

Now theft at any time is hardly an attractive object of contemplation. There may be possible cases where the thief becomes even a hero, but they are the cases like most cases of true heroism that seldom or never come to the knowledge of the world. No one can condemn the starving man who steals to fill his empty mouth, but we never knew of more than one properly authenticated affair of that description, and then three months afterward we found the perishing wretch had seven dollars stowed away in the band of his disreputable old hat. It is not probable, however, that the offender in this case is even hungry, much less starving, and we are left face to face with the disagreeable fact that there is an unheroic thief going up and down in our midst, seeking to take care of any of our possessions that we may have neglected.

If theft is nowhere attractive its whole repulsiveness is felt when seen within our own domain of honor and manliness which serve as a foil to set off the enormity of the offence. It is no student who is doing this petty larceny. The editorial pen would refuse to write anything countenancing such an allegation, although such allegations have been too plentifully made. If these insinuations have the least foundation in truth we trust the truth may never be known. It is better that we lose a few paltry dollars than forfeit that confidence we are all bound to feel in the unswerving integrity of our fellows. We could imagine no more pitiful spectacle than an entity supposed to be pursuing knowledge and filching the coffers of those unfortunately thrown into his association. Let us have done once and for all with any prating as to the possibility of the miscreant being one of our own number; and we assure our readers that this would not have received any notice but for the fact that such talk has been unduly rife, and that utterly unjustifiable importance has been placed thereon by persons whose misconceptions might be of considerable moment.

It remains for us to assist the authorities in their efforts to set matters aright, and to protect our own interests as far as lies in our power. We hope that when once this particular system has been broken up we shall never be troubled again, and there is no reason why the cloak-room of wisdom's devotees should not be as secure as the chapel pew of a reverent congregation.

Mr. R. S. Strath will be Editor-in-chief of VARSITY during the Easter term. Were it not for the fact that Mr. Strath would, as a dutiful student, be bound to read even the editorial column we could say no end of kind things about his eminent qualifications for the position. As a thinker he is logical and far-seeing; as a critic he is just and keen; while as a writer he is easy and forcible. Under his guidance we venture to predict, with all due deference to our predecessors, that the college paper will not only be far superior to the issues of the Michaelmas term, but will even surpass the numbers of previous years. Mr. Strath will be a lamp with a light, and a messenger with a message.

The style of the paper will be greatly changed in the coming months. During the fall term VARSITY is essentially a newspaper rather than a magazine, and this has been particularly true of the fall of '92. Our University in its ever wider and wider sweeping circles has come to

embrace so many interests that the paper to be a reflex thereof has been compelled to devote most of its space to items of news. This was important and could not be neglected, but it precluded the possibility of doing justice to the literary side of which the retiring editor would have been himself particularly fond. We have again and again felt the desirability of publishing more purely literary matter, and we have again and again succumbed to the absolute necessity of not slighting our other functions. The difficulty could have been obviated by the insertion of four extra pages, but this we were not in a position to afford. We would venture to suggest, however, that next year, when our University will be still larger, it would be both practicable and profitable to provide for this enlargement during the Michaelmas term at least, if not during the whole year.

Some day we hope to see a monthly journal established. If this were done we could make the present VARSITY in theory, what in the fall months it is in practice, a newspaper, and the new "VARSITY"—for we must retain the name—would be in both theory and practice a magazine. Of course until this can be done, and done well, we are bound to hold fast to that which is good, and VARSITY is good, is eminently good. And although under the new scheme the work supposed to be performed by the one publication would be divided, we should still be aiming at our ideal of "literature, University thought and events."

For the present, however, we are bound to support, and support to the very best of our ability, the efforts made for the attainment of this ideal by those who are entrusted with the work of management. It will not, then, be out of place, if we remind our students of the essential importance of their contributing more fully during the Easter term. For, as we have pointed out, the paper has thus far, despite our efforts and inclination to combine news and literature, been taken up principally with the former; whereas during the remainder of the year the latter side will be more prominent, and more general writing must be done by our undergraduates.

And now you will not refuse to pardon us if we speak rather more personally. Our thanks are due to the members of the Directorate for their uniform kindness and consideration, and perhaps to the Business Manager in particular, with whom we have been by force of circumstances more intimately associated. The associate editors, too, deserve our warmest commendation; never, we frankly believe, has an unworthy editor-in-chief been supported and strengthened by such able and willing associates. Their every duty has been performed in such a spirit as to make it a pleasure to even assign a task; and that means volumes in the editorial book of joy and sorrow. Numerous other ready and able pens have been constantly at our disposal, and we trust that their wielders will accept this humble tribute of recognition.

You will thus have seen that the work of the present incumbent has been unimportant and pleasant, so that we need not express the regret we feel at the imperative necessity of tendering our resignation. These lines bring to a close the most congenial labor that could ever fall to the lot of student to perform.

The Freshmen of Chicago University have adopted the cap and gown.