

want, why? Because they do not generally get them. Those who are not necessitated to procure means by hard toil to defray their college expenses, generally return home during the vacation, or to some other place of leisure, and when here make ample preparation for the next session's work, whilst those who are not so favorably situated have to go to the mission field, or to some other field of labor during the vacation, that they may procure means to defray the expenses of the next session, and thus, unlike the others, are not able to make any preparation, during the vacation, for the session's work, and so, very frequently lose the prize.

If this be the object of prizes in *our* noble college, they signally fail to accomplish their design. If money be contributed with a view to assist needy students, the only intelligent way of utilizing it for this purpose, is to have a fund, as many of the American Colleges have—the propriety of which is very doubtful—out of which indigent students may be directly supplied. Only in this way, however, can it be certain that those really in want shall receive the assistance, as needy students have not the same advantages and are not on a par with other students in a competition. Then again, many evils of a different nature cluster around prizes. A student is judged by very many people, and by some who should know better, to be something altogether superior, almost approaching the supernatural, if he has only taken a medal or a few prizes from his fellow-students who may have done a score of things that he has never touched. Minds are very differently constituted. Some are able by reading a book once or twice, to carry it with them for a few days or even weeks, so that they are able at an examination to place any portion of it that may be required, upon paper, with the greatest accuracy. He is what students are wont to call “a *good crammer*.” Very often, however, with such, in a few weeks, or months at the farthest, the greatest portion of it is gone. It came easy, it went just as easy, such is the testimony of one of the gold medalists of this college, respecting himself. To such a degree did another of our gold medalists possess this faculty, that he told me, that he hardly ever looked at his work until after the *Xmas* holidays. Others, however, are not so constituted; they do not get it so easily, but they retain it when they do get it, and quite frequently will be in the possession of much greater knowledge, three or four months after the examinations are over, than the party who obtained the prizes.

Again, some years there are only two or three competing for the prizes. Seventy-five per cent. must be taken before the medals will be given. The party that gets the gold medal may have nothing more than 78 per cent.; while the person who gets the Silver Medal will have something between this and 75 per cent. Now, the next year there may be 8 or 10 competing for the two medals. The gold medalist this year may take 90 per cent. and the silver medalist 88 per cent., while the 5 or 6 other competitors may all have