ARE CONTESTS BENEFICIAL?

The season of oratorical contests always raises the question: is it wise to put students into competition with each other for prizes or honorary distinction? Those who favor such contests hold to the following reasons: when the student enters his post-graduate career he finds that life itself is a contest; consequently the more familiar he is with competition in his student days, the readier he is for the struggles of existence. One must, they say, become used to defeat, so as not to mind it, for defeats are bound to come in life. Success is equally hard to handle; one must learn to take it merely for what it is worth, and let it be a stepping-stone, not a stumbling-block. It is asserted the system of grading students in school work is an evidence that they need some kind of reward and demerit basis of finding out relative merits to stimulate to proper work. No school without some kind of competitive marking system has yet attained sufficient success to warrant the abolition of such systems. It is maintained that contests stimulate the student to put forth the best energy in him and rouse worthy ambitions that would otherwise lay dormant. It is further claimed that the law of competition on all lines is a natural one; in fact that the law of God is one of rewards and demerits running thro’ all nature.

On the other hand, the opponents of contests claim that the competition appeals to an ignoble principle; that it is unworthy of the name of education to range the talents and powers of the students in battle; that there are always pained hearts after every decision in contests, no matter who gets the award; that students are often discouraged at defeats, and are frequently scared away from further endeavor; that, so difficult is it to get competent and impartial judges, contests are more of a lottery than anything else.

Such are the arguments on both sides. They seem pretty evenly balanced. Possibly it would be a wise plan, to try for one year a series of exhibitions with no competition involved, on the date usually set apart for contests. Many would go in where no prize or competitive element exists who would not go in with such elements present. This would give every one a chance to go before the public and see what he or she can do. Each student, each society, and the public at large could form their individual judgments on each of the performers, and no one’s feelings would be hurt. It would be an interesting experiment, to see if the performers would do the solid work gained by contests.
THE FREQUENT AND FESTIVE BORE.

You know him. He is always "kicking" about something, but never does anything to speak of himself. He can see where the mistake was, but he forgot to speak of it till after the thing was done. At other times he is full of gloomy forebodings. He can see the flood that is sure to come, but he is content to stick in the mud and let some body else dig the trench.

There is also the man about College who always wants to argue with you. You meet him at the table and he had rather split hairs than eat. He has no convictions about anything in particular, but he likes to argue to show how smart he is. In fact he is too smart to believe in anything. If he can pick a flaw in anyone's faith, he tries it. This comes out in his class arguments sometimes, the bright Professor squeezes him. The best you can do for him is to kick him.

Next comes the lazy bore, an inoffensive creature without much interest in life. He drags himself around, and carries the impression that spring fever will soon clutch him. He has no public spirit, sits in his room most of the time. The only trouble with him is one tires of seeing him around at all.

Then there is the fellow who is always up in you face. He grasps you by the arm and fondles you. You can't get rid of him. He is always talking. You can hear his voice the first in the hall. He will die talking if he don't reform. Nobody will much bewail that last event.

So also is the professional religionist. The sad feature in his case is that he is saddled onto a good cause. Not that he really has any better ideas of life than his fellows, but his countenance shows that he is grieving over sin—in others. He has come to College with a purpose. If he stays in the institution long enough, he generally swops his purpose for something better.

Besides we hear of the man who stands around, hears all he can, and runs and tells; also the man who is always being slighted, never gets his powers recognized, and suffers from soar ear.

IT IS A VERY LIVELY CORPSE.

How about the Varsity ball nine? Is there such a thing? You can just record in your note-book that there is. The Evanston game proves nothing. The real truth is, our prospects so far as men go were never better. This has been kept quiet for fear less effort would be made in practicing. The failure to have the grounds ready for practice has been an inexcusable and irreparable set-back, but the personnel of the nine is strong. With Crowe as pitcher and Scott Durand as catcher, we have a battery that compares favorably with any in the North-Western League.

Crow has the reputation of being one of the best amateurs in the West. If space allowed, his record would make interesting reading. Scott Durand's record as a catcher and all around baseball man is too well known to need mention. Hayner will act as change pitcher, and he is second only to Crowe. The rest of the nine is fairly strong. Two weeks of solid practice will be the effective cause of a pleasing eye-opener. These are cold facts that time will verify.

SOME GOOD SHORT STORIES.

THEY GREW TIRED OF WAITING.

