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The Sanctum.

THE old year of '96 is rapidly drawing to a close. By the time our next issue has winged its flight, figuratively, from Sanctum and Press our subscribers old and new, and we presume other people as well, will be basking in the smiles of a certain precocious infant known to the Christian speaking part of the world at least as the New Year of '97. Looking back over the two months of College awakening, it is not without regret that we record so soon a passing. Indeed it would be contrary to the laws of human nature to record anything without a little flavouring of discontentment. Not that man is prone to decrying circumstances that work beneficently for every other living creature but himself; but that the circumstances themselves should have such a decided tendency to nourish a feeling of resentment against the harmless individual is, to say the least, annoying. We as a body of students, however, never have anything in particular to complain of. The first snow-storm and other singular occurrences having once more cheerfully contributed their part to the amusement of mankind, our 'cup' like the well-worn flagon of the Roman Poet is filled to overflowing. The Juniors, this being the part of the year most interesting to them, are trying to look happy at the pleasing prospect of an exhibition and the consequent trying ordeal of "bowing to a delighted and expectant audience." The Freshmen, Sophomores and Seniors coming under the general head of "disinterested parties" are humanely exerting their united efforts to console the prospective speakers by dilating, in a funeral-like air, upon the possibility of impressing an unwary audience with the importance of 'Greece as a social center previous to the Flood' and 'Darwin's differentiation of the *marine algae*.' With these few introductory remarks upon the uncertainty and perversity of life as represented in the Institution we beg leave to return to our forgotten starting point—the passing of '96—and to extend to our sub-