

months to write it, do it through the mail, but not through the ex-column. It was also stated that the column was not written for ex-men alone, but should give general views of the state of culture and education at the various institutions of the continent, etc., etc. I immediately followed this magnificent advise. Next month my column commenced with a short essay (to be continued) on college journalism, and others on the position of the ex-man, the college essay and the college poem. It was glorious—while it lasted. My brother editors congratulated me, so did my friends. Next month in my continued essay on college journalism I spoke about editors and said as a rule the editorial half of a paper was worse than the contributed portion. I pointed out the difference between the well-written editorial and its more common substitute; criticised rather severely the average book and magazine reviews. It was to be my *magnum opus*. But alas for human vanity. The managing editor refused to publish it! He admitted its truth, but questioned its propriety. As if this were not enough, a couple of exchanges as they came in were found to contain strictures on my attempting to dictate about what a college paper should be.

I had yet two months more to write, and all my resources were gone. Not wishing to go back to the dry-as-dust method with which I had commenced, nor yet make my column the home of wandering college jokes, I resolved upon the desperate plan of criticising our own magazine. Of course, I did not do it directly. I was too experienced to do that. But by expressing my opinions of the criticisms of it which appeared in rival papers, I accomplished my end, as I thought, nicely. I was certainly justified; for what paper could I criticise as of which I knew all the secrets. So I said, this paper said we had the spring fever, another that the lack of original poetry was becoming chronic, a third that our March number was rather uninteresting, and so *ad libitum*. I have said I had two months' exchanges to write when I commenced this plan. Those two months' exchanges never appeared in print. Next year they are going to have a less conscientious exchange editor.