

Exchanges.

IN the last two numbers of the "Athenaeum" we find an article on the college graduate from a lawyer's point of view which contains much that is truth, but also much that is fiction or worse, (and fiction out of place is rather bad form, to say the least.) The writer, a prominent Chicago barrister, begins with a tirade against college graduates, as conceited, visionary, and impractical and out of touch with the business world. The blame of this he lays at the door of the professors who by four or five years drilling have made their students as theoretical and visionary as themselves. The average graduate, seeking a remunerative position he compares to a landlord who advertises for rent a house of which only the foundation is built. The foundation being worthless to the public, they refuse to pay more than the ground rent for it.

For several columns he goes on in this way railing at the unseasoned graduate for the time he has spent in the pursuit of useless knowledge. Then suddenly as if ashamed of his "want of urbanity" he apparently goes over to the enemy and eulogises the college as a valuable experimental station, as a developer of intellectual muscle and concentrative powers as a promoter of culture and of lasting friendships of the Damon and Pythias type. But once more the writer's ardent materialism triumphs and he pours forth a perfect storm of invectives against "the visionary, sentimental, college contingent that wears long hair, windsor ties, writes poetry, and belongs to the mandolin club." He

challenges "the right of an erudite pedantic faculty to pump a young man full of hot air, and turn him loose among the wolves, without the proper weapons of offence and defence" and concludes as follows. "Let the college professors and baccalaureate orators cease their deceptions and tell him the truth, or so much of it as has reached them, in their isolation from the practical affairs of life."

There is much in the article that we would like to criticize, did not time and space forbid. Nothing in it strikes us so forcibly as the all-embracing materialism of the writer; evidently nothing is of any importance unless it leads to financial success or in the writer's words unless it "can woo the elusive dollar from the pocket of the wary and unwilling client." Even the few merits he sees in a college course, its value from an experimental point of view, its development of the faculties, its promotion of culture, its Damon-and-Pythias' friendships, all are looked at from a standpoint of dollars and cents. All his arguments against a college course from a utilitarian point of view are unconsciously answered by the author himself when he draws his parallel between the graduate and the landlord with the foundation. A *foundation* without a house on it, we consider as ultimately of more value than a *house* without a foundation. The one may in time develop into a substantial structure; the other can develop into nothing more than a rubbish heap.

As for the persistent exaltation of the materialistic idea over all others we have but one answer, "man doth not live by bread alone."