It is seldom that our community is regaled with anything so mildly sensational as an elopement. Don't be scared, no elopement has occurred here yet, but one coming pretty near home took place at Bloomington recently. Everybody here remembers Miss Lena Snell, who was a pretty girl and a popular pupil at Ferry Hall last year and in years
previous. The following dispatch gives the facts of the little romance:

BLOOMINGTON, ILL., April 15.—This city was treated to a sensation in high social circles when it was announced to day that Will Dinsmore and Miss Lena Snell had eloped last evening and were married in Peoria last night. Mr. Dinsmore is the son of Rev. John W. Dinsmore, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church of this city for many years, while Miss Snell is the only child of Mr. and Mrs. J. Thornton Snell of Bloomington, and is a lovely and accomplished girl of 20. Mr. Snell is engaged in a banking business at Clinton, Ill., and has resided here some years. He recently erected a palatial mansion in this city. Young Dinsmore is a graduate of Princeton College. He is a civil engineer and was, until quite recently, an employe of the Chicago and Burlington road.

The engagement of the young couple has been known for some time but Miss Snell’s parents objected to a marriage at this time, wishing it to be postponed a year. Mr. Dinsmore was to go to Des Moines, la., yesterday, and Miss Snell accompanied him to the train. When the train pulled out it took both of them with it. Miss Snell was missed soon after, but was not found, and nothing was heard of her until the following message was received by Mrs. Snell:

"We are married. Lena."

While the relatives of the young elopers are greatly agitated over the matter, there is no doubt, whatever, that forgiveness will be promptly given them when they choose to sue for it.

The STENTOR has it on good authority that the newly wedded pair are now located in domestic bliss at Des Moines, la., where Mr. Dinsmore is said to be connected with one of the largest brick manufacturing firms in the west. And so it goes.

THOUGHT ONLY OF FLORENCE.

A good story is told of one of our "Profs" who took one of the fair college girls down to the city to hear the Jefferson Florence Company at McVicker’s. The first name of the young lady in question is Florence; it is not necessary to make a short story long by saying which Florence. When the "Prof" came home, he was asked how he liked the play. "Well," said he slowly, "I liked Florence a good deal better than I did Jefferson. Jefferson may be a great actor, but somehow Florence takes hold of me more. Florence is great." Then the fellows around began to grin and some even laughed. When the full force of the statement dawned on the "Prof," he begged leave to inform his auditors that he meant nothing personal, and that he never called young ladies by their first names.

HE WOOED HER BY TELEGRAPH.

"Yes, I did my courting by telegraph," said the relater of telegraph stories to The STENTOR. "Fourteen miles from our Providence office was a little telegraph station run by a girl. One afternoon the station called our office and I responded at the key. I was a pretty fresh young man in those days. The minute the message began to come in I saw that it was a green hand at the other end. The message was indistinctly sent and in a moment of petulance, I broke in and said, 'Oh shut up!' Well, it was silent as death, not another word came in response to my repeated calls. When the next train came in from that little country station, the conductor handed the manager of our office a letter. The manager read it and handed it to me. It was written in a pretty, girlish hand, and went on to say that the writer had agreed to tend the station that afternoon, for her friend the regular girl operator; that she, the substitute, was very new at the business; and that she hoped she had not caused any serious trouble through her blunders.

"Well, when I read that timid little letter, I was ashamed of myself; and I sat down to my key and apologized humbly, sending the message slowly, so she could read it easily.
THE STENTOR.

In the course of time that young lady became the regular operator at her station. Our acquaintances, through sly conversations, by means of what is called a ground wire, ripened. Finally I went up to see her one night, dressed in my best suit of clothes. After that I went oftener, and our messages over the wire were more frequent. Sometimes, the wires used to get twisted in such a way that our love messages were heard at every station between New York and Boston. Then, what a circus was kicked up. But we kept the thing up till our courtship ended in — well you know my wife, and she’s the little girl I was saucy to over the wire."

HE THINKS WE NEED BACK BONE.

There is something wrong with the boys. We are losing our pluck, grit, spunk or whatever you choose to call it. The time was when our boys took hold of things with a will, and saw that they were executed. It mattered not whether the project be one of turning a calf loose in Ferry Hall, or an active interest in the prayer meeting. We come to College expecting great things to be done by the college students, but instead of taking hold and doing great things, we mope around and wonder and growl. We never can do any thing until we shake ourselves. The time to begin is the first term of the Freshman year. The incoming Cads should remember this. Enter with the determination that you will have a part in college politics. This can be done without being fresh. See how we suffer from this inactivity. There is no reason in the world why we could not have just as good a Glee Club as the average. While other college men are practicing, we are chasing around the streets to get a fond look or a few words from some fair Sem. There is the same trouble with the baseball and football teams. Girls are all right, and no one enjoys their company more than I, but there is a time to be with girls and a time to refrain. Furthermore, there is not a young lady, who is worth the shoes she wears, who does not admire and respect boys more for leaving her alone, at times, in order to accomplish something.

