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THE Acadia Athenæum.

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→* The Sanctum. *←

EVERY hour of hard mental toil which a student undergoes, tells in the development and strengthening of his mind. Work which he performs in any hour of the first college years has just as much to do with his education as that he may perform in the very last hour of the college course. A boy is opening a gate just as much when he opens it the first six inches as when he pushes it the last half foot. A rosebud is opening just as much when it first begins to break as when it gives its last ruffle and bursts into full bloom. When the first dawning of intelligence shines out of the infant mind, and he begins to observe and think and learn, he is being educated as truly as the diligent undergraduate in arts, and during the first four or five years of his life probably learns more and develops more rapidly than the best student in any college. So each hour of life has its own stage of development, and each stage of mental growth has its own work. Whatever else may be said for or against the present course of study at Acadia, one thing is sure:—There is a *system* about it; there is a *progress* to it, and the years are built one upon another. Bad work in the first year will make the structure shaky all the way up. It is not the one who is in the *highest class* that is educating himself the most, but the one who, whether in the senior class of the college or the preparatory

department of the academy, *most assiduously applies himself to his work and thinks for himself.*

So, then, whatever be the stage of his advancement, let every man do his work well. Build thoroughly the foundation. Lay well and solid each layer of the superstructure. Make the whole crystal palace a pure, solid gem—a diamond of the first water—from base to glinting peak. Begin now, in February, if you have not begun before. "Art is long, and time is fleeting." This college year is almost gone. The spirit of study is abroad among us. Many a student is doing his very best, now, right along. Let all the others fall in line. Let no one waste the hard earnings of an over-worked father. Let there be no idlers, no half-hearted study, no half-done work. Let no one toy away the early hours of his short life, but spend his youth and his college days in the way he will wish he had when college days live only in memory, and he is battling with the stern realities of practical life.

"I would not waste my *spring of youth*
In idle dalliance.
I would plant rich seeds
To blossom in *my manhood*,
And bear fruit when I am *old*."

NEVER did we have a gymnasium which cost us so little as that of this year. It is quite large enough for any person not a confirmed disciple of fastidiousness. It is well ventilated, healthy, open to the free air, and furnished with all the paraphernalia which this country affords. Even nature could not improve upon it. It is under the guidance of one general manager, whose infallibility, justness, and wisdom are above reproach. True, it is not without its drawbacks. Sometimes no light is furnished in the evenings, the heat very often is not sufficient to annul the discomfortableness, and is not at all regular in its supply. If those who use it could manage to close the doors after them when entering and leaving, it would save some trouble and annoyance. Twice only during their lives they do open and shut them, but even this fact will not excuse them. It is always a matter of compulsion. Hours from 12 p. m. to 12 p. m., seven days out of the week. All are honorary members. It has been very aptly styled the Universe. N. B.—Care should be taken not to injure the paint.