Christianity."

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**NOVEL READING: AN ARGUMENT AGAINST IT.**

Much, but not too much has been said and written in praise of reading; but whether the habit of reading is to be commended or condemned depends almost wholly on what is read.

Dr. Rush, of Philadelphia, called newspapers, "teachers of disjointed thinking," and forbade their introduction into the great library he founded. It may be true that the reading of the daily press is in a measure injurious to the mind. We do not read them to remember, but merely to gratify a prevailing taste for news. A person who does not read the daily papers is now considered a very uninteresting companion.

But in this age of book reading, it is not necessary to confine reading to newspapers. A vast field of book reading is spread before us and around us for our intellectual gratification and improvement. From this ocean of books probably not one person out of a hundred makes a judicious choice.

We may safely begin by excluding the whole category of novels and romances as not only useless but worse than useless. It has been said that the reading of novels teaches the art of expression. This we deny. The first step in the direction of expression is the acquisition of knowledge.

We must have something to talk about before we can talk well. We gain no
knowledge from novel reading, and the art of expression we can acquire from the source from which useful knowledge can be gained. No thought which the human mind is capable of evolving, however grand, however comprehensive, however erudite, but can find better expression than in the clear, forcible, gorgeous words of the author of "A Letter to A Noble Lord," or the speeches on the impeachment of Warren Hastings. Imagine Dante or Milton reading romances to enlarge their vocabularies of words or beautify their forms of expression! We are told that the works of Livy awakened the dormant genius of Patrick Henry. Lord Erskine, probably the greatest lawyer that England ever produced, declared that he found "constant refuge" in the works of Edmund Burke; and Daniel Webster once said that he read the "Letter to the Sheriffs of Bristol," by the same author once a year to study political wisdom in the best language. The great Chatham, too, "read Thucydides and studied and admired the master spirits of the world."

Reading from the best poets is also to be recommended. "But," says the novel advocate, "how can romance be condemned and stories in poetry commended?" We see a very wide difference between the average novel and such poems as "Hiawatha," "The Task," "Paradise Lost," or "The Inferno." We read poetry largely for the sake of the harmony and rhythm. The story is subordinated to these, and the beauty of diction which clings tenaciously to the memory. The reading of Dante, Milton, Shakespeare, Cowper, and Longfellow is highly instructive and elevating.

Limited space precludes any recommendations touching a course of reading beyond the general remark that the best histories, such as Prescott's "Conquest of Mexico and Peru," Motley's "Netherlands," Macaulay's and Hume's "Histories of England," and Bancroft's "History of the United States," should be carefully read and remembered. The words of Carlyle and other masters of thought must not be omitted. The works of the great poets whom we have mentioned must be familiar to all who make claim to a liberal education. Last, but most important, we must not overlook the great book which contains more than the words of man's wisdom. The great thought that can alone comfort us in the critical moment of our last agony must not come from the lips of man, however great and wise, but from Him who said, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers they shall not overflow thee."—Ex.

GENERAL COLLEGE NEWS.

Bates College, Lewiston, Me., has a seven weeks' mid-winter holiday.

The library for the new University of Chicago, consisting of 280,000 volumes and 120,000 dissertations and manuscripts, was purchased entire at a cost of about $600,000.

The University of Michigan has organized a mock congress similar to that of Cornell.

Attendance at recitations has been made voluntary for Brown's Senior Class.

Subscriptions are being rapidly sent in to aid Columbia College in her proposed change of location from New York City to Bloomingdale. The total cost of the change will be between one and one-half and two millions of dollars.

There are in the world 147 educational institutions called universities, the largest of which is in Paris, with 9,216 students.

Several colleges are considering the plan of making Monday a holiday instead of Saturday, but as yet no institution of note has adopted such a course.

Yale's new gymnasium, now almost
completed, would have been finished last June, but for lack of funds. The main hall of the building, devoted to the machines, a running track, seats for spectators, etc., is in the second story, and has a floor space of over 10,000 square feet. Below are swimming and rowing tanks, baths, etc. The roof of the structure is of glass.

Trinity has adopted a new elective system much broader than any previously obtaining there. Sixty elective courses are now offered to upper classmen, and there is every reason to believe that the number will soon be increased.

The University of Michigan Law School is the largest in the country, 640 students being enrolled. The Michigan Law School Journal recently appeared for the first time.

In the future the Overseers of Harvard University will be elected by the Alumni, according to the Australian ballot system. In a recent issue, the Advocate raises the point that Overseers should no longer be chosen almost exclusively from the Eastern section of the county, but that the South and West should also be represented, in order that the University may assume more of that national character which should belong to all our great institutions of learning.

COLLEGIATE EDUCATION.

