

## POETRY.

### TO THE PHOTOGRAPH OF TWO FAIR FRIENDS.

THOU tiny little card upon whose face  
 Art's magic fingers with a simple truth,  
 Have traced such beauty, traced the flush of youth  
 And life's first budding spring with perfect grace.  
 O forms so fair, and of such gentle moulds  
 Life's morning glories cluster o'er you now,  
 And spring's first roses blush upon your brow.  
 I sit alone and muse as in a dream,  
 Shall those fair flowers be blasted, 'ere grow old?  
 I listen to the ceaseless flight of Time,  
 Whose hour-glass ever running, chills with cold  
 The warmest hearts. Truth's meteor gleam  
 Is quenched, and life is but a pantomime.  
 But I will clasp this treasure to my heart  
 And laugh at hoary Time's relentless sway  
 Those gentle forms, in flesh, may feel decay;  
 But, with a magic wand, has heaven-born Art  
 Redeemed this living image from his power.  
 Life's frost may silver o'er the silken hair,  
 And the fair brows may furrowed be with care,  
 But this small card unchanged shall ever bear  
 The impress of fair forms, in beauty's hour.

## \*LITERARY.\*

### GERMAN UNIVERSITIES.

THE first experience of the English-speaking student in a German University is apt to cause disappointment. The British, American or Colonial student has been accustomed to a calendar in which he finds set down what he is expected to do in order to enter the University, what he is expected to do while at the University, and how he may with honor and glory leave the University. Some of these calendars are written with a wonderful and praiseworthy perspicuity. In some the arrangement of matter is bad and the meaning well nigh unintelligible. Still, in the worst cases, patience and perseverance will conquer the difficulties.

In the German University the would-be student can find no calendar, and is fain to make enquiries of all likely and unlikely people. Those who have seen references to the "Kalender" of the German Universities may wonder at the statement above, but any one who has seen more than the outside of the cover will not need to be told that it gives no information adapted to the wants of the intending matriculant.

In high cages on the wall of the corridors of the University building he will doubtless find innumerable notices, but these are written in the finest script and with letters all having that remarkable resemblance so characteristic of German caligraphy. Everything, however,

comes to him that can afford to wait, and though there be no calendar and though the blackboard notices are unreadable even if not illegible, there is still some hope for the man who does not turn away in disgust, but patiently collects all the stray bits of information he can. Finally, after giving a succinct and possibly a correct account of his former career, as well as an accurate description of his father and mother, and having paid his fee of five dollars, the student presents himself, along with others in the same position, before the Protector, who, in dress suit, makes an oration to the assembled company and proceeds to enroll each student and declare him an alumnus of the great and mighty University at Sonnundmondschein. Several hours are taken up in this performance, though each man's part lasts only a few minutes. The privileges conferred are very considerable, for so long as the matriculation card is kept in the pocket the student may, even in the most quiet and orderly villages, whistle on the street after eleven o'clock without fear of being kept in the police station all night. He may, even without much danger, call a policeman a *polyh*, a term of opprobrium equal to our *peeler*. Moreover, the student is allowed to engage in the illegal habit of duelling, the University authorities being responsible for the good behaviour of all under their care. It may not be known to all readers of this article that duelling is against the regulations of the German Universities and is punishable by rustication. It is advisable, then, for the dueller not to be detected. The duellists, as a matter of fact, form a minority of the students. Those who belong to the clubs or "corps" are seldom if ever more than ten per cent. of the whole, and a man may belong to a corps for a year without being *compelled* to fight. Besides, after three duels a member is exempt from further obligation. The University regulations are so severe on the student caught duelling that the University authorities carefully avoid being on hand at the hours when the "Mensur" is in progress. They are assisted in this course by the students themselves, who choose a room in a somewhat secluded spot and fight at regular hours when the Faculty does not require to pass that way.

Games, in the English sense, are almost unknown to the German student, who can, however, be persuaded to take a walk of several miles, provided there are a sufficient number of halting places on the way where beer and sausages are obtainable.

German students are in many respects like other students. Some of them work, some of them waste their time, some of them have brains, some of them would be better engaged in occupations where strength of muscle is of more service than strength of intellect.

The system at the University has its good and bad side. Perfect freedom is allowed. A man may take whatever classes he likes. Almost the only regulation is that he must be six semesters, or sessions, at some University before he is allowed to graduate. Perhaps I should say that there are two semesters in each year. The proof of