Girls, Pull Us Out Of This Hole!

You can do more than any other one factor. Some of us have weak wills, so weak that the slightest encouragement will cause us to leave everything and follow you. You can give us a better ball team, a good Glee Club, and a hundred other things, simply by having it understood that you admire good ball players; that you appreciate singing by a well drilled Glee Club; and you admire the fellow who works while he works, and plays while he plays. — AN OLD TIMER.

THE COLLEGE.

The Varsity team has at last been chosen. Scott Durand is Captain and F. C. Sharon, Assistant Captain. The team is as follows: Catcher Durand; Pitcher Hayner and probably Crowe; S. S., Bloomington; 1st base, Sharon; 2d base, King; 3d base, McNary; L. F., Ellis; C. F., Bourns; R. F., Goodman. A game was played with the Harvard School at Washington Park, Chicago, Wednesday. The University of Minnesota will play here May 29, the day after we arrive home from the trip.

The Freshmen and Sophomores played a practice game the 22d, the Freshmen winning by a score of 14 to 12. The G. P. Club team wiped the earth with the Cads the 21st. The grounds were wet, making good playing an impossibility. The score was 25 to 1. The G. P’s are anxious to play any Club.

Freshman Evening occurred Friday evening the 17th in Ferry Hall Chapel. The successful contestants were Bishop, Bourns, Bloomington, Hunt, and Strong. Sophomore Evening took place Friday night the
24th. The successful speakers were Davies, Doran, Hopkins, Miss Marshall, and Sharon. Both evenings were quieter than those of last year and probably more enjoyable to many on that account. Whether the adherents of the blue and yellow or the pink and black came out ahead will be left to the people at large.

Keyes Becker "scooted" around the running track at the Gym reception.

J. H. McVay has been compelled to go home for a while on account of his ill-health.

A French and German play are to be given at the Sen. There are rumors of the boys giving a "Dago" play soon after, with the college band to play Italian opera between the acts.

A concert was given in Ferry Chapel by the Zeta Epsilon Glee Club Thursday, April 30, to a good house.

Rumors have been floating around that we would drop out of the League this year with our team. Such would probably be good policy if we could gracefully "drop," but if we must forfeit $50 a game and possibly our position in the League, it is better to stick it out, grounds or no grounds. Affairs look more hopeful now. We have as good a team taken all through as we did last year, and better in several places. There’s no use saying we’re going to lose. We go in to win.

N. H. Burdick left for home last week on account of ill-health.

Prof. Walter Smith read his fine paper on the Physiology of Laughter before the members of the Zeta Epsilon Society and their friends Friday evening, April 10.

The Athletic Association met Monday, April 13. Wright and Dewey were elected members of the baseball committee, and Goodman Secretary of the Association.

The Stentor extends its sympathy to Richard Pugh whose father died in Missouri last week.

W. H. Humiston, who has been organist here for some time and given such eminent satisfaction, has accepted a similar position at the First Congregational Church, Chicago.

G. W. Wright, as our delegate, attended a convention of the State Oratorical Association at Monmouth, April 17. The object of the meeting was to decide on the claims of the two men, King of Knox and Magill of Wesleyan, as to which was the rightful winner of first place at the contest held in Bloomington last Oct. It was decided in favor of Magill, and he will represent Illinois at the Inter-State Contest.

A mistake in the last Stentor should be corrected regarding Prof. Locy and Rush Medical. The Professor will occupy the chair of Physiology there, giving Rush three lectures a week. His work here will be kept up as usual. This is merely a step toward University unity.

A number of eminent men from all over the U. S. have been lecturing at Cornell. May 1, Prof. Alfred Emerson of our University, gave a lecture there on "Proxiteles." It was pronounced one of the best of the series.

The members of the M. O. T. A., have requested The Stentor to say that they do not claim any participation in the issuance of a scurrilous sheet recently sent out under the heading "M. O. T. A." The M. O. T. A., is simply a friendly cluster of fraternal spirits among the boys. It serves to draw the fellows together in the noble ties of college life, and it frowns on anything like the sheet that casts slurs on people or meddles in the affairs of other organizations.

