

college would become a ladies' high school seems to have been wrong; and the only difference made by their presence is that one cannot be always sure of a man being ahead of the class. Then there came the change from the three years to the four years' course and the consequent lengthening of the summer vacation from two to four months. Lastly, the recent awakening of interest in college affairs, the new professors and the extension of the University to St. John, have all had a beneficial effect on student life at the college.

And now as to the social life in the college, the means of intercourse between the students and how they take advantage of them. First, there is the Y. M. C. A., a flourishing institution, holding its meetings every Sunday afternoon. The association has made a practice of giving a welcoming supper to the incoming freshmen, at which their objects and methods are explained to the new students. The literary and debating club in connection with the college has seen better days. Perhaps the present race of students are not such an argumentative class as they used to be, or else living as they do in the town they find the walk to the college every Saturday night too long. Whatever is the reason the debates have sadly fallen off both in the number and eloquence of those present. Almost every graduate on delivering his valedictory address to his fellow-students regrets that he did not more regularly attend the debates which he always considers one of the most important factors of a college education, and he earnestly advises all the remaining class to take warning by his case. And yet in spite of these continued exhortations less and less interest is taken. There is one debate, however, which still excites a good deal of interest, this is the mock parliament held annually in the spring, immediately after the adjournment of the local house, following its political lines. Here the interest and the speeches, stimulated probably by the presence of the lady students who do not yet attend the ordinary debates—are all that can be desired. The debating society also issues the "Monthly," and takes charge of the reading-room. This list has undergone marked improvement of late years. Formerly it had more of the nature of a gymnasium than a reading-room, but now many newspapers can be found on file on its walls and the principal magazines and comic papers of the day on its tables. All meetings are held in this room, and here also are held the "trials,"—almost the last traces of the rapidly disappearing power of the senior classes over the freshmen. In the days of residency a freshman's life was not always a path of roses; liable to be ruthlessly aroused at any time, his nights were not peaceful and his days were disturbed by his fears of incurring the wrath of his all-powerful seniors, which often rose from no apparent cause but a desire for exercise, occasionally leading them to toss a whole class one after the other. Blood-curdling legends are related of the punishments inflicted in the old days on refractory freshman, such as dipping them in a puncheon of water till they repented, or rolling them over the terrace in a barrel and other still wilder and more mysterious rites. Such amusements belong to the past. Now the freshmen on his initia-

tion is made acquainted with a code of unwritten laws, which have been handed down from the past for his guidance and correction, with the penalties attaching to a violation of the same. Anyone accused of breaking any of these laws is tried, and always convicted and fined, the fine consisting of a certain quantity of apples to be furnished to the rest of the students by the guilty one. If the offence is repeated, or in first offences of a graver character, like "cheek" to a senior, or carving his name on the college desk, the regulation blanket, handed down from class to class, is resorted to and the offender mildly tossed. But the freshman is rapidly becoming a free man, and soon even the present slight tokens of bondage will disappear.

The Athletic club is by far the most flourishing organization connected with the college, holding sports every year and keeping up teams of football in the autumn, and baseball in the spring. The sports which were first introduced into the college in 1879 now hold a very important place in the collegian's life. The great interest taken in them is certainly beneficial and a proof of the good physical and moral standing of the university. In former days cricket used to be the favorite college game, and the struggle for supremacy between the town and the college was close and exciting; but now, as the college opens on the 1st of October and closes at the end of May, there is no time for the practice which this game requires, and so, when the change from the three years to the four years course was made, it died out and baseball arose in its stead. Lacrosse was tried and dropped for the same reason, which also prevents the students from taking advantage of the magnificent boating facilities offered to them by their neighborhood to the river. The football played is the Rugby form, started for the first time last fall in place of the association game. There is a gymnasium at the college, where through the long winter months high jumping and pole-vaulting are continually practised, these being the exercises at which the university students particularly excel.

The leading points having bearing on the student's life in college have now been taken up, but there is still another custom to speak of and one peculiar to this university. Though there is not now, perhaps, through the dispersion of the students through the town, as much class-spirit as there was and ought to be, yet there is one time at least when the class feel closely bound together, and this is when as graduates they gather round the cannon to boom forth over the sleeping town a last farewell to their "Alma Mater." This custom took its rise in 1876, and the same old cannon was used year after year till at last in 1890, the class of '91 did what their predecessors had vainly tried to do, namely, hurst it. The history of this old cannon would fill a book—how, when its firing was prohibited by the college authorities it was hidden every year, how it was once found by the President and hidden by him, how after months of patient search it fell by the treachery of a college servant once more into the hands of the students; how, once it would not go off, so they built a bonfire and placed it in the centre till it did, and hundreds of other incidents and accidents con-