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PAST YEARS.

The years fly past as swiftly as bird-flocks,
 Unfettered, in the sky direct their way
 To sunny climes when winter's breath is chill ;
 But not like birds return departed years :
 When gone, forever gone are they, and we
 Must live the present for eternity,
 Using the growing past by grace of God
 In the pure light of our blest Lord's commands,
 As a dear guiding friend by whom we may
 While sight is dim, be led with step secure,
 Through all the varied dangers of the way.

JAMES GEORGE LEWIS.

COLLEGE LIFE.

So many hours must I take my rest,
 So many hours must I contemplate,
 So many hours must I sport myself.

Shakespeare.

What a strange mixture college life is, partly ideal, partly realistic, the latter trait predominating towards and during examination time. The ding-dong of the chapel bell, unromantic though it seemed at one time, if heard by us in passing the college gate on our way to our business or professional duties, would recall many episodes, phases and scenes of college life. We would mentally run over the names of the men in our year, and consider how much their failure or success depended on the character which

they exhibited there. This retrospect might be a melancholy one ; at all events it could do us little good after graduation, for we have already hit or missed the mark so far as college is concerned, but the expression of it might benefit some one. When a man comes up to college as a matriculant he generally carries with him a vast fund of enthusiasm and originality, and on the continued possession of these, depends, for the most part, his future success. For enthusiasm rightly controlled and directed is one of the highest and best of nature's gifts. It impels him to work through thick and thin against heavy odds and obstacles, and lends an interest to his work which might otherwise have been wearisome. The moral in this is to keep up your enthusiasm, and also your originality, if you have any, for as soon as you have lost these two factors in your character you drop into mediocrity ; and mediocrity simply means that you are the second-hand copy of another man. Of course a distinction must be drawn between originality and eccentricity. A man is naturally original, but he becomes eccentric through habit, striving for effect, absent-mindedness or something of that sort ; so that extreme eccentricity is a bad sort of originality after all. There is no evenness or smoothness about an eccentric man, he is always at right angles with himself or somebody else. If, then, a man come up to college with much true originality, albeit he may have an air of freshness and locality about him, deal gently with him, lest you extinguish this feature altogether or turn it into eccentricity.

College life can be made an ideal existence by maintaining a proper balance between work and pleasure, for I do not believe an ideal life consists altogether in one or the other. Let us imagine that a freshman, after a struggle (perhaps a hard one) with the examination papers, has obtained sufficient marks at the June exam. to ensure his passing. During all the summer months up to October his enthusiasm is on the increase as he contemplates his future college life, and when he arrives at college he is boiling over with it. It may be that he is struck with the quietness of his reception on his arrival : he sees no large expectant crowd ; he hears no brass band or anything of that sort. But such omissions will occur in the best regulated colleges. In spite of this he proceeds to immerse himself within collegiate walls, and after waiting for a few hours he has his room assigned to him. About this time

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