

The College Argus.

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All communications should be addressed to THE COLLEGE ARGUS, Middletown, Conn. No anonymous contributions will be received.

WITH this number the ARGUS comes into the hands of a new corps of editors; and, though some of us are unused to the *regime* of editorial work, we hope to make the ARGUS during the coming term fully equal to what it has been in the past; this without any disparagement to our worthy predecessors, to whom all honor. We must, however, beg our readers to remember that this is the winter term; a term for the ARGUS editor especially unproductive of material suitable for his purpose. We say unproductive, but it is so, simply by virtue of its productiveness in another direction; this is the term of solid work.

Now, when the holidays are fairly over; when the new year has commenced and the routine of recitations is once more going smoothly on with that regularity so appalling to the "shirk," members of all classes begin to realize that the die of their year's work is almost cast. The Senior now writes at the top of his letters to his "cousin" the mystic numbers, '79. How many times before, in his callow Freshman days, has he written them, "just to see how they will look." Now he writes them in earnest, and thinks,

with trepidation, perhaps, of the nearness of graduation. Truly, if he wins that coveted honor, takes that longed for prize, or perchance succeeds in graduating under the auspices of '79, he must brace up for the remainder of his probation.

The slowly ripening Junior awaits, with breathless expectation, his Junior Ex. appointment, and in his moments of despair his conscience tells him "You wrote not wisely nor too well." Those who are not aspirants for the honors of the *bema* are nevertheless learning that the lines—

"In Junior year we *take our ease*;

We smoke our pipes and sing our glees—"
are a vain delusion and a snare.

The Sophomore is now fully in the grip of his mathematical hydra, and, the novelty of insanely bellowing Fresh! having subsided, he is prepared to settle down to business. And the Freshman—what of him? Well, he is beginning to find that college life is not all one rosy dream, wherein professors and upper classmen doff their hats in acknowledgment of his genius, and lessons capitulate unconditionally to his soaring intellect. The sober reality of work has fully dawned upon him, just in proportion as his prospects of standing at the head of his class without much effort, have dimmed.

This propensity for work, while most laudable, materially diminishes the need for the supervision of the editorial eye. Readers remembering this may therefore attribute a certain per cent. of dryness, if such there should be, to circumstances, rather than to the much-abused editors.

With this number we wish our readers a Happy New Year. If yours is already a happy one, then for sympathy's sake, if for no other reason, ask yourself if your ARGUS *subscription* is paid; if it is, well and good; if not, then make the Business Manager's new year also a happy one, by remitting to him certain moneys. Though naturally of a jovial and happy disposition, we can see that the cares of his office are beginning to wear upon him. Remember, that he who removes a pebble from the road helps on humanity, and if that pebble is an ARGUS bill, don't let it lie.

The Olin essays are written—six of them—and safely deposited with the proper college officer. Now that the fret and worry of preparing them is over, and the writers can think calmly upon the matter, does it not seem that the present method of determining the contestants for the Rich prize is awkward and undesirable? Awkward on account of the needless coupling of the Olin and Rich prizes, by necessitating a trial for the first in order that one may contend for the second. A prize, we take it, is something given to the one excelling in a certain department; and it hardly seems fair, much less necessary or advisable, to oblige a person to contend for two prizes simply because he desires to try for one. The present method is undesirable because it does not foster the particular branches, for excellence in which the prizes are given, to so great a