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THE conjunction of Venus and Jupiter last
Friday and Saturday was observed with
great interest by the students, especially by
those of the Physics classes. As the con-
junction took place at 5 a.m. on Saturday, the
planets being then less than 1 minute of angle
apart, the closest approach could not be ob-
served in Canada; but on Friday evening be-
fore setting the planets were within 21 minutes
of each other and formed a very interesting
spectacle. Not only is so close an approach
an exceedingly rare phenomenon, but the posi-
tion of the planets was about the most favour-
able possible for observation.

The interest, which even a simple astron-
omical phenomenon excites even in those who
do not understand its meaning, makes us won-
der that so few have studied the subject. One
glance at the sky upon a starlight night should
be sufficient to give every person a desire to
know something about the nature and posi-
tions of stars and planets. Even to know the
names of such constellations as Orion, Cassio-
peia's Chair or Bootes renders an evening
walk more enjoyable. It almost proves that
we have carried specializing too far when
men graduate, sometimes with honours or me-
dals, who do not know that Venus or Mars is
nearer us than Sirius or further away than the
Moon. It seems almost a pity that a class in
elementary astronomy should not be compul-

sory on every course. Those taking pass
courses do now receive a few lectures upon as-
tronomy, but last year had no examination
upon them. But we admit that it is extremely
inexpedient to add any more compulsory
classes to the course; we therefore hope, as
the best possible substitute, that Professor
Dupuis will this year repeat the course of lec-
tures upon Descriptive Astronomy which he
delivered last spring, and that they will be at-
tended by all who can make it convenient, es-
pecially by those taking honour courses in
other subjects.

Astronomy is the best of all sciences to
teach the littleness and unimportance of man
in comparison with the vast forces of nature,
and its study will naturally tend to destroy that
opinion of one's own omniscience and all-im-
portance which honour graduates are too
liable to possess.

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Since the JOURNAL is interested in all sides
of the students' development, we feel it our
duty to call attention this week to certain mat-
ters which are of vital importance to the social
phase of College life and training. In the first
place we think that the money about to be
spent on the reading room will be to a great
extent lost, unless the students as a whole try
to second the efforts of the curators by observ-
ing a few simple rules which it seems absurd
to have to mention to College men. But
strange to say many of the students do not
seem to suspect that the reading room's order
and attractiveness requires them not to sit on
the magazine tables and so crush the reading
matter into unreadable shape, not to turn a
magazine inside-out and leave it so when done
reading it, not to drop reading matter on the
floor and leave it there, not to leave the illus-
trated papers anywhere that they find it most
comfortable to sit or stand while looking over
them, not to deposit in the reading-room all
envelope ends, wrappers, circulars, or other
rubbish which they may have on hand after
going through their mail. There are some