

members, without regard to classes. We have at present six secret societies and one open society. It is the desire of each society to have a large number of members, who are popular in college, stand high in scholarship, and give promise of being successful in life. With such purposes in view, the rivalry is very strong, and it is quite an honor for any one society to have a decided lead of the others.

But aside from what pertains to the college proper, life at Brown is animated by the great variety of attractions that the city affords. Providence, R. I., with a population of over 100,000, is not a whit behind the chiefest of her New England sisters in whatever can instruct or entertain her citizens. The students of Brown are at liberty to break the monotony of Latin, Greek and Mathematics, on almost any evening, by listening to a concert or lecture. But while the city presents attractions of the higher order to the sober-minded and thoughtful, it abounds in temptations of a different kind for the careless and frivolous. A certain class of students are always ready to create disorder and noise, and no chance for a rumpus is neglected.

Recently, one of the large clothing houses, J. B. Barnaby & Co., advertised that on a certain day they would give away overcoats. The bare announcement was enough to summon a large crowd around their store at the appointed time.

In this motley crowd were a good many students, who had come to "see the fun," or more exactly to *make* fun. When the band struck up and the coats began to descend from the second story window, the college boys began to push and cheer with great gusto. As to the overcoats, they were torn in a hundred pieces in almost as little time as it takes to say it.

The police, seeing that the belligerent sons of Erin who were in the thickest of the fray, would not long suffer the presence of the Brown boys, made a charge to break the crowd. In consequence of the melee that followed, one poor Sophomore found lodgings in the station house.

No action on the part of the college boys lately has caused a greater sensation in the city, than the attempt to introduce the fashion of

wearing the Oxford hat. What is treated with honor among you, Acadians, is looked upon here as ridiculous. They will not even give the hat its proper name, but sneeringly call it a "mortar-board." For about two weeks the students boldly faced opposition and scorn, and wore the hat with all the grace and dignity they could command. But when the press opened its batteries upon us, it was too much for even the audacious student to stand, and now,

"Perched upon a bust of Pallas
Just above my chamber door
A 'mortar board'—and nothing more."
A. E. S.

December 28th, 1881.

The Newspaper as an Educator.

A distinctive characteristic of modern times, is the rapidity and facility with which information respecting recent occurrences is circulated. This is accomplished mainly by the newspaper. We find nothing resembling it in ancient times, except perhaps, the Acta Duirna of the Romans; and this for a very good reason. The Art of Printing—an indispensable condition for the modern newspaper—did not then exist.

The inception of the newspaper marks an important stage in the progress of intellectual development since the Dark Ages. It is distinctly traceable to the desire *to know*; and implies a desire to know what is occurring *now*, rather than what has occurred in the past—a desire which cannot well be gratified by books. Not only does the newspaper minister to the longing of the mind for knowledge; but, while gratifying, also stimulates it.

Like all other kinds of literature, the newspaper has an educating influence, which is wide-spread, far-reaching, powerful. It is not confined to individuals or communities; but, directly or indirectly, affects the whole race. It is greater among some classes of society and in some countries than in others. It is especially powerful here in America. To the great majority of the labouring class who have limited means to obtain other literature, and to many of the manufacturing and commercial classes who have but little time to