

## THE PORTFOLIO.

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We invite contributions and correspondence from the Alumnae, and former students.

WE are grateful for the kind reception that has everywhere greeted our paper, and for the friendly criticism and honest encouragement given us by those whose opinions we prize. Sensible of that wherein we have come short, we shall make it our earnest endeavor to profit by advice so generously given.

Some have complained that the paper is placed at too high a price. Our only reply is that the expenses of publication are so great that we cannot, at least this session, alter the terms of subscription. Surprise also has been expressed at the non-appearance of advertisements in our first issue. We think that a moment's reflection would have answered the query; we did not feel justified in asking people to advertise in a paper they had never seen, and of whose merits and circulation they were ignorant. We hope the presence of advertisements in this number will gratify all curiosity on the subject.

At present our list of exchanges is not extended enough to permit of a column being devoted to their criticism. This, however, will not long continue to be the case, as we would like to acknowledge the prompt response of some to our advances in this direction.

Owing to the relaxation of holiday times, and the delays attendant upon the re-opening of school, we have not been able to give our January number to the public in as good season as we had intended, but we trust our readers will accept this explanation.

WITHIN the last five weeks two of America's master minds have gone from our midst.

Each year the Alumnae of our College provide the opportunity of listening to different celebrated orators. The school year 1877-8 was marked by the presence of the distinguished lecturers Bayard Taylor and the Rev. Ira T. Bidwell.

Strange it is that the icy hand of Death should be laid on these two, upon whose words we hung so short a time ago. Mr. Bidwell was present at the closing exercises of the year, and delivered a lecture on the "Old Log School-house."

Bayard Taylor visited us shortly after the Christmas vacation. His lecture, delivered in Mechanics' Hall, was on the subject, "Ancient Egypt." His life is a grand evidence of the power of the mind and will to overcome every difficulty in the path determined upon in life. A farmer's son, he entered a printing office, and while there, by patient perseverance, acquired a splendid education. Possessing a desire to travel, he worked his passage across the Atlantic, and on foot made the tour of Europe. He afterward traversed large portions of Asia Minor and Africa. In 1862-3 he was Secretary of Legation at Petersburg. About a year before his death he was sent as U. S. Consul to Berlin. He has written much in prose and verse. Most of his prose works are descriptive of his travels.

SINCE the beginning of the new session our skating rink has been in full operation.

Though pronounced by some to be the best in the city, we have had no opportunity of verifying the statement: this much we can say, that although breezes have sometimes disturbed the flooding, and lumps sometimes risen, the rink has been a source of very great enjoyment to all—teachers, scholars, and the few city friends who have occasionally found their way within the walls.

Many a one who never before mounted the unstable steel has been encouraged by example and precept to try, and it speaks well for their perseverance that a complete failure has not as yet been reported.

Delightful recreation hours have been spent upon the ice, and the only alloy is the thought that ere long the sun will rob us of our pleasure.