

## RE-ASSEMBLING.

THE STUDENT revolves in a prescribed orbit, and the autumnal equinox, generally attended with the wildest commotions, sees him again passing into the sterner regions of invigorating study. Some, like comets, may perplex us by their eccentric course, their sudden disappearance, or their unaccountable delay, but we comfort ourselves with the thought that they are somewhere, and patiently await their reappearance. Others have vanished, like meteors, forever from our sky, but, we hope, only to become fixed stars in another firmament. We mourn because of our loss, while we laugh at our gains.

History repeats itself, and again we can only say that many of those to whom the name of Acadia has grown dear have now assembled in her halls, or may be seen in the full vigor of their opening manhood, meeting in surging, swaying masses upon the neighboring campus. The glow of health adorns their brow, and the pent-up vigor of the mountain breeze finds expression in their elastic step. They have come from the fair fields that grace the banks of the noble St. John, from the golden islands of the storm-tossed sea, from the shores of the sounding bay, and the forbidding, rockbound coast of the mighty Atlantic. Their renewed energies are now applied to the working out of a purpose lofty and grand, such as becomes "the people by the sea"—the highest cultivation of their mental powers consistent with their physical strength.

First arrivals invariably experience slight feelings of disappointment. Their minds have been filled with perhaps only half-defined notions of a merry greeting from a bustling concourse; but they can only look around and sigh, and seek their rooms in gloom. Yet the highest pleasure awaits them, as they have the privilege of welcoming others back to scenes made homelike by the sight of familiar faces. Can anything be more exhilarating than these reunions of kindred spirits, light, strong and free? As hand strikes hand, the electric thrill is felt in every nerve, and we feel ourselves once more ready to do and dare. The familiar voice has never sounded so melodious as when for a time we have been deprived of its accents; and now as we listen to a collage song poured forth from lusty lungs, we feel inclined to say 'they never sang so well before.' Just now the sound of strange

voices tells us that some have lately made their first appearance on the Hill. Our mark will soon be laid on them. There it may remain through life. Shall it appear as a decoration or an effacement—a thing to look upon with pride, or to be blotted out with shame? These glowing impulses that we feel as we exchange the hearty greeting, serve to show us how large is that place we unconsciously take in the life of one another. If these places could only be entirely filled by that which is noble in us, what grand results might we not with confidence expect.

Good material, well seasoned, and wrought upon by skillful artisans, comes forth a noble ship, that fears neither tide nor tempest. It is a safe statement that on an average the student represents the best material of our land. Among them will be found, those on their way from a place among the unlettered and unknown, to the ranks of the honored of the land, and the rulers of the earth. In such a class of men intellectual power, coupled with executive ability, asserts itself, and the course can only be upward. That Acadia has a share of this element within her increasing classes, those who have had the privilege of mingling with her students will not doubt. Good material is here. The moulding process has begun. Important questions are being decided—questions concerning the mighty future. What shall be the character of our laws? What, the status of our schools? What, our religious teaching? According as the opening minds of these assembled youths are filled with the wisdom of great teachers, and inspired by grand example—or according as they receive pernicious doctrines, or are withered by the lack of practical application—so are these questions answered. An accumulation of dry facts may only prove encumbrances to a mind otherwise active, but add enthusiasm, and they become the levers that move the world.

Not only is good material present, but the necessary conditions for its proper cultivation. The advantages afforded at our institutions for the prosecution of literary work are of a high order. Accomplished and energetic men are at the head of the various departments of study. The attrition of a large body of students modifies our too prominent features. The social advantages offered assist in preparing one to take his place in the great outside world. And in addition to this practical side, much might be said from an æsthetic standpoint. Poetic thought; ex-