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THE Acadia Athenæum.

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Business letters should be addressed to A. W. FOSTER, Sec.-Treas.
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→* The Sanctum. *←

WE wish all our fellow-students, all our teachers,
and all our readers a happy New Year.

CORNELL University has completely abolished the marking system, and Columbia is on the verge of following her example. The main object of this movement is to help take away from the student all lower aims and induce him to seek knowledge and a trained mind solely for their own intrinsic worth. We are not prepared to advocate the same change at our own institutions; but we are prepared to say that if there is one student at Acadia who is "working for marks" he ought to be heartily ashamed of himself. His business is immensely small. Someone has said that wit is a very good thing, provided a man loves something else ten thousand times better than wit. So with marks. It is only natural and commendable for a student to want to make good standing in his class, but, if he knows what is best, he will want ten

thousand times as much to make good progress in his studies. When the true incentives to mental toil are present in the soul; when he opens his eyes and looks at the world; when he lifts up his eyes and looks out of the world; when he shuts his eyes and looks into the world that rushes and breathes and struggles in his own breast, learning what he is made for and what is made for him, then he has a grand ambition, and the value of the professor's pencil sinks into nothingness.

IN a recent issue of *The Examiner*, a writer on "The Abolition of Marking," makes a somewhat startling statement. He says: "College men who are the soul of honor among themselves, will lie to a professor, will cheat in recitations, and regard it all as a part of the game." "The soul of honor among themselves!" "The soul of honor anywhere!" Can men be the soul of honor among themselves and yet not be the soul of honor everywhere? Can a man who is the *soul of honor* act dishonorably? If he cannot, then, according to the above statement, it is not dishonorable to "lie to a professor" or "cheat in recitations." A strange use the world is getting to make of that word "honor." But we will not parley over words. Anyway, the character referred to is not the "soul" of *honesty*, nor so much as the shell of an honest man. Whoever lies to a professor is a liar, and whoever cheats him is a rogue. We may be on the broad road to pessimism, lunacy and ruin, but we believe there is no need of building colleges for men who want to "get an education" by any such means. They can cheat just as well at home and have a great deal better chance. No *honest* man, let him be good student, poor student, or no student, need be troubled about his marks. If he is worthy to be passed along through college generally he will be passed. If he is not worthy of it, he will not want it. A soul aflame with honesty would kindle to the finger-tips and scorch into a public conflagration any parchment from the President's hand not earned by honest toil.