

Could I venture to open those carefully closed closets which used to contain our blacking brush, soap and clothes, and which were generally kept conveniently open? And, again, suppose I should, at their invitation, take a look about the room—why, *mirabile dictu!* there's a scalp hanging by the glass with its hair curled and combed even as in life! What could I do but turn and run, leaving college life forever behind?

I admit that I have drawn on the imagination for the above, and yet I ask how different from this will be the realized fact if this measure goes into effect? I am not a woman hater—I have a wife, and a number of good sisters, and I respect the sex and yet I ask in all sincerity, why spoil our old colleges for boys in order to give the girls advantages, in no respect better than the present female colleges would offer if their standard were raised?

I used the word spoil in the foregoing question because I believe that the mixing of the sexes in college, would have just this effect. Mixed schools for younger scholars are safe and sensible, but I doubt the advisability of continuing this association through a college course. I doubt if as many would see Venus through the telescope as through the sparkling eyes of some fair classmate. And then I doubt whether the professor's lecture on "Chemical Affinity," would be as interesting as on that higher affinity between sympathizing minds, nor would his very important symbols claim attention equal to that demanded by the fast increasing signs of growing affection. Moreover I should like to ask, do the ladies themselves request this change? My wife, who is for all the rights of women, says "If I were a girl again, I would be ashamed to ask for admission to the colleges for boys, and I wouldn't enter if I could." She has often said "there is a certain charm about college life which will be lost if this measure prevails, and if I was going at all I should want to go with girls and form the same associations and live the same life among them, that the boys now enjoy among themselves."

A day or two ago I accidentally overheard a discussion going on among a party of women (all avowed for women's rights too) on this very question. The negative was the only side taken, and the prevailing sentiment may be gathered from the following remarks, which I caught: "Isn't it ridiculous that the colleges are going to open for girls?" "Why yes, I think it is going to spoil

them, and then I should like to know what girls want to go among the boys. Why not improve the ladies' colleges we already have instead of spoiling the institutions for boys? The idea, too, of putting young people together at an age and under circumstances which shall tempt them to spend their time in courting and flirting." "Yes and how many do you think will go through the course to the end?" "I think those trustees ought to have consulted their wives before acting." These were some of the sentiments I heard, and I was heartily glad to be thus confirmed in my opinion that the sensible women of the country (old and young) did not favor the measure.

It may be a good thing for the other colleges that old Wesleyan is to try the experiment for them but it is sad for those of us who love the associations of her old halls to feel that our Alma Mater must thus make a mistake for the good of her sisters. Understand me, then, if there were no other way to improve the educational advantages of women I should say amen; but, while there is, I must pray those in authority not to take from our boys their present college privileges and from their fathers their choicest memories.

A GRADUATE.

Chicopee, Oct. 12.

INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT PORTER.

The 11th of October was an unauspicious day, so far as the weather was concerned, for the inauguration of Noah Porter, LL.D. as President of Yale College.

The rain began to fall early in the morning, and ceased only for intervals through-out the day. Nevertheless, the exercises took place, a large delegation of Alumni and friends, and officers of other colleges being present. President Cummings and Professor Rice of Wesleyan, being among the latter number. The ceremonies were conducted in the Center church, near the colleges. The choir composed of college students, opened the programme with "Gloria in Excelsis Deo." Dr. Bacon followed with prayer, after which President Woolsey inducted the President elect, with an admirable address.

His opening remarks were, "I am happy that I can give thanks to God for his blessing upon this college and upon the administration of its affairs,