

pendium of trivial personalities and doubtful jokes. Like others we have our own opinion as to the proper characteristics of a college paper. The qualities which it possesses must of necessity vary in accordance with the needs of that society to which it appeals. Our own University paper is defined on the first page to be "*A Fortnightly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Event.*" Whether it lives up to its profession is perhaps an open question. We think it does. We have "our standard" and also our "waste-paper basket," and the latter is getting rather full, it might be as well to mention. At the same time, we do not desire to present "our standard" as a sort of bogey to frighten would-be contributors. Anything that is sent in is welcome even if it is not published, inasmuch as it denotes an interest in the paper that is always gratifying. Very few of the contributed articles come from the pen of undergraduates, and we think that they might help us more than they do. The Editors endeavor in the FORTNIGHTLY to chronicle every scrap of University news that can be of interest to our readers. The class reports give dry gossip or fun that may be going the rounds, and the contributed articles are intended to give cohesion, weight and solidity to the whole.

Withal, we desire to keep up a high tone in our pages and to avoid anything that offends good taste, and we have no wish to reduce the paper to the level of a comic almanac or an advertisement for Soothing Syrup. Yet the question of "jokes" is agitating the editorial cranium at the present time. A good joke has its place like everything else, but it must be a good one. This is a department in which "our standard" might be raised with advantage. Some of the class reporters seem to be possessed of a violent desire to emulate Mark Twain or Tom Hood, and, as might be expected, fail dismally in the attempt. When anyone sits down in cold blood to *manufacture* (there is no other name for it) a joke, the production, lacking that effervescence and spontaneity which characterize true wit, is sure to fall flat, and as a consequence should find a peaceful hiding-place in the waste-paper basket.

Those who criticize adversely the jokes which have appeared so far would probably be rather surprised could they see the amount of so-called wit which has already found its way to that all-absorbing receptacle. Far-fetched witticisms and paltry gibes with little meaning and less sense are out of place in class-reports. A good joke or a really funny incident is, however, always acceptable. Then class-reports should contain the flotsam and jetsam of our daily life, and might be better than they often are. They should come like glints of sunshine dancing upon the crest of a stately tree to illumine what would otherwise be a too serious and weighty production. A word to the wise is sufficient with regard to the form which all College news should possess; we would hint that it is no part of the Editor's duty to grapple with a stark staring heap of heterogeneous matter, void and without form, in the vain hope of bringing order out of chaos. And further, O all ye race of scribblers, we beseech you with tears in our eyes, an ye love us, write only on one side of the paper.

We hope that these few gentle hints will be taken in good part, as a very little attention to these details will do much to lighten our work and increase the efficiency of the paper. "Our standard" must be kept up. Certainly, if the class-reports do not improve both in tone and quality they will have to be curtailed.

## CONTRIBUTIONS.

### THE INTERCOLLEGIATE MOVEMENT OF THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

(Continued).

#### MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT.

The development of this interest is led by a Missionary Committee, who, having a personal interest in Missions, seek to make their fellow-students conversant with the needs of the world and encourage personal missionary activity. Some Colleges have a special mission which they supply with workers; others support a man either at home or abroad, while numbers have spent their summer vacation in the slums of the great cities.

In reply to a question frequently asked, "Why should a man of education and ability throw away his talents among the poor and fallen of our own land, or, worse still, bury himself in some foreign country?" We ask in return? "Can Education and Ability of the highest type find a better sphere or reap a higher reward than, even with apparent loss to the man himself, by raising the fallen and enlightening the blind?" Surely this is one of the topmost rungs upon which there is no such crowd, that, while one succeeds, another is suppressed.

With reference to the "Student Volunteer Movement" we take occasion to speak elsewhere.

#### THE WORKING FORCE.

It is a firm principle that the Association does its work through as many men as possible, seeking to enlist each nominal member as an earnest, active worker.

There are evident reasons for this: (1) The accomplishment of more work than if a few controlled the field. (2) Securing the interest of Christian men in aggressive Christian work by actual *participation*. (3) The more men at work, the greater the interest maintained. (4) The development of Christian character by association with other and more mature Christians.

The officers constitute the executive committee, to whom is entrusted the general supervision and management of the Association. The President, acting as chairman, is naturally chosen for the qualifications of leadership and executive ability which have previously marked his connection with the work. To him falls the work of planning the policy which the Association is to pursue, being ahead of others in his activity and intelligence concerning the work. He is to see that