THE GYMNASIUM OPENING,

Held the evening of April 23d, answered expectations. While the arrangements of the entertainment were simple, it was an evening never to be forgotten by many. The interior of the building was a charming blend of gas-light and brilliant reflection from floor to
ceiling. The pretty costumes of the young ladies, the music by Hand’s orchestra, the decorations, all contributed in the effect. Many old students from abroad, and several of the benefactors of the institution were present. The genial face of Mr. H. C. Durand called to mind those to whom the institution owes thanks. After an hour of delightful promenading, A. M. Candee, chairman of the committee on arrangements, asked President Roberts to make a few remarks. The President, in well chosen and hearty words formerly presented the building to the student body. W. E. Danforth was called upon to express the thankful sentiment of the students. Later on, the company partook of refreshments in the basement. The eatables were furnished by Thompson, caterer from Chicago. The committe, which has so successfully carried the Gym opening through, deserve their names recorded for future reference: A. M. Candee, W. C. Eakins, F. Grant, C. B. Oliver, and Misses Elsie Webster, Hallie Hall and Beatrice Taylor. Thanks are due to Anderman and Calvert, the florists, the former for having contributed beautiful cut flowers for use of the introduction committe, and potted plants for decoration, the latter for elegant potted flowers. The Gymnasium has been so thoroughly described in these columns before that it is enough to mention here, this: the building is complete in every detail, cost $30,000, and is built of rich brown stone, with brilliant pine interior. The apparatus will be in working order in a few weeks.

THE ACADEMY.

GAMMA SIGMA NOTES.

David Fales, Correspondent.

Wouldn’t it be in good form if the Cads were to call on the Principal at his home? He would be pleased to see them. Be more social, boys.

S. Gruenstein will probably play the organ in the Church for the remainder of the term. The attendance at the Prayer Meetings has been small lately. With 100 boys in the Academy, 20 is small attendance. Prayer Meetings held weekly in the Cad chapel at 7 o’clock Tuesday evening.

We are glad to see Messrs. Flint and Grant back. They will stay for the rest of the year.

Messrs. Porter and Smith were suspended for a week for leaving town without permission. As Porter’s home was so far away, his sentence was changed to restrictions for all half holidays until June.

Prof. Burnap has had the Anabasis class write commentaries on certain portions of the book. The papers when read showed hard work, and some were even as good as Prof. Kelsey’s notes on the same sections.

Several of the Cads went to the Citrus Fair at Chicago, Wednesday April 15. They say it was worth seeing.

Prof. Stollhofen has been confined to his room lately with the Grip. It is feared that fever will set in.

Wednesday, the 22d, C. C. Dunbaugh, ’92, stepped on a nail at the Gym. He was confined to his room for nearly a week.

Ed. C. Owen, ex’91, who played 3rd base on the University nine of ’88-’89, came out the 18th and spent a few days.

John Shepherd, ex’91, came to the Gym reception. He is now working in his father’s office.

Prof. Burnap gave the Second Form Greek class restrictions for a week for leaving the room after waiting 5 minutes. There should be an understanding about such cases. If a teacher expects a student to be on time and gives him a tardy mark if he is late, surely the class should not wait for the teacher. The 5 minute rule is a just one.

Bogue, ex’93, was at the Gym reception. He has just recovered from a serious illness.
TRI KAPPA NOTES.

G. H. Lambertox, Correspondent.

It is understood that the Academy reception this year will be conducted on the basket picnic plan. This is a novel idea. It should receive the hearty support of all.

The Tri Kappa Society hopes soon to afflict the public with an open meeting.

The contract for the new Cad Building has at last been let. The ground is soon to be broken.

It is rumored that Dr. Stollhoffen has leased the old hotel building, which he intends to occupy at the opening of next year.

The average price of board this year at Academia is about $3.00 a week. Water is thrown in free.

A three year course is to be instituted in the Academy next year for the benefit of such students as desire and whom the Faculty judge competent to carry two year's work of Latin and Greek in one year.

J. H. McVay visited the Society a short time ago in reference to the Y. M. C. A. Building. E. E. Vance was appointed to confer with the College committee in the matter.

All of the Academy students attended the opening of the Gymnasium and in all cases report a glorious time.

The Academy baseball club has been formed with the following members: Durand, Dewey, Ellis, Scofield, Yaggy, Crilly, Rising, Bloomingston and Gunzenhauser. With the right practice this year's nine ought to do good work. The first game was played at Kenosha, April 29.

R. C. Burchell has returned to his home in Chicago from Florida where he spent the Winter. He returns much improved in health.

