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COLLEGE JOURNALISM.

A STILL unadmitted claim for senate recognition of work on the JOURNAL as equivalent to a college class, is one of the legacies, I believe, which each incoming editor receives from his predecessor in office. The persistence of the plea on the one hand and its equally steady rejection on the other, point to somewhat different estimates of the value of college journalism. However onerous the editor may find the work, the authorities, it is clear, class it rather among college recreations, than among college studies.

It is very possible that college papers in their inception, were less the result of an imperious need of utterance than of what the Germans call *schwärmerei*. Imitation and convention are quite human characteristics from which college, is scarcely more exempt than common life. The fact that one college had started a paper would be sufficient reason for another's going into the business also, just as the more ambitious high schools and collegiate institutes have begun to copy the colleges. The question however is not what the col-

lege paper was in its origin, but what it can be made in the sequel.

To understand the possibilities of college journalism it is necessary to distinguish the two main functions of journalism, the collection of news and the shaping into a steady and useful force, of that composite of vague and wavering cross-lights called public opinion, and to note that the modern newspaper has virtually abdicated the latter in favor of the former function, and on the formation of opinion has almost ceased to have any direct influence. The contrast between the modern great daily and its early progenitor is very striking. Indeed, the latter would scarcely be considered a newspaper at all by the enterprising journalist of to-day. It consisted usually of four closely printed pages without cuts or scare heads, and containing relatively little advertising matter. Its news was carefully written accounts of great events, things of international or at least national importance. That sort of news which Matthew Arnold calls news for the servants' hall, in other words gossip, personal or local, did not appear, while its editorials, written often by men like Coleridge, and forming a comparative-