

Let each community adopt the wholesale system locally; the students in the different courses of University combine to reap a common benefit in new books if desired. And as a means of exchange in second-hand books, which the proprietor of the proposed emporium in no way contemplates, let there appear in the University journal, at a merely nominal charge, a list of books to be disposed of by graduating classes, or wanted by undergraduates in the different years. If the name of the work and address of the seller is published, the second-hand bookseller, with his paltry prices offered, is done away with.

This plan would be co-operation without complication, co-operation between student and student, between University men and their University press. Does this necessarily sacrifice the Union? No. It has other objects, and if the Union prevents the operation of these local systems, which alone can be successful and appreciable, if to support the Union undergraduates must forego immediate and tangible advantages for the distant and imagined benefits of a reckless venture, the interests of the communities demand that the Union should abandon co-operation. Amend the constitution so that meetings may be called when the interests of the students demand them, abandon co-operation as a Union and develop it locally; the Students' Union becomes a Parliament with executive and broad objects, and leaves its constituents to enjoy the manifest advantages of localised co-operative economies.

A. F. LOBB.

In another column will be found a letter from Junius, Jr., which purports to set forth the views of those who think that the time for getting up the Greek play is too short, and hence that the representation should be postponed till next fall or spring. Of course it will be apparent to all, that if each man says to his neighbor, "Behold! the time is short," and works himself into the belief that it is actually impossible to get up the play in the time allowed, the play will not be produced at all. Now, it seems to us, that all that is wanted is a little of that back-bone which is generally to be found lacking in our undergraduates whenever a scheme of somewhat more stupendous proportions than ordinary is proposed. The actors are rehearsing twice a week instead of once, as is stated in the letter referred to, and the music is getting on as well as could be expected, when it is known that it is among the members of the Glee Club that most if not all of the despondency in regard to the play and its production exists. It surely is a little premature to say that the play cannot be got up, although there is some show of reason in the remarks by Junius, especially in his reference to the time expended at Harvard in rehearsals in comparison with the time allotted here. We would suggest that the preparations be continued till the last moment, short of incurring any actual expense, and then if it be found impossible to produce the play, in the natural order of things, it must needs be postponed till some time in the next academic year. By pursuing this method, nothing will be lost in the way of preparation already done. The feelings expressed by Junius, however, seem to be by no means confined to a few, and a thorough examination of the position of affairs will be now quite in order; and any expression of opinion on this subject, both *pro* and *con*, through these columns, will be gladly welcomed, so that we may not bring lasting disgrace on the College by making a failure, when success of the highest order can alone be tolerated, through going blindfolded into a *cul de sac* of uncertainty.

REPLY TO "A REASONABLE DOUBT,"

IN No. 15.

Oh, no! he'll say, "It's very mild;"
 "Pray, Miss, beware the gutter."
 "Oh, view the high and lustrous moon;"
 "Say, isn't she just utter."
 And then he'll stroke his soft moustache;
 Or fix his giglamps closer:
 And then he'll sigh, or perhaps he'll sneeze,
 Or perhaps propound a poser:
 As thus, "Do you read Tennyson
 "And do you like his 'Princess'!"

"It's awful clever, don't you think?"
 If she assents he winces,
 And slides off to the carnival,
 Or cart-wheel style of bonnet,
 Or perhaps describes his little dog,
 And makes weak jokes upon it.

And oft in midst of study brown,
 A missive disconcerts him,
 'Tis sure to be, "You're fooling me,"
 Or something else that hurts him.
 Or just some simple question, as
 "What is the French for 'winking'?"
 Or, "Do you know your hair's awry?"
 And quite prevents him thinking.
 And if at lecture, taking notes,
 His ardent mind he fixes
 To catch the points, his neighbour laughs,
 And thus the subject mixes.
 And if he chance to look around,
 He catches some eye smiling,
 Grey, brown, or blue, from thought profound,
 The wretched Soph. beguiling.

PRUX.

OBSERVATIONS BY THE PATRIARCH STUDENT.

In its last issue the *Crimson* takes up the cudgels on the side of Mr. Oscar Wilde, and its remarks might form a supplement to the article in the New York *Sun* on the part played by the Freshmen at the Boston lecture. This is the only college paper I have as yet seen which contains any words appreciative of Mr. Wilde's claim to respect and admiration. The tone and style in which other prints have expressed themselves seem to have been borrowed from the outside press, and the information vouchsafed in regard to his character and aims were taken from the same source. The greater number of those employed by daily papers to furnish contributions on subjects of the day fulfil their task fairly well when confined to ordinary social and political topics. This class of contributors have been called upon in many instances to 'dish up' something on the 'aesthetic movement.' The subject not being one on which the dictionaries and the encyclopedias of the newspaper office could furnish the usual amount of material, the writers had to fall back on the scanty stock supplied by English comic papers and the extravaganza *Patience*. Hence it has come about, that nine out of ten accounts concerning Mr. Wilde, are made under the inspiration of a mental picture, consisting of attenuated forms, unnatural attitudes and inane gazers at flowers. However wretched this sort of criticism, its wretchedness was not too much for the gullibility of several college prints, including those of Yale. The climax as to ignorance of what constitutes aestheticism was reached in the revolting boorishness of a correspondent in the *Michigan Chronicle*. The *Crimson* shows a sincere wish to form a fair estimate of Mr. Wilde, and maintains that "he is a young man of rare poetic ability, fine poetic achievement, grand poetic promise." This lavish meed of praise is doubtless well meant, but if it is intended to convey the idea that Mr. Wilde's best title to fame rests or will rest on his poems, the mark is altogether missed. As he said in conversation at Boston, the object of English aesthetes is to teach the poor, the working people, to create beauty by educating them in design, and endow them with fine and permanent taste in handicrafts. This is a noble mission which opens a road endless in possibilities of refinement. Mr. Wilde will merit durable renown if in this respect he will prove to be a successful missionary.

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Of course it was a printer's error. But why should it not set a fashion? Why should not certain invitations run honestly? "Mr. and Mrs. — request the pleasure of your presents at their daughter's wedding." Unhappily in this particular case, the undergrad at the Residence who got the notice is for the time being—to use his own somewhat doleful expression—"strapped."

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SCENE: A smoking car on G. W. R. Train draws up at station.

CONDUCTOR (entering): "All tickets ready."

SPOT (disappearing under the sofa, to passengers): "Gentlemen, I trust to your honor."

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It appears that at Cornell the Freshmen have an annual banquet, and the Sophomores an annual conspiracy to upset the arrangements for