

Association is a purely natural outcome of the inherent vitality of the institution, and these annual conferences promise the most beneficent and lasting results. The University is becoming more complex as its functions enlarge, but all the forces are making for integration and the outlook for our Alma Mater is truly a noble and inspiring one. With our present efficient professional staff thus directly stimulating the thought of our Alumni and graduates, and with these exchanging with one another the results of an ever widening experience, the influence of our University upon the life and thought of this country must increase tremendously.

The feature of the conference which impresses us most as students is the high level upon which the discussions are conducted. We are impressed with a new sense of the value of a college course, and we ought to be kept from the pride of knowledge, that too prevalent sin of college men, yet withal there comes a new enthusiasm for study and a desire to measure up to the high ideal that is set before us. When we think of the problems that await solution and of the work yet to be done we catch a little of the exhilaration of the poet when he wrote:

"Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive,  
But to be young was very heaven."

\* \* \*

We have heard a good deal since the November Presidential election about the conservatism of the American people, that element which in the great national crisis of last year cast off party allegiance and stood for national honor and probity. That there is such an element, able, when aroused, to stem the tide of ignorance, anarchy and revolution is indeed cause for rejoicing, but much of what is being said is in danger of producing a soporific effect upon this conservatism which is the saving essence of Democracy. It took three or four months of hard work to rouse this lethargic force to action, and already there are signs which seem to indicate a relapse into a comatose condition again.

There is something very flattering to national pride in the contemplation of this latent power. When disaster seemed imminent, and the whole world was looking on in painful suspense, this sturdy giant roused himself and by one herculean effort averted the catastrophe and indicated the essential soundness of Democracy. Conservatism won the day against revolution and repudiation and straightway conservatism was lauded and extolled, almost deified. But the self complacency of conscious power, and the syren voice of flattery are fast lulling the giant to sleep, and already he yawns and nods in the presence of those who are chanting his praises. Once more public affairs are in danger of being handed over to the spoilsmen and partisans,

the men who are in politics for what there is in it, until another crisis approaches and the intervention of the great force of conservatism is again absolutely necessary for the preservation of the nation.

This peculiar state of affairs is nowhere more apparent than in New York State. We all remember the tremendous upheaval of popular indignation against Tammany a few years ago. Conservatism, representing all that is best in social and civic life, entered the lists to contend with the Tammany tiger, the embodiment of corruption and blackmail, and came off victorious, leaving the tiger in a state of debility from which he will not soon recover. There were loud acclaims and it looked as if a new era had dawned in state politics. But with the turning down of one political boss, Croker, came the exalting of another, Platt, whose influence has been only less baneful than that of the Democratic machine which he superseded. The governors and the legislature at Albany are his subservient instruments, mere tools for registering his will, and now he has been selected as senator for New York State to take the place of the very much discredited David B. Hill. Small wonder that the American senate is a fair mark for the ridicule of the whole civilized world when the greatest states in the union are content to be represented by such men as the Republicans of New York and Pennsylvania have sent to that body this year.

\* \* \*

In another column we publish a communication from the Æsculapian Society of the University, which takes exception to the sentiments expressed in a recent editorial dealing with professional jealousies.

In the editorial referred to we mentioned the fact, which is perfectly apparent to any who may take the trouble to look into the matter, that the practice of trivial jealousies is characteristic of the members of the different professions. An illustration of this fault was drawn from the medical profession, not that we considered it alone guilty, but because it afforded the most glaring, because the most recent, instance.

Our statement of the presence of this objectionable feature the Æsculapian Society leaves unchallenged, but it objects to the particular instance we cited. And why? In the first place because *they believe* that the accusations—if you choose to call them such—contained in our illustration had no foundation in fact; and secondly, because *they believe* that such remarks "are inimical to the best interests of the medical profession, and therefore, of the medical department of the University."

As to the contention that our remarks had no foundation in fact, information has been brought to