

auxiliaries to the developement of manly principles and moral force. As such they are to be prized; but after all they are merely accidents of life in these institutions. As influences they are potential, but they are not aggressive. To become obtrusive and forceful they should take shape, they should be embodied and crystalized into systematic effort, and not only impress the students silently, unconsciously, but they should, in some judicious way be made to force themselves upon his notice, to awaken his interest in the principles of which such influences are the outgrowth. The student's attitude towards the temperance question should not be one of passivity. Opportunities should be afforded him for forming sound and intelligent opinions on a question of so much moment. To this end a well constructed temperance organization may powerfully contribute; and yet the ordinary lodge has many features connected with it that are objectionable. Inasmuch as it aims to mould, centralize and reflect the temperance sentiment of the community, it is a power for good; but when it degenerates into organized inactivity, ignoring its possibilities and despising the intemperate as too vulgar for membership, then it ceases to deserve the support and sympathy of the thoughtful. Again, many Lodges have the characteristic of being short-lived. They flourish for a time like a "green bay tree," but afterwards vanish like the "morning cloud." Such ephemeral existences indicate weakness somewhere, either in the principle itself or in the men and methods by which it is advocated. We argue that it is the latter. Societies are too often hastily formed-sometimes indeed without an intelligent appreciation of the responsibilities assumed or the dignity of the question to be supported. Novelty, more than principle, is the attractive and cohesive force, and as time removes the former, the latter diminishes in proportion, until the society resolves itself into its original elements, while its memory alone lives to strengthen the argument of its foes. With regard to the

recent movement however we have nothing to say but approval. Its object is praiseworthy, but dangers are concealed where least expected. Every institution carries within it the germs of its own decay. May the newly formed Lodge have a happier destiny, and a record worthy of the great question of which it claims to be an advocate and exponent.

FOR some years past, in the face of many discouragements, the students and teachers of the three departments on the Hill have sustained a missionary society. This organization meets the third Wednesday evening in every month, and after the transaction of the regular business the entertainment is taken up. The programme generally consists of music, a synopsis of missionary intelligence, essays, and addresses; but this order is often varied with readings and recitations. The funds of the society are supplied by initiation fees and benevolent contributions, and at the end of each year, after the necessary expenses are deducted, the balance is forwarded to the treasurer of Foreign Missions. The prospects of this year are as encouraging as they have been other years, and perhaps more so, but the desirable degree of prosperity has not yet been reached. We believe that a little more zeal and determined effort on the part of the members would supply the deficiency. Such a society is worthy of the interest and labour of its constituents, inasmuch as it furnishes a means of acquiring valuable knowledge. In tracing the progress of missionary labour we not only gain information in regard to the work itself, but we are made acquainted with the manners, customs, and resources of the countries in which it is done. At the recent meeting of the society, a corroboration of this assertion was afforded in the programme, which consisted of an essay on mission