

AN HONORABLE ORDER.

We have been hearing of late a great deal about the altered position which passmen occupy in our university. The air has been full of sarcastic insinuations against them, and belittling charges; and as a member of the honorable order of passmen, I deem it only proper that I should take up the cudgel in my own and their behalf, and as far as in my power refute the base allegations that have been hurled against us, and to place our order in its proper light before the college public. Heretofore we have endeavoured to maintain a dignified silence, and have pursued the even tenor of our ways, quite uninfluenced by outside opinion, however sarcastic and biting that opinion may have been. (And to judge from the glimpses we have recently caught of the unfettered and illimitable intellects of the 'Museum Owl' and some others, it would seem to argue that those individuals thought that they could, from their lofty pedestal, scowl wrathfully upon humanity and wretched passmen, when once they had the goose quill in hand, and a flood of ink hard by to cool their burning indignation.) But the contumely heaped upon us of late has originated from so many different quarters that silence any longer would seem to give consent to these contemptuous utterances, and it is for this reason that we at length break forth, and send out what some one of our friends promised a short time ago to furnish to the columns of the college paper, a 'Defensio Passorum,' or, as I would rather say, a 'Eulogy on the Honorable Order of Passmen'; for that we are *blameable* in any respect I don't intend to admit or argue. And first of all, Mr. Editor, as to our being dubbed *Passi*, I think the term is by no means appropriate, if you mean to convey by it that passmen are distinguished from other students by the fact that they are content if they secure just enough marks as will enable them to *pass* their examinations. Under the Senate's new regime passmen, in the literal sense of the word, are done away with, and an honor man whose objective point is pitched at 50 per cent. is as much a passman as any one else. Otherwise, the term *Passi* seems harmless enough, and if a classical equivalent is absolutely required to designate them, I would earnestly advise the men in our course to accept that, or adopt some other at once, before that our learned Italian and Hellenic scholars of the various years deliberate on the question, and by their *ipse dixit* denominate them for all time to come as *ordinarii*, *communes*, *profanum vulgus*, *hoi polloi*, or something of that sort. For what more apt terms do you suppose the above-mentioned scholars could find for 'passmen,' supposing they came across that word in a piece for translation? Such a translation indeed would be considered excellent all round. 'Most appropriate,' would exclaim the worm-investigating naturalists; and our other honor men would take their brother classical-in-honors by the hand and congratulate him on having so nicely hit the nail on the head. The venerable Senate, too, would shout assent, and award full marks; and take inward delight at the progress of its new-fangled specialists in accurate and discriminating scholarship. In our college world here passmen are

indeed of little account. They are dabblers, muddlers, hacks, jacks, wheels, slugs, or whatever else you please. Don't be particular, gentlemen; any name will do. For them no distinctions, no honors; not even is a *leather* medal offered as an encouragement. Let no one imagine that the two scholarships open to passmen in the second year are offered as an *honor*. Look down the column, compare them with the others, and conclude with me that the venerable Senate has placed them there to announce officially the contempt it has for any one who is low-spirited enough to enter the lists and compete for such paltry and invidious rewards. The venerable Senate has adopted this plan, among others, for the purpose of driving the whole herd of passmen into special departments, & to again how the wretched passman is assailed on a public platform, and with what specious arguments the spokesmen of the venerable Senate cry down a general education, and how they are enthusiastically praise special and limited application among students. Nay, golden bribes are held up to the view of unsuspecting freshmen, and by these and other means many a good natured and promising young man has been roped into the meshes, and irrevocably lost. Gentlemen, I am not speaking at random. A young man comes down to our university desirous of brightening up his natural parts, and of becoming somewhat refined and a little polished; of being able in fact to talk and think about things in a reasonable and intelligent manner. For a university education is supposed to render one more or less *cultured*. The object which this fair-minded youth has in view is very likely, is almost certain, to be defeated as soon as he enters the portals of our great seat of learning. Bribes and invidious distinctions lead him astray; and finally he leaves the institution with his cranium in an abnormal condition, bulging out as it does in some particular spot, while it remains quite undeveloped elsewhere. One can talk only about star-reaching tangents and indeterminate cosines; while another is together taken up with mites, king-crabs, jack-crabs, and other beasts, and is so enslaved in the study of them that he *hah* never had time to think that he might much better be employed with what a distinguished poet has rightly called the study of mankind, to wit, man himself, and the qualities which distinguish and separate men, and which render some noble and others ignoble. To speak boldly, gentlemen, I would ask, to what culture can a science man, for instance, lay claim? The little he is obliged to take outside of strict science is easily dealt with; and I think it is no exaggeration to say that in his story, literature, or in the elements of metaphysics, he has received no instruction during his collegiate course. What? He has not even opened the pages of our own Shakespeare or Milton? Hide, O Shame! hide thy blushing face! And then again, take our deep-visaged metaphysicians. They, on the other hand, rise above mankind, and would pry into the secrets of the gods while yet on earth. And yet, I guess, they don't know many secrets of any worth which ordinary men do not also know. These fellows are two precipitate, and want to know things which, with all their striving, they will never know until each of them shall have lived his three score