The steady increase of the grand total of college students in this country every year is large enough to show that the doubts as to the practical advantages of collegiate training which have been expressed so freely of late years by Mr. Carnegie and other men of affairs, are not shared by parents who are ambitious for the advancement of their sons, and have the pecuniary means to send them to college. Nowadays it is becoming the rule for these boys to go to college. The school education is preliminary to the college and preparatory for it. They are going to college as a matter of course, and as the number of college-bred men in the Union increases, the aggregate of college students increases, for such men usually want to give their sons the same advantages. Oftentimes they are professional men, clergymen, lawyers, and doctors, with narrow incomes, and sending their boys to college involves great sacrifice and close economy to pay the cost. If a college education was the useless luxury and serious obstacle to practical success in life, which it is described as being by some men who have succeeded without its help, these parents would hardly submit themselves to the burden, for they know by personal experience exactly what its worth is.

Men who have had a college training themselves are most likely to send their sons to college, and these boys form the backbone of nearly every class in nearly every college. The catalogues of Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Princeton, Amherst, Williams, and all the rest of the older institutions, show that generation after generation of the same families have passed through the curriculum. The desire, if not the aptitude for a collegiate course, becomes hereditary, and if the family continues and increases naturally in the male generation there is always a son of the house in college. One college-bred man means very frequently a long line of college-bred men among his descendants. If that result does not follow, it is usually because of a change of fortune or the absence of male descendant.

College-bred men, therefore, give their suffrages in favor of a collegiate education, and that is a very significant approval. They may not regard it as an avenue to material success, but they feel that their sons will suffer a severe deprivation and be checked in their first development if the boys do not get it. Undoubtedly, too, the college career of
the father is apt to incite in the son the desire to follow in his footsteps, and scholastic training in the parent may generate the taste or aptitude for it in the child.

The host of college students is also multiplied largely by sons of men who, not having enjoyed a collegiate education for themselves, may be all the more anxious that their sons should receive its benefits. They may even over-estimate its worth and exaggerate the loss which they themselves suffered in being deprived of it. Undoubtedly, the man who is obliged to educate himself has a very incompetent schoolmaster if his career requires of him a symmetrical intellectual training; but if a man deals with business only, the education which he gets in business outside of college, and during the very years of its course, may be more valuable to him. He may have made more money without a collegiate education than he would have done with it, and he may stand higher in the social scale. But because he has won the money and the position he wants his son to go to college. His hard work has cleared the path for the boy, and he is eager that his son should have the profit of a thorough or an elegant education. Hence the schools to which the sons of rich men go are almost invariably nurseries for the college. The assumption is that the sons of such men are preparing for college; and as wealth increases the number of college students grows proportionately.

Accordingly the development of the greater colleges more especially has been enormous since the civil war and the multiplication of fortunes during the last twenty-five years. A quarter of a century ago Harvard and Yale were small as compared with what they are to-day. Columbia has grown from feebleness to great strength. Princeton is far more populous than it was. Cornell has sprung into vigorous existence. Johns Hopkins has won distinction. Amherst, Williams and Dartmouth have received new life, developing from institutions of insignificant endowment to powerful colleges of youthful enterprise. Meantime new universities and colleges have come into being, through the munificence of private individuals, and they are all in healthy activity. And it is apparent that these institutions are only in the infancy of their development. Great as the number of their students is now, it is small as compared with what it will be twenty-five years hence.

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

CONGREGATIONAL.

Trinity Reformed Church, Pottsville, Pa., was dedicated February 28th. The structure is Gothic in architecture, and cost $16,000. The pastor, Rev. A. R. Bartholomew, was assisted on the occasion by a number of ministers, among whom were Drs. Gerhart and Bauman.

St. Mark’s Church, Monroe, Pa., was re-dedicated the same day. A number of changes have been made in the building. The cost of repairs was $1200. The pastor, Rev. J. J. Wagoner, was assisted in the re-dedication by Revs. Wiant, Lady and S. S. Miller.

MINISTERIAL.

Eichelberg, H., address is 311 West Iowa street, Evansville, Ind.
Levan, C. W., address changed to 330 East Twentieth street, Baltimore, Md.
Miller, R. W., accepts a call to Hummelstown, Pa.
Oplinger, R. F., address changed to Taylorsville, Ill.
Peters, J. D., resigns Trinity Church, Hanover, Pa.
Richards, G. W., elected pastor of Salem’s Church, Allentown, Pa.
Roeck, J., address is Kiel, Wis.
Schaeffer, C. E., of Lancaster Seminary, elected pastor of St. Thomas’ Church, Reading.
Schlappig, J. H., address changed to Line Mountain, Northumberland County, Pa.
Shuford, J. H., resigns Middlebrook, Va.
Xanders, W. H., resigns Bluffton, Ind., and accepts Chaplaincy of Indiana State Prison.
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