

and it seems to us that this facility may be indefinitely applied and resumed." We have all experienced something of this and perhaps know too that such effusions as cost no effort might have to pass through the crucible of criticism before they would be fit for publication. It is what does cost effort that forms the basis of anything valuable in what costs no effort.

The moral is *write*. Whether you can write or not, write. The expression of thought is essential to the cultivation of thought. There must be mines and mines of thought in the minds of students that would quicken many a mind if they were more freely interchanged in the pages of our JOURNAL. If you are too modest to think your thoughts worth anything to your fellows, then express them in the best form you can, for your *own* sake, and hand your contribution to the editor, confiding in his judgment. The writer will thus be learning to write and mayhap thought may kindle itself "at the fire of living thought" through our effort. At anyrate, write.

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Recent events in connection with the business of the A.M.S. have revealed a weakness in our method of appointing officers for that important body. The system is perhaps the best that can be adopted under the circumstances, and it is in the manner in which it is carried out that we think the weakness lies. The custom of appointing certain officers from each of the classes in Arts, to be voted on by the whole student body, ensures a general interest in elections and makes the society thoroughly representative. But in the nomination of minor officers by the different years, other considerations than the fitness of a man for the office are taken into account, and thus the society is compelled to accept the services of men whose ability is not always of a very high order. The Alma Mater Society should be represented by the best and ablest men in the University, and we consider that the classes which present for election inexperienced or incapable men have made a mistake, have failed in their duty to their fellow students.

Of course the whole body of students has the privilege of voting in the elections, but in the case of the minor offices the candidates are often men who are little known outside the circle of their own class, and it is to the verdict of that class that the majority of the electors must look for guidance in marking their ballots. When a year presents two men from their number for election, it is generally understood among the electors that these are men who, by their services in connection with year meetings or class societies, have proved that they are worthy of the honour of holding office in the most important society in the University. Greater care

should, we think, be taken by the various bodies which have the privilege of nominating officers, to see that only those are nominated who, if elected, may be relied upon to do credit to the judgment of the body that presented them for election, and to perform their duties in a businesslike and conscientious manner. Surely among classes of well nigh one hundred members such men might easily be found.

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On March 4th Grover Cleveland, twice President of the United States of America, retired from the fierce light of public life in the White House to the privacy of his new home at Princeton, N.J. It is impossible for his contemporaries to rightly judge the position which history will assign him among the public men of the American union, but most unprejudiced authorities agree in acknowledging him to be the strongest personality of any president since the time of Lincoln. We in Canada have watched his executive rule with very mixed feelings. In the closing days of his first administration he seemed to go out of his way to injure Canadian trade, and his defeat by Harrison in 1888 was looked upon as a just retribution.

In his second administration his attitude on the Venezuelan question alienated Canadian sympathy which had gone out to him in the heroic fight he made against the forces of anarchy during the Chicago strike and in his battle for sound democratic principles. But while the Venezuelan affair will always, we think, remain as a blot on Cleveland's otherwise high-minded and statesmanlike policy, his subsequent attitude did much to atone for his "moment of weakness," and his last gubernatorial veto, that of the alien labor law is in marked contrast with his attitude towards the inter-state commerce bill of his first administration. On the whole he has been methodical, firm and inflexible, a man of broad common sense, wonderfully patient and outwardly at least indifferent to the attacks of his political foes, and the even more bitter denunciations of the demagogues, spoilsmen and populists of what is, nominally at least, his own party. He has few of the arts or qualities of the successful political chieftain, but he is endowed with a will power and a moral courage which the better element in the Republic comes to regard in times of crisis as the real bulwark against the jingoism and senility of Congress, and the surest guarantee of national honor and probity. His greatness must be estimated by what he stood for in the national life of his country rather than in what he actually accomplished, and we shall not be surprised if the future accords him a place side by side with the few really great men who have been honored by elevation to the position of first citizen of the American republic.