

Those engaged in promoting these reforms believe that

"The woman's cause in man's, they rise and sink  
 Together, dwarfed or godlike, bond or free;  
 For she that out of Lethe scales with man  
 The shining steps of nature, shares with man  
 His nights, his days, moves with him to one goal,  
 Stays all the fair young planet in her hands—  
 If she be small, slight-natured, miserable,  
 How shall men grow?"

—E. F. KEIRSTEAD, '98.

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### The Class of '96.

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#### A RETROSPECT

A dissertation on custom is the usual precedent. Indeed it has so often preceded writings of this kind, that its omission would cause as much consternation as the omission of a prologue when the prologue constitutes at least three quarters of the entire composition. No adequate reason can be brought forward why custom should thus have dynamic force unless it be that all unimportant things by reason of their unimportance, should necessarily occupy the most conspicuous places. This wilful perversity then must once again dominate in discussing the eminent career of an organization that has but lately passed from our midst, lest they, like the superstitious Cæsar, should herald an omission of this sort somewhat in the light of an unfortunate omen.

The Class of '96 was phenomenal. That is—phenomenal—in the ordinary use of the word. Its singularity was noticed with no little gravity in the Freshman year, commented upon in the Sophomore year, the object of much discussion in the Junior year, and finally the curious if not unique 'bone of contention' in the Senior year. From the very start it was evident that the Class of '96 like all other geniuses separately or collectively had a 'forte.' A forte is a very nice thing as an ornament, it may possibly be admitted as an eccentricity, but as the sum and substance of all things it never has been and perhaps never will be an underlying principle that would commend itself to a devotee of primeval tranquillity. The forte in this particular case was authority. The Class of '96 was an authority on all things temporal and most things spiritual. The Oracles of Delphi never had a