



VOL. XXXII.

APRIL 15th, 1905.

No. 11.

"A VOICE FROM BEHIND," OR COLLEGE LIFE IN RETROSPECT.

IT is generally in the third or fourth year of his course that the student of ruminative tendencies begins to compute the general benefits of a college education. His observations are naturally based on his own particular experiences, and the expiration of his Freshman and Sophomore days seems sufficient warrant for an enlightened judgment. A sane criticism, however, being devoid of personal bias, it must be admitted that the conclusions of an undergraduate whose atmosphere is still that of college halls, cannot lay claim to be utterly disinterested and hence not universal, his data lacking as they do, that proper protection which the lapse of time affords.

Thereupon it is only when the flush of graduation has died away, and the graduate has recovered in a slight measure from the shock of finding that a new session can open without him, when the outside world of men and things has commenced to make itself felt in a most real way, and the calm regions of his thought have been rudely assailed by men of a practical turn—it is only, in short, when college days are but a memory that the students' estimate of their import can hope to prove fair and unbiased. For, standing apart from the scene and yet

viewing himself as an actor in the same, he is able to characterize his experiences with that justness of view which makes them at once original and general, and perchance, not uninteresting to others.

And indeed it is strange to note the modification which this time-element effects. During his academic course the student has doubtless felt the impress of new ideas upon his time-worn theories. Childhood's ideals have been shattered, the impact of more rationalistic views has pressed against his cherished faith. He has come to know, with heart-burnings it may be, that things are not what they seem. In the heat of academic fervour his confession of faith is revised to embrace a recognition of the fact that the whole is greater than the part—a truism particularly significant to him in its philosophical application. Details, minutiae, phases of truth, fade beside the larger facts of existence, "We are all living parts of a live whole"—this is the thought uppermost in his mind. It is wonderful to him to realize that, after all, life is something more than trifles, that the little lives of men are as nothing compared with the fact of the Deity who informs all Nature, that what may befall man in his course through the