

without you before you've got the dust of forgotten archives half wiped away from your straining eyes!

Precedent may be all right when a matter of form is in question; even then, however, strict adherence to its dictates is fraught with possible harm; but precedent should never, *never* be sought when a matter of reform is suggested or an unquestioned improvement is at stake. Who in his right mind can deny but that the \$95 granted towards improving the reading rooms of our College is to be expended in a most worthy, beneficial work? And yet there were men in the A.M.S. who actually opposed the scheme, and opposed it with sarcasm and with sneers, because, forsooth! they could find no precedent for the expenditure and dared not take the step for fear of establishing a very dangerous one thereby!! "We will let our ducats rot," quoth they, "before we will spend a cent upon our convenience or comfort unless we can find a precedent for such an unrighteous act!!" Oh, ye little dogs, what are we coming to next?

\* \* \*

In the JOURNAL of Nov. 1, 1903, we may expect to read some such item as the following: "D. R. Drummond, M.A., J. A. Sinclair, M.A., and George Dyde, B.A., intend returning this year to complete their post-graduate courses. Mr. Sinclair says that in his library work he will, as in years past, have the able assistance of Prof. Short."

\* \* \*

"Bystander" adds his quota of praise to the improvements in the reading room. A small book-case has been placed therein for the magazines. After a student is through with the periodicals he is expected to return them to their places in the case, thus avoiding their becoming dog-eared, dirty and torn. In this way we hope the students will aid the curators in doing away with the dilapidated appearance of the contents of the tables.

We are unable to understand the mental condition of the students who think that by sitting on the tables and keeping their hats on in the room in violation of the rules they are "showing their independence." In one sense, no doubt, the pig who declines to proceed in the way he should go does "show his inde-

pendence," but his course of action is not for that reason the more laudable. Piggy, however, knows no better, whereas students are supposed (though sometimes erroneously) to act like reasonable beings.

The first of the reading room rules calls attention to a want of the Arts College. The curators very properly say this is not a "club room;" but where are students to meet and talk? If the reading room is a reading room it is out of the question; there are no chairs or benches in the halls (which, however, there might be); and the recess at the foot of the stairs is too small for anything but a very select crowd, such as the executive of the Vashti. The kindness of the Principal has indeed opened for us Convocation Hall, but even the hall has its objections. It is too big. Two or three fellows in its vast solitudes seem like new Robinson Crusoes with the wastes of ocean as their only company. Besides its associations are by no means cheerful. We involuntarily think of coming Exams., surpassing in their horrors all that are past. We look around on the walls, and the very name, "Memorial Brasses," is like a death's head at a feast; the pictures are mostly those of by-gone Principals "who loved our grandmothers of yore," and while the bust of the Principal is cheerful enough, the *tout ensemble* is not as lively as pictures of football teams and hockey clubs.

Still we ate grateful to the Principal for his kindness in opening to us the Hall, for we know it was prompted by a sincere wish to solve a vexed question. As for the ideal club room, like unto the Medical "Den," where "At Homes" could be held and friendly games of Pedro, Euchre and Old Maid enjoyed, we are afraid that it will have to be a matter of the distant future. That mysterious benefactor who in the ages to be is to give us a Gymnasium and endow a nurse to aid the Freshmen in putting on "the gloves" will doubtless recognize the long felt want and provide the wherewithal.

BYSTANDER.

---

A schedule of fines for infringement of the regulations of the Reading Room has been prepared by the curators. The sheriff of the concursus will collect the fines.