

The Varsity

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THOUGHTS FOR THE SEASON.

NCE more has come around to us that holiday season, which constitutes the best remembrancer of our past, and through which our minds are most effectually brought to consider what the great, unknown future has in store for us. We, as students, may be said to have our New Year somewhat earlier than do the generality of mankind. To us, it comes with its proverbial good resolutions, its sense of a future, in which we may atone for the deficiencies of a past, not in the wake of Christmastide, but rather in the mellow days of Autumn, that time of new life and hope, while yet the dreaded spring time is but a painful recollection, or a dark foreboding. Then it is that, for the most part, we experience those feelings which come to people generally at this season. Strange is it not, that when the outside world assumes its gayest cloak, when all Nature receives a new life, we should be excluded from sharing in the general buoyancy of the re-awakened earth? And again, when things without are about to resume their wintry sleep, is it not anomalous, that we should then be entering upon our season of greatest activity and joy? But we must remember that a student to a great extent lives under peculiar conditions for the four years of his University course. Much that affects the rest of the world has only a passing interest for us. We do not live in the midst of the hustle of modern life; our sojourn here is but a preparation for a wider field of existence. Under the kindly nurture of college surroundings, the fair child of culture is reared, in his tenderer years unaffected by the worrying cares and blighting influences of ordinary life, as far as they can be warded off; but when virility is reached, he steps forth to take his place along with the great mass of humanity. As to the work which he then

does in raising his less fortunate brothers to a higher level of life and action, let those with experience tell.

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Yet we cannot escape from the general tendency to thoughtfulness and cheerfulness as well that a New Year's season inspires. It is at such times that we look around us and consider for what we, as University men, should be thankful, and what there is in our midst that still stands in the need of improvement. As we view at the present time the state of University affairs, we do not think that at any recent period has a feeling of hopefulness for the future of our Alma Mater been more justifiable than at present. In place of strife of teacher and taught, we have each body discharging its respective functions in the most amiable relations one with another. That far-away time, of which at present one is loth even to speak, when so much needless ill-feeling was engendered, with every influx of undergraduates is passing into the region of things soon to be forgotten. We have before us many and repeated evidences of the revival of that academic virtue, which we believe to have been in sad need of reviving, namely, college spirit. We need only refer to one of the many events of the Michaelmas term which has just gone by, the University College Dinner. Could anyone, who had the good fortune to be present on that occasion, fail to be impressed by the undoubted love of Alma Mater which that event manifested? Two years ago our *Conversazione* was held for the first time since the fire of 1890. Last year it was continued, and now we have the promise that that of the coming month is to far exceed its predecessors in all the qualities which go to make a successful event of its kind. Viewing the purely academic, the social, the athletic, every side of our life, it seems to us that the New Year should be to us one of particularly bright hopes.

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But is there not something that should be of a transcendent interest to us rather than the number and the success of the dinners, the *conversaciones*, the football matches, which go to make up the outward history of our University? At this New Year's season should we not most especially ask ourselves whether we are accomplishing that to which all these events are merely incident—the realization within ourselves of a higher ideal of intelligence and culture. We should ask ourselves if, in the past, we have availed ourselves of all the opportunities which have been given us of making ourselves more worthy of the training for life which has been given us, and of the influences for good with which we have been brought into contact. We must each remember that it is in University men themselves that the great public look for the results of a higher education. If any of us should fail to bear with us into life, on the completion of our course, evidences of our University training, then so much has the cause of higher education been impaired. So, when, in the coming year, a large class of graduates is once more flung upon the tender mercies of the world, may they be sufficiently impressed with the sense of the responsibility which thus rests upon them. And let those who still remain never forget the injunction to work while it is yet day. Seize the

Be reasonable. Every one of our nine employees is an expert, and again our prices are moderate;