

and unnecessary trouble. Unnecessary now, but custom—that despotic tyrant—induced them to think that hospitality demanded it. This was the nature of the Olios during the first winter.

CHAPTER II.

1876-77.

During the second season games and plays began to be discarded. Refreshments grew more simple and were passed around on plates. Literary desire naturally and necessarily antagonized the desire for feasting. That is the way it works the world over. It is a philosophic fact. Intellect and gluttony are mutually belligerent. They are like a man and wife eternally quarrelling. Let us see the stand that some of the world's greatest benefactors take on this question. When ascetic Buddha resolved to devote his life and his being in the search of peace for the souls of men, he left his father's sumptuous courts and wandered in strange lands, with only a beggar's bowl. But honor be to Buddha, who, through self-denial, found the eternal truth and taught his fellow-men "Nirvana and the law." When the time came for our own Jesus to become more acquainted with his Heavenly Father's plans, he wandered in the wilderness for 40 days fasting. It seems to me that those members who, a few years later, voted out victuals altogether from the Olio were philosophers, and wise ones too, in accepting Emerson's theory of "High thinking and low feeding."

There were seven Olios the second winter. The number of members averaged about 25, but increasing slowly and steadily as the years rolled by, until you see to-night the results. The greatest fault of the Olio is its success. If anything kills it, it is popularity.

There is a danger of becoming too popular. Cabbage heads burst sometimes by growing too large. You remember the only inducement a certain illiterate Athenian had to ostracize the upright Aristides was, that "he was tired of hearing him always called Aristides the Just." There is a satisfaction however in a bursted cabbage head, and a satisfaction in being banished for integrity. May the Olio rest under a like satisfaction in the remote future when it shall cease to be.

CHAPTER III.

1877-78.

We might very appropriately head this chapter "Criticisms," because they were the characteristic feature of the winter. They were established, in all good will and purpose, for mutual advancement. They went off pleasantly for a time from their novelty, but they soon begat ill-will. All were desirous to rise, but none seemed willing to