A Professor may be five or even ten minutes tardy and be excused, but when a student happens to be a few moments late it is quite different. The Third Form Greek class rightly consider themselves very unjustly treated a short time ago.

Tri Kappa's long talked of banquet was held Tuesday evening, April 28. It was a very enjoyable affair. The boys are unanimous in their thanks to Charles Holt for his kindness. Prof. Burnap was appointed toast master and the following toasts were responded to: To the victors, C. B. Oliver; The Faculty, Spencer R. Smith; Gamma Sigma, A. McFeran; Tri Kappa, B. R. Mac Hatton; The sequestered spots of Lake Forest, E. H. McNeal; The Seminary, W. G. Sanford; Sports at L. F. A., Charles E. Durand; The Alumni, W. H. Jones.

FERRY HALL.

Friday evening Miss Bessie McWilliams entertained her friends from eleven to twelve. Supper was served at eleven-thirty after which several toasts were given, the last of which was responded to by the hostess.

We are indebted to the Sophomore and Freshman classes for two very pleasant evenings. The class feeling at the Seminary is very strong and we anticipate the June contests with great pleasure.

Miss Phelps has returned from a two weeks visit at Anna where she was called on account of the illness of her sister.

Misses Anniifred Ensign and Maude Taylor spent the Sabbath at their homes in Chicago.

Quite a party from the Seminary attended the Apollo Concert April 23.

Misses Bessie Buell and Minnie Mason attended the Gymnasium opening. Miss Buell spent Sunday, April 26, at the Seminary.
Miss Corinna Hedges who attended Ferry Hall last year spent Sunday with Miss Jean Smith April 26.

We congratulate the manager (?) of the M. O. T. A. publishing company (?) for the great success of the first edition of his paper.

Miss Julia Lyman spent Friday, April 24, at the Seminary.

Wednesday evenings the French and German students meet for instruction in conversing in the two languages. Miss Robinson and Mrs. Mallory have charge of the French room, Dr. Seeley and Miss Searles of the German. These evenings are very popular and are great helps to the students.

The usual Ferry Hall reception will be given the last of May.

A visit from Miss Agnes Smith of Appleton is expected.

Prof. Clement of Ann Arbor spent Sunday April 19 with Dr. and Mrs. Seeley at Ferry Hall.

A Pupil's Recital will be held May 4 in Ferry Hall Chapel. Pupils of Prof. DeProsse, Mrs. Hester and Miss Davis will take part.

The tennis players of Ferry Hall expect to give a tournament the first of June, providing the tennis courts are in good condition by that time.

A praise service was held in Ferry Hall Chapel Sunday April 19.

Mr. Pratt with the University chorus united with the young ladies in a praise service at Ferry Hall Chapel April 24.

Every now and then some outsider institution comes here and tries to steal away our best men. They have succeeded with Profs. Kelsey, Baldwin and Sanford. This time the fact has leaked out that one of the largest Normal Schools in the state of New York wants Dr. Seeley as its head, at a large salary. However, reliable authority reports that the doctor will not accept the call. The alumni and large acquaintance of Ferry Hall will be glad to read this last statement.

Isn't it strange that a certain youth from the College became so frightened on being ushered into Dr. Seeley's presence that instead of asking for the favor he intended, he asked permission to go the Gymnasium opening. Young men should remember that the doctor is not a lion to be bearded in his den.

In Mrs. Seeley's apartments hangs a large crayon portrait of Dr. Seeley. It seems as one looks at it that the doctor is ready to speak. It is a fine portrait.

Who stole Dr. Seeley's bell — the brass bell we mean? It went off the night of the Sophomore Evening.

Jim.

Who is always being hunted
With an energy appalling?
Who can never be discovered
Though our throats are hoarse with calling?
Who would smile at us serenely
Though the heavens e'en were falling?

Jim.

Who's the most important factor
In the realm of Ferry Hall?
Who impressed the fact upon us,
When we came here last fall?
Who put up the shelves and curtains
And hung pictures on the wall?

Jim.

Who brings up the mail bag
From the office to the Semi?
Who receives a heartier welcome
Than would be vouchsafed to Clem?
Who takes lectures by the dozen
From the girls and — laughs at them?

Jim.

When the lights go out at night time
Who does everybody blame?
When a body gets no letter
Who is censured for the same?
Who in short endures the blessings
And the miseries of fame?

Jim.
REPORT OF J. M. FLINT, ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION TREASURER.