years and ten. They would fain take no active part in the affairs of humanity; and some of them become haunted at a very early age with strange hallucinations, one, as I am told, being steadfast in his belief that he was King David, singing the praises of the universe to the strains of a golden harp. As regards our classical friends, I have no further time to spare than to remark that it pleases us to see that the lofty pedestal on which they once were seated, is now being lowered, and will continue to be lowered till its proper level will be reached. Men in this age are not going to praise any difficult undertaking, if it is not at the same time proportionately useful. Passmen can laugh with Horace at the follies of mankind just as heartily as honor men can, although, perhaps they do not know how many *hapax legomena* there are in each particular satire; or if they cannot scan every line in a Greek play, they can take in all the same what the dramatist wanted to make known. Of all the departments, the one most nearly allied to our own pass course is that of *Möders*; and it is almost unnecessary to say that the venerable Senate has consequently discriminated against it, as *Gef* has already pointed out. But here, too, the vein produces too much ore of the one kind, and the metal in that ore is not always of the highest value. Now, gentlemen, what do I argue from all this? I argue that your much-bellittled passman who steers his ship in the golden mean, is the only one of us who carries an evenly balanced mind and a level head; who has imbibed a little of the cream of ancient learning, and knows somewhat of the history and thought of modern times; and who has expended a sufficient length of time to become acquainted with the nature of some of the abstract truths of mathematics; nor has political economy been forgotten and many other useful studies, the sources of strength and the embellishments and ornaments of a well-developed intellect. He has undergone just such a training as will fit him to pursue, with pleasure and profit, whatever calling in life he may choose to pursue. Your much bellittled passman, in fine, is the nearest approach to an *educated* man that the university turns out; if only Prof. Fanning could be secured to give a short course of lectures on the telegraphic art, he would be in truth the Canadian gentleman.

X. Y. Z.

COLLEGE CHEERS.

Let us now tabulate all the college cheers that I have considered in these papers. They may be found at times convenient for future reference:—

Columbia... Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah! Co-la-m-bi-a!
 Cornell... Cor-Cor-Cor-nell! I yell! Cor-nell!
 Harvard... Rah! Rah! Rah! (with a strong, full sound)
 Princeton... Rah! Rah! Rah! S-s-s-t! Boom!
 Ah-h-h!
 Penn. Univ... Oo-rah! Oo-rah! Oo-rah! Penn-syl-van-i-a!
 Yale... Rah! Rah! Rah! (sharply)
 Wesleyan... Rah! Rah! Wes-ley-an!
 Amherst... Rah! Rah! Rah! Am-her-est-i-a-t!
 Bowdoin... Rah! Rah! Rah! Bow-doin!
 Brown... Rah-rah! Rah-rah! Rah-rah! Tiger!
 Dartmouth... Rah! Rah! Rah! Wah-too-wah!
 College of the city of New York.
 Rah! Rah! Rah! C! C! N! Y!
 Hamilton... Ham-il-ton! Z-z-zip-rab-boom!
 Racine... Ra-Ra! Ra-CINE!
 Rutgers... Rah! Rah! Rah! Bow-wow-wow!
 Trinity... Trin-i-ty! Trin-i-ty!
 Union... Rah! Rau! Rah! U-n-i-o-n! N-o-i-n-a!
 Williams.
 Rah! Rah! Rah! Will-yums! yams! yums!
 University of New York,
 N! Y! U! S-s-s-t! Boom-m! Ah-h-h!
 —Acta Columbiana