

RELICS OF OLD DECENCY.

"From my father's great ancestors,
It decended with galore.
It's the relic of old decency,
The hat my father wore."



LD students who were in the college in the year 1875 remember with what truth the above lines could be applied to the hat worn by Billy G—y. Why he wore the hat, and from what remote period it dated could not be determined, yet the moral courage of Billy in wearing this hat and a saffron colored vest during his three years at college will always claim our admiration though we must deprecate his want of respect for old age in so doing. Some of the students claimed that it was a well preserved *petasus* that the wearer had picked up on his European travels. Another opinion claimed it to be the "hatte of biever" described by Froissart as worn by one of the "nobels of the lande mette at Clarendom" in the 12th century. These ideas however cannot be trusted, for the hat was evidently from a manufactory and the first hatters we find spoken of in history were the *Filzkappenmacher*s of Nuremburg, who did not date anterior to 1360. The most reliable accounts placed the *debut* of G—y's hat in the reign of Elizabeth, because it came with in the following description taken from a writer of that period, who bewailed the great number of styles then worn:—

"Sometimes they use them sharpe on the crowne pearking up like the spire or shaft of a steeple, standing a quarter of a yard above the crowne of theire heads; some more, some less, as please the fantasies of their inconstant minds. Other some be flat and broad on the crowne, like the battlements of a house. Another sorte have round crownes, sometimes with one kind of bande, sometimes with another, now black, now white, now russed, now redde, now grene, now yellow, now this, now that; never content with one colour or fashion, two daies to an ende."

However, the purpose of this paper is not the discussion of such a dead issue as Billy G—y's hat; we have to deal with the living present, with the great variety of

shapes and colors adorning to a greater or less extent the heads of the students of '89-'90.

Amongst students especially is the hat an important article of dress. It is generally purchased at home before departure for college, and packed away in the trunk, everything being so arranged that it will suffer no injury in the various gyrations of the trunk and the baggage smasher. If the journey to College is a lengthy one, how futile will have been all this care! With what feelings will he gaze upon the homogeneous mass into which the contents of his trunk has been churned. After a diligent search he finds the object of his care in a most disreputable condition. It is smoothed out carefully, pulled into some sort of semblance to its former self, rubbed and brushed till it becomes presentable. It then descends to the campus on the head of its owner. Here it meets many companions in a like misfortune. Our students, coming as they do from all corners of the continent, naturally represent the styles of their respective localities, and for the first few weeks at least, there is a great variety to be seen. I say the first few weeks, because all individual oddities in the shape of head-dresses, are driven into the wardrobes by the keen attacks of student ridicule, and only those that harmonize together remain. But even amongst these, the most fastidious can satisfy his taste.

The hat, to an observant mind, indicates much in regard to the character of the wearer or the locality from which he hails.

For instance we see here a broad-brimmed, low crowned felt hat, of the style seen on Wm. Penn, in the engraving so frequently seen in school books representing him making his famous treaty of peace with the Indians. It is not a Quaker hat however, for its color is black, not the sombre gray worn by the Society of Friends. This is a hat that is a hat, a hat made for utility, a hat that will keep the sun and rain off as the occasion requires. Such