

COLLEGE GIRL.

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During the past few days I have felt some interest in the subject of Class Societies, and in order to satisfy a mild curiosity as to their purpose and origin, I have been dipping into somewhat ancient history, the history of classes so long unthought upon, in fact, as those of '89 and '92.

To the graduates of '89 belongs the glory, if such it may be termed in these latter days, of first organizing themselves as a class. As they did not do this till their graduating year, however, the precedent of class organization belongs really to the class of '92.

In a back volume of VARSITY is to be found a copy of the constitution of this illustrious class, and there the objects of the organization are stated as follows: (a) The promotion of friendly social relations among the members of the class; (b) To promote the interest of the year in athletic sports, and in such other directions as may from time to time seem advisable; (c) To foster a spirit of loyalty to University College; (d) To promote the interest of University College in such specific ways as may from time to time be possible.

These then were the avowed objects of the organization of the class of '92. Upon the means used in carrying out these objects VARSITY gives still further light. We find that in 1890, at a social gathering of the class, there was a literary programme, essays were read and college songs were sung. As a still further means of effecting the objects of the organization, class receptions were introduced.

In those days though, receptions were for the purpose of furthering the objects set forth in the constitution. Considering no farther than the first object stated, "the promotion of friendly social relations among the members of the class," considering only so far, let us see how class receptions, as they are now conducted, promote this object.

In the first place half of the members of the class do not attend the reception. It is rather hard for present members to get upon friendly social relations with absent members, and probably no less hard for absentees to establish those friendly relations among themselves. This alone would defeat the purpose of class receptions, for surely their main object is still to acquaint members of a class with each other.

Unfortunately, however, this is not the only cause tending to the downfall of the dignity of class societies.

I have been given to understand that the men on the class executives do not take suggestions from the women on the committees with any great kindness, unless these suggestions happen to fall in with their own preconceived purposes. It is not expected of women that they offer counsel. Theirs is the nobler part of bearing their fair share in the expenses of the reception, and then forsooth, to behold from afar off the entertainment of guests who were not invited. The executive, as an executive, not as individuals, of course has the right to invite whomsoever it will; but beyond this, those "outsiders" who come are intruders, pure and simple. It is a direct insult to the women of the college to have brought in "outsiders" whom the executive, as a body, has neither invited, nor authorized to be invited.

Moreover, these "outsiders" when they do come are not careful to abide by the wishes of the class in point of conduct. Dancing has been kept out of the class receptions by the express wish of the class, yet we find these "outlanders" dancing in corridors and passage ways. Fortunately the great majority of the actual members of the

class so far avoid disunion in the class as not to transgress in this particular at any rate.

Upon those few persons—I can find no better term by which to designate them—who go so far as to ignore the laws of conventionality, and even of propriety, this article will make no comment.

Since the system of class receptions has proved itself so flagrant a failure in the accomplishment of this the first object of class organization, would it not be well to let the custom fall into disuse. Nay! to hasten a death that according to nature will be slow, but none the less inevitable?

The regular meeting of the Women's Literary Society this week was especially interesting. The early part of the meeting was taken up by business discussions, important among which was that of a debate with St. Hilda's.

The first number on the program was a piano solo by Miss Harris. This was followed by an essay on "Canadian Poetry," by Miss Young, '01. Miss Young showed in her essay that both Mr. Roberts and Dr. Drummond harmonized their genius to the spirit of their time, albeit in the poems of the former the human interest was pushed aside by the descriptive. Other poets were discussed in the essay, among them Mr. Arthur Stringer, who left the halls of this College not so very long ago. Readings illustrating the essay were given by Miss A. C. MacDonald, '01, and Miss Conlin, '01.

Miss Darling, '01, Miss Robertson, '01 and Miss Wicher, '01, rendered a trio. The next number was somewhat of a departure, a very good one, from former customs. It was a scene from Jane Austen's "Emma" in the form of a dialogue. Miss Ward, '01, took the part of Emma, and Miss Baird, '01, that of Catharine. Miss Ward made a very captivating Emma, much more so I fancy than the original. Miss Baird's expressions of countenance might well have passed for those of Catharine herself. Both girls were dressed in the quaint fashion of a by-gone age, both were well prepared, and both fell excellently into the spirit of the parts.

The last number of the program, and by far the funniest, was the fourth-year chorus. Had it been given by a lower year one might in due season have become reconciled to it, but coming from the "grave" seniors it partook decidedly of the form of a nervous shock. Miss Barr was pianist, and the president musical director. The front line of the chorus was arranged with an eye to extremes. Among the instruments played were flutes, combs, drums, and bones. The girls entered in decidedly novel fashion, and the musical director, stick in hand, took her position facing the chorus. The numbers rendered were: "The Soldiers of the Queen," "Solomon Levi," and "The College Yell." To judge by the seraphic expressions, both of tone and of face, of some of the girls during the performance, one would be led to believe that two or three of them had missed their calling, that they were never destined to be mathematicians, nor classical students, nor modern language specialists. The number was enthusiastically encored, and the chorus responded by a rendering of "Soldiers of the Queen" and "The Yell."

Last Wednesday afternoon the Y.W.C.A. held its regular meeting. The topic was "The Test of Discipleship." It was ably handled in two papers, the first by Miss Amos, '02, on "Love as the Test," the second by Miss Houston, '02, on "The Test of Good Works."

The topic for next Wednesday is "Northfield Echoes," by the President. Every girl who knows anything of Northfield and the work done there, will be glad to learn of its influence upon our President.

F. E. B.