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→* The Sanctum. *←

WITH the present number closes the eleventh year of the existence of the ATHENÆUM. The difficulties that were so ominous in the beginning of the year have been, by much exertion, happily removed; and, although the first numbers were, through the mismanagement and incompetency of the printer, anything but creditable to the students or the institution, yet the recent improvements have been of such a character as to receive, from subscribers and contemporary journals the most kindly and encouraging notice. To say that the present position of the ATHENÆUM was attained without considerable labor

and self-sacrifice on the part of the editors would be a mere assumption of modesty. Extra exertion was demanded, and time and patience needed to carry it through the difficulties into which its *typographical artist* had plunged it. With a vivid recollection of the experience of last year the retiring editors sincerely wish that their successors in all the years to come, may be preserved from the trouble and mortification connected with a poorly printed paper. Although the labor required of the staff has been anything but light, and the chief editor's office the reverse of a sinecure, yet it is not without regret that the present editorial board retire from the sanctum and entrust the ATHENÆUM to other hands. A college paper, although it may be scanned by the ordinary reader with indifferent eye, or sneeringly criticised in some obscure weekly with disgusting assumptions of wisdom, is after all so closely woven into the daily life of the students, and especially of those who are entrusted with its management, that the interests of the paper and the interests of the students become inseparable. Perhaps in no one year of its history did the body of students exhibit a more marked interest in the ATHENÆUM than during the year that has closed; and to this fact much of whatever success it has achieved may be attributed. We trust that this is but the beginning of greater activity and enthusiasm in this department. It is a matter for regret that more encouragement is not given to the members of the staff by the Faculty. As yet no value is allowed by that body for the work done by the editors of the ATHENÆUM. Surely editorial work should be taken as an equivalent for the ordinary essay writing demanded by the curriculum. If the ATHENÆUM is a medium through which the College is advertized, and few will deny that it is, then every encouragement should be given to the editors to make the paper as faithfully represent the College as possible. Here the language of