

No more bouncing, no more rushes, no more slopes; the conscript is drawn, and, with a parting word to *Alma Mater*, as she buckles his armour, his face is turned resolutely to the battle of life. "With your shield or on it," said the stern Spartan mother, and so says our mother also. For four years she has trained us for the battle, and may now exclaim, if we may alter the metaphor, "In the sweat of our brow we have often reached the height where our work lay, but you have been steadfast and industrious throughout, using in all possible cases your own muscles, instead of relying upon mine. Here and there I have stretched an arm and helped you to a ledge, but the work of climbing has been almost exclusively your own. It is thus that I should like to teach you all things; showing you the way to profitable exertion, but leaving the exertion to you—more anxious to bring out your manliness in the presence of difficulty

than to make your way smooth by toning difficulties down." *Alma Mater*, adieu.

My readers are of two classes chiefly—those who have crossed the Rubicon of "finals," and those who are still

Standing with reluctant feet  
Where the brook and river meet,

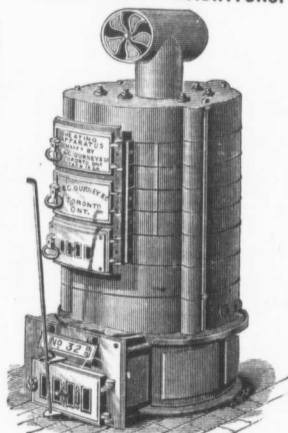
so that all can appreciate the question, when I turn to the undergraduate and ask, "Is it well with thee?" I hope so, most sincerely, for of all things most dampening to the enjoyment of a vacation, a "sup" in prospect is the worst. Of course I do not speak from experience, a contributor to the MCGILL GAZETTE never can (There, Messrs. Editors of 1886-87, surely that will fill Box 1290 for you), but I am gifted with a vivid imagination, and can well conceive the feelings of a "ploughed."

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