

THE
STUDENTS' MONTHLY.

WHICH OF THE TWO ?

A great shout resounded through the crowded amphitheatre, as one *picadore*, after his horse sank beneath him, boldly advanced into the middle of the circus. With a deafening roar the ill-used animal sprang upon him ; but with apparently little effort the master-fighter eluded him, and dealt the animal a staggering blow with his lance, which tore a fresh wound in his lacerated shoulder. For several minutes did the strong *picadore* play with the animal ; and it was evident from the easy manner in which he deceived the bull, that the latter would sink to the earth before any actual or fair attack was made, and although all approved the man's agility, a murmur of dissatisfaction arose, which, however, quickly changed to a roar of applause as the *picadore* threw his lance from him, and sought to deceive the animal with a steel point, which, though it was not lawful to do until the *capada* had advanced kneeling before the president, and had thrown off his hat and displayed the crimson flag, as the last trumpet blew its final blast,—he was applauded by shouts from every part of the dense mass of the living, excitable throng.

Many times did the *picadore* meet his antagonist ; but the steel point found its way into the wounded animal, whilst the master fighter leaped aside, easily avoiding his foe, which tossed his horns aloof with a maddened cry, as he beheld himself duped at every charge, and summoning all his strength, dashed upon him. The *picadore* was standing near the centre of the arena, and as the bull bounded towards him, instead of preparing for the defense, he merely bowed toward the royal balcony, as throwing his steel point from him, and extending his hands, he boldly ran toward the animal, amidst the surprised murmurs of the astonished spectators, who, considering the man to be mad, expected to see him made an easy prey in a moment.

Not so with the *picadore*. As the bull dashed towards him he merely crouched upon the ground, until the animal with all his fury was springing upon him, eager to stamp him with his hoofs into the burning sands, and to tear his body in a