

ing beyond the pale of *Alma Mater*, are yet ever prepared to take approving cognizance of efforts at advancement when made in a spirit of modest dignity. The growing importance of the Society as a means of self-education, and the increasing attention to its best interests, have of late years justified the annual publication of their President's Inaugural Address. And now the time appears to have come for another step forward, and, in addition to the President's Address, the Literary Prize Essays of last session are published, together with articles on "Sketches of the Society," "The Rifle Corps," and "Athletic Sports," which latter two, though not on subjects purely literary, yet must win attention, as embodying the military and athletic elements of the College,—elements which have attained so high a degree of importance at the Universities of Britain and the States. The idea of publishing a Magazine emanating from the students is indeed no new one; there have been two different periods of the Society's life at which the scheme of publishing a Monthly was made the subject of earnest and eager discussion. The wary foresight of former years, however, saw lions in the way, and though the idea was implanted with the hope of engendering fruit in after time, the scheme, approved of on all hands, was ultimately abandoned, as having practical difficulties which might imperil the purse and reputation of the Society. The project, however, has been sedulously cherished until this time, and modified by the experience of the past, has at length taken shape in this "Annual," the publication of which has been prompted by no sordid design of pecuniary gain, nor by any vain desire of its attracting attention as an educator or leader of literary opinion on the subjects herein discussed; but the Members of the Society, animated almost solely by the natural desire of self-cultivation, hope that by this means a greater degree of originality of thought and facility of writing may be encouraged among themselves, so that in after years they may be the better prepared to fill with becoming credit the little *niche* destined for each one of them. This first occasion of making use of the press for self-improvement, is undertaken under a proper sense of the difficulty and responsibility involved; for, in addition to the fact that by far the greater portion of the following was written without the remotest intention of publishing, be it remembered, that there are here presented not the single results of the real business of the student,—for such real business, the acquisition of principles and facts by exhausting study, is only measured by means purely academic,—but here are offered the results of mere fragments of time, culled here and there from the many hours devoted to more arduous duties, which are so occupied from a thorough conviction that literary composition is as true an educator as the subjects of curriculum,