

resident is not to help, but to learn—to feel out, rather than to find out, what are his neighbor's thoughts—to breathe the atmosphere of another public opinion till many of his prejudices perish. For want of knowledge gained in this way laws meant to help have tended to hinder, and philanthropists have spent their labor and money on that which has profited little."

"The second object of a resident is to let himself be known, to live his own life without affectation or sacrifice or asceticism, to follow his own calling, to do his duty, take his pleasure, and keep up his own standard of cleanliness and refinement."

"A few people who, having received good things in their day, are seen to be neither brutal, nor cruel, nor selfish, but human, and friendly, and dutiful, do something to abate suspicion."

"They do away with some misunderstanding, and make it more possible that united citizens may inhabit an improved city."

In the same number of the *Sphinx* there is also an illustrated article, "On the Links," in which the glories of golf-playing are fully set forth, with shorter sketches of College life.

In the list of the many attractive Christmas numbers of College papers which have been received, a leading place should be given to *The Columbia Spectator*, Columbia College, New York city. Among other interesting articles which help to make up this number, there are two letters written by prominent College officials: one from President Low, the other from the Dean, J. H. Van Amringe. The former refers chiefly to the removal of the University to its new site in 1897, and from the description of the proposed new buildings, the plans for which have been approved by the Trustees, there is no room for doubt as to the prosperity of "Columbia University."

The latter we would like to quote in full, for it could not fail to be appreciated; but as space will not permit, we gave the closing paragraphs:

"If it were possible, and a student should, on graduation, forget all the specific information imparted to him or acquired by him during his course, still, if, day by day throughout, he had faithfully discharged every duty, he would nevertheless have secured the most important of all the benefits that a college education can bestow, namely, the habit of attention and the power of concentration. Of course the forgetting would be impossible under the given conditions, for attention is the handmaid of memory—but it still remains true that the principal aim of a general education is rather to cultivate a habit than to fill the storehouse of the mind. The power of concentration is, intellectually speaking, the greatest that a man can possess, and is correspondingly difficult of attainment. Anyone who has it in a high degree must wield great influence for good or evil. That it may be for good,

and not evil, character must be sedulously cultivated.

"The great aim of a college, then, to which all its other purposes are subsidiary, is to aid young men in becoming spiritually and intellectually free. A man is spiritually free just so far as he is possessed of a permanent will and power to do right; and he is intellectually free just so far as he is able to control all his faculties, and bring them, whensoever he pleases, to bear upon whatsoever he will. With the acquirement on the part of a student of this two-fold freedom, all else shall be added unto him—knowledge, wisdom, leadership of men in any department of life that he may choose for his own."

*The Owl* of Ottawa University has perhaps received more notice of late than usually falls to the lot of College Journals, for it is not often that we hear of a libel suit being threatened on account of the editorials having too practical or personal a character. We are glad to know, however, that the controversy is now at an end, mutual apologies having been given, so that the *Owl* will still be in a position to give to all the benefit of its wisdom as of yore.

The Christmas number is a specially complete one, and is gotten up in a neat and attractive style. In the contributed articles there is a decided preference for the poets: Cardinal Newman's Poetry, Macaulay's Poems, Enoch Arden, The Night Thoughts.

Thomson's Seasons are all treated in a very readable form, with appropriate quotations. There are also several short original poems, among the names of contributors being that of Archibald Lampman.

## READABLE PARAGRAPHS.

### IT WAS LOST, TOO.

A young Irishman in want of a five-pound note wrote to his uncle as follows:—

"Dear Uncle,—If you could see how I blush for shame while I am writing, you would pity me. Do you know why? Because I have to ask you for a few pounds, and I do not know how to express myself. It is impossible for me to tell you. I prefer to die.

"I send you this by messenger, who will wait for an answer. Believe me, my dearest uncle, your most obedient and affectionate nephew, —."

"P.S.—Overcome with shame for what I have written, I have been running after the messenger in order to take the letter from him, but I cannot catch him up. Heaven grant that something may happen to stop him, or that my letter may get lost."

The uncle was naturally touched, but was equal to the emergency. He replied as follows:—

"My Dear Jack,—Console yourself, and blush no longer. Providence has heard your prayers. The messenger lost your letter.—Your affectionate uncle, —."