

that an Arts or Medical triumph should be achieved. So we hope that unmeaning partyism will be stamped under foot in this election, and that every voter will exercise his independence without the least fear of being charged with disloyalty. The only disloyalty in the matter is disloyalty to the Alma Mater in the form of voting, not for her best interests, but for the perpetuation and promotion of sectional feelings.

* * *

The other point which we wish to call attention to is the debasing custom of personal canvassing. We feel sure that when this practice is stripped of the show of decency which it borrows from its resemblance to the canvass in civic elections, and when we see what it really means in Alma Mater elections, any student who respects himself will be ashamed to approach a fellow—in earnest at least and ask him for his vote.

In our opinion there is only one consideration which can justify a man in seeking election to a public office, namely, that he sees in the office greater power to promote the public good. This again presupposes that he has in mind some principle to advance, or some definite scheme to promote, which he conceives essential to the general welfare, and by the merits of which scheme he is willing to stand or fall. So in his personal canvass he does not insult his own manhood in asking support, for he has in mind the principle or scheme and not his own selfish gratification. Otherwise he is not a public man but personified selfishness, craving undeserved public favor. So when he approaches an elector, he does not manifest the shame-facedness often visible in our Alma Mater candidates, betraying the inward consciousness, that in the act of asking public favor they are violating their better instincts. A candidate with a worthy platform on the contrary asks not for personal favor or recognition, but for the power to promote a good end, and values that honor only which comes spontaneously as a reward of merit.

But in Alma Mater elections, as a rule, this "platform" element has been nil. The candidate never thinks of advancing his claims to our support. The reason why he does not is evident. Unless he were even more unblushing than a patronizing figure familiar in the

lobbies of late, he would hesitate to tell the naked truth and say: "I would like you to do me an honor," or "I've done a great deal for the society expecting reward and I'm afraid you'll forget me," or "I consider myself better qualified to fill the office than anyone else," or—which may be a shade more modest—"I'm the Arts (or Medical) candidate." Surely college men ought to be able to see that an honor is an honor only when it comes unsought; and if he does think himself the best man he should content himself with showing it by his works, and allowing those whom he benefits the privilege of recognizing him by bestowing honors and increased powers. So let us with the approaching contest once more lift up the standard of academic self-respect and manliness which we have been treading under our feet in the past, and boycott in every case the man who pulls wires, the man who shadows the seniors for a nomination, the man who says he won't canvass but busies himself with sending one friend after this voter and another after that. Let us at the campaign mass meetings put down a bad mark against a candidate every time that he departs from the discussion of Alma Mater interests to engage in a cheeky rehearsal of his Herculean labors for our good in the past, or to serve up a glittering array of his virtues—as they appear in his own eyes—or his triumphs on the campus, in the class-room, or even on the JOURNAL staff.

Let us bring in a new era of self-respect, leaving it to our *friends* to honor us, and honoring only those with our support who hold themselves in sufficient honor not to ask it, except for a worthy purpose. To use the words quoted by a great orator on trial before the *Concursus* :

"Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring out the false, ring in the true."

When is the Court going to start its work of curbing the cheek of some of our freshmen. Last year we heard a lot about what '93 were going to do when they became seniors, but though College opened seven weeks ago, nothing has yet been done. It cannot be that they cannot find cases, for about ten of the freshmen as well as several sophomores and juniors richly deserve to be courted. Bestir yourselves, gentlemen!