

NEXT!

He that hath a beard is more than a youth,
and he that hath no beard is less than a man.

—*Much Ado about Nothing.*



WITH what an overwhelming force does not this truth strike home to the mind of every young man when he first enters College: to be the possessor of a handsome mustache has ever been one of the chief aims of his life but never before has he had such strong incentives to attempting the cultivation of one. He looks forward with exulting anticipation to the time when his scholastic perplexities will temporarily vanish before the freedom of the summer vacation, and pictures the effect of his changed appearance upon his friends who come to meet him at the station. He watches them as they look through the car with an inquiring gaze and ask "Is Jimmy here?" He allows them to go by him and then just as they are about to leave the car he springs up and cries "Jimmy I know not, but I am James!" Throughout the entire year his mind revels in such pictures as this. Often his thoughts revert to that great epoch in his life when his infantile knickerbockers gave place to the full length pantaloons, but this was only one rung up the ladder. Now he is nearing the apex, the acme of manhood, and already looks forward to the appearance of a visible beard with all the ardor and expectancy of youth. But there are other and mightier reasons which augment his desire to accelerate the growth of his mustache, reasons that make it more than an ornament, that make it a necessity. He is not a day within the College walls ere he finds that his prestige there will increase in exactly the same proportions as his mustache changes in appearance from the soft fleecy fur of the weasel to the shaggy black coat of the bear. Hence he makes use of frantic endeavors to bring about this desirable result. As soon as he had become cognizant of the fact that he was to go to College he began to make great sacrifices in order to save the wherewithal to purchase a tonsorial outfit. Three of the best weeks of vacation has he spent in a bar-

ber's shop getting points on strapping a razor. Often has he burnt the midnight oil poring over catalogues of cutlery in order that he might select the best. And now, lying awake in the quiet dormitory shortly after his first shave, he fancies that he hears the fibrous growth pushing its way successively through the *dermis* and the *rete mucosum* until it finally pierces the *epidermis*. When he wishes to shave he rises with the first glimmering of dawn and proceeds to strop his razor. He could easily do it during the day time, but it would be unnoticed; our tyro wishes every one to know that he is about to shave. The flapping of the razor upon the strop, produced by this operation, breaks upon the solemn stillness of the dormitory and has some ludicrous effects. Some students raise themselves upon their elbow to see what nocturnal bird has taken refuge there. Here a sleeping student cries out in a piteous voice "O ma, spare me this time and I'll never do it again!" Then another, also in the arms of Morpheus, makes frantic endeavours to grasp the maternal slipper. Though the gentleman so eager to become a man is here spoken of in the singular it must not be inferred that there is but one such in the College. A glance therefore at a few individual cases will not be out of place. A student who attended the course of lectures on Physiology last year recently took a peculiar manner of drawing the hidden beard from its lair. He knew that the skin was composed of three layers, and he argued to himself that were the *epidermis* removed, his embryo beard would have fewer difficulties to contend with. He accordingly removed it to the best of his ability by shaving as closely as possible without actually cutting himself. But alas, the action of the atmosphere had a very painful result upon the *dermis* which now presents the appearance of a choppy sea. The youth now declares that the dearest thing man has is his *epidermis*, and begs of all to preserve it well for their own selves. Last year an extremely good looking member of the present first form resolved to ignore all modern improvements in the art of beard