

## The College Professor and Practical Affairs.

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The writer has been out of college long enough, probably, to qualify as "an old graduate" in the eyes of the typical undergraduate. What he may have to say, therefore, will doubtless be accorded its appropriate measure of indulgent indifference inasmuch as the words of the graduate, in general, are regarded somewhat benevolently as idle vaporings, if not downright piffle.

Notwithstanding a full realization of the above, the writer has the temerity to seek to occupy a brief space in the pages of the *ATHENÆUM*. Recalling the varying notions, as to the traditional impracticability of the college professor, which prevailed in the undergraduate world a dozen years ago, I wish to venture a defence in behalf of that species of mankind.

In the popular fancy an outstanding characteristic of the professor is a chronic absent-mindedness. This is illustrated by the familiar story of the recent return of Professor X., to his home. Upon arriving at his house, after a day in the city, he politely rang the door bell, whereupon the maid, in a highly unconventional manner, called down from an upstairs window to the imagined stranger that "Professor X. is not at home." "Thank you, I will call again," replied our hero as he turned and gravely retraced his steps to the street.

As popularly caricatured, the professor labors under the equally grievous handicap of being blankly ignorant of the practical affairs of life. Although generally conceded to be an authoritative master in his own chosen field of investigation, he is pictured as being oblivious of even the simpler details of everyday existence.

That such ideas are slowly undergoing a change, is due primarily to the fact that college professors are being drafted in increasing numbers into the practical administration of the affairs of government, business, exploration, irrigation projects, etc. In this article attention is to be directed to a few of the more important names of college teachers of economics and political science, who have been called upon by governments to serve in official capacities. Space forbids any mention of the many men, also holding government appointments