

been robbed or had absconded with the money, the son could borrow no more and so on.

To such requests the proper answer was a letter commending the student's industry and remitting the requisite amount. Sometimes, however, the father excused himself and requires his son to moderate his expenses—he might have got on longer with what he had; that he ought to remember the needs of his sisters, he ought to be supporting his parents instead of extorting money from them, etc.

Occasionally also there was not only no money sent, but a reproof for wasting his time, for example:—"To his sons G. residing at Orleans, P. of Besançon, sends greeting with paternal zeal. It is written "He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster." I have recently discovered that you have dissolutely and slothfully, preferring license to restraint and play to work, and strumming a guitar while others are at their studies, whence it happens that you have read but one volume of the law while your more industrious companions have read several. Wherefore I have decided to exhort you herewith to repent utterly of your dissolute and careless ways, that you may no longer be called a waster and your shame may be turned to good repute."

The student once started was loath to quit academic life. Many letters contain requests for permission to extend their course of study, and one scholar called home to marry a lady of many attractions, answers that he thinks it foolish to desert the cause of learning for the sake of a woman, "for one may always get a wife, but science once lost can never be recovered."

Many letters testify to the expense incurred when attaining a degree. One man asks a friend to explain to his father, "since," he says, "the simplicity of the lay mind does not understand such things," that after much study nothing but lack of money for the inception banquet stands in the way of his graduation.

A banquet given by a successful graduate for his inception is thus described by one of the masters of Bologna in a letter to the student's father.

"Sing unto the Lord a new song, praise him with stringed instruments and organs, rejoice upon the high sounding cymbals, for your son has held a glorious disputation, which was attended by a great number of teachers and scholars. He answered all questions without a mistake . . . and no one could prevail against his arguments. Moreover he celebrated a famous banquet, at which both rich and poor were honored as never before and he has duly begun to give lectures which are already so popular that others' class rooms are deserted and his own are filled."

The letters of the students do not say much about the rows that took place, but one young man pleads for his father's help, because he says "having quarrelled with a certain youth, as the devil would have it, I struck him on