RECEIPTS.
April 6—Booth Entertainment............................................. $60.45
April 20—E. F. Dodge, subscription...................................... 5.00
April 29—Ducks from members............................................ 34.00

$99.45

May 1—Balance in Treasury................................................ $59.95

DISBURSEMENTS.
April 22.................................................................................. $3.00
April 25—Base Ball................................................................. 12.50
April 25—Stockings................................................................. 10.00
April 25—R. R. Ticket............................................................. 8.00
April 25—Miscellaneous Expenses......................................... 6.00
May 1—Balance......................................................................... 49.95

$89.45

EXCHANGE.

A majority of the students at Yale come from the West.

The University of Michigan Glee Club recently netted $4,500 at a single engagement in Detroit.—Ex.

F. F. Thompson, of New York, will build for Williams three laboratories—chemical, physical and biological—to cost altogether about $100,000.

The 8,000 volumes in the library bequeathed by John W. McCoy to the Johns Hopkins University, comprise the most complete collection of illustrated folios of geography and topography and engraved productions of the fine arts to be found in this country.—Young Men's Era.

The last issue of the College Rambler, in an interesting article on "College Reading," calls to mind the fact that there is little reading done by the undergraduates of today, outside of the books prescribed to be read in connection with college work. It strikes at the root of the matter, and offers some wholesome advice when it says: "There can be no 'rounded character' without knowledge of books and their world. Your scientific man, your classical scholar without knowledge of letters is owlish in our civilization. In his development the man must get this knowledge some time—why not at college. The college time is the best age for reading that the man will have all his life. The books read then impress his nature as do none afterward. Moreover, the habit of reading gives the breath of life to the arrays of facts bristling in the student's text-books,—showing him that all these things have been and are of real import in actual life. Reading is the digestive process, applying the facts of his studies. Soundness comes by individual effort, and is not to be given by text-books or instructors. Culture is something to be soaked in, not to be imparted directly. The effort towards it gives original power. The student who makes fair marks in recitation, but assimilates the knowledge so that months after, or years after, he can take it from its niche in his brain, and apply it toward something else is the student wanted by teachers and the outside world alike. Now this power of originality is developed, more than in any other way, by reading,—honest reading.

We strolled into the vacant parlor just to rest. The waltz was done. The lace upon her breast With gentle little quivers rose and fell, And ah! my courage came and went as well.

Her dainty cheek was very near my lips; I took her chin between my finger tips; She caught her breath; said with a sudden sigh— "Pshaw! wait a moment; J— is going by."—Ex.

ALUMNI AND PERSONAL.

'S4,—We use this space in the present issue for the publication of a letter from E. W. St. Pierre of Oroomiah, Persia, who kindly writes in response to our request for a line from his pen, as follows:

"It is only seven years since I left Lake Forest, and yet it seems much longer. I well remember the day I left there so undecided and bewildered. The members of my class are now scattered far and wide, but I believe no one is as far from you as I am.

"The first few months of my sojourn in this land were devoted to the mastering of the rudiments of the Syriac language, and getting on a living acquaintance with my new sur-
roundings. Time will accomplish wonders, and so what seemed then a Babel of languages and a dream land of customs and scenes, has since acquired the guise of familiarity through sheer repetition. I can now hear the most awful mixtures of tongues with all their wild ejaculations and gutterals; see the rarest oddities of dress and lack of dress; go through the crookedest, narrowest, and filthiest streets faced with the rarest collection of mud houses with flat roofs covered with playing children and barking wolf-dogs without the least astonishment. Here lie in this small valley with its primitive modes of agriculture, dotted with hundreds of mud villages, divided into innumerable, irregular fields, covered with planted woods, intersected by thousands of irrigating ditches, as effectively cut off from the great, bustling world outside, as it is from the neighboring countries and provinces by its high bare walls of mountain ridges.

"Eleven months of incessant work each year brings to the missionary of this station one month of comparative rest in Sier on the mountain side, with a possible week at the lake-side, where we have a small uninviting mud-cottage.

"My work here is two-fold. Seven months each year I spend in the College with an occasional Sabbath in one of the native villages preaching to the congregation, and four winter months in village work.

"In Gulpashan my room was in the side of the village opposite that of the Church, and we invariably reached the Church over the roofs. You see the whole village is bound together so that it appears as one roof instead of two hundred.

"I am also superintendent of the Winter village schools; of which there are about seventy-five.

"I desire to greet my companions of other days through your paper and wish them a God speed. I also want to add my good wishes and hopes for increasing progress to my Alma Mater. I am glad of her increasing usefulness. Sincerely,