

days are about to be broken, he naturally casts about in his mind to ascertain what acquisitions he has made to his store of knowledge ; what powers of thought and expression have become developed in him ; and what permanent friendships he has formed. He may have been a diligent student and attained a high standing in his class, but if this be all, he has failed to pluck the rarest flowers and to taste the richest fruits that grow in the college garden. This garden in many respects is not different from that of the world, and yet, there is one plant which flourishes in the former as it does not in a less favorable atmosphere. Though rooted in deep soil it suffers no spurious growth. It is a dicotyledonous plant, very sensitive at first, and least among the plants of the garden, but gradually it expands and unfolds, and buds and blossoms into beauty and fragrance and ere long is laden with a priceless fruitage. This tree is Friendship !

It is at college, if he have the privilege of attending one, that a boy forms the friendships of his life. At no other time and in no other associations are the conditions so favorable for the inception and growth of friendships. There is a kind of magnetism, an indefinable something, that attracts and binds together schoolmates and especially classmates with firmer and more enduring bonds than most other mortals can be bound. A new class enters college and generally speaking they are all strangers to each other. Some impetuous souls, will be attracted to each other at once and a familiar relationship, like Jonah's gourd, will spring up between them in a night. Such friendships are rarely lasting, and yet, the most trifling incidents may and often do lead to life long friendships. If they are wise, however, they will as, Emerson says, "Respect so far the holy laws of this friendship as not to prejudice its perfect flower, by their impatience of its opening." Jack and Harry after a time, however, find to their exquisite satisfaction, that the same currents of air warm their lives, that they have hitched their wagon to the same star, or, in common parlance are congenial. The alliance of these souls brings to them each a sweet sincerity of joy and pleasure, which quickens thought, kindles high emotions and relates them to all mankind.

There are some again of such retiring and exclusive dispositions that it is very difficult for them to find a kindred spirit and so they may pass the two first years, or even the third year of their course, without forming a single friendship, regarding all their fellow students with equal reserve and seeing the classes above them pass out without a tinge of regret. But if he permit his senior year to pass without tasting the fruits of friendship, he is either an angel too good to fellowship with common mortals or an invidious foe of society who should be shunned as you would shun the man who made a confidant of every one he meets.

Two notable examples of college friendships are, first that between Milton and Edward King which has been immortalized by the former in his famous poem "Lycidas"; and, second, the friendship