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IN presenting to the students and friends of New York's oldest and foremost University, the first number of the COLUMBIA SPECTATOR, the editors beg to be excused from any formal salutatory or enumeration of the plans and intended attractions of the paper. The primary objects for which the latter was started have been set forth at length in the prospectus, and need not be reiterated here, while as to the success of the editors in attaining these objects, they are very willing to allow each number of the paper to speak for itself and to be judged on its own merits. The SPECTATOR seeks to be nothing more than an interesting and instructive University paper, more "newsy" and lighter in tone than the periodicals which have hitherto flourished so well at Columbia, and devoting more space and attention than these to the School of Mines, the Law School and the general college world. These distinguishing features can, of course, not appear very distinctly in the first number,—coming as it does at an inopportune season, and being intended principally as a general sample copy—they will, however, we hope, become sufficiently apparent in the coming year. Concerning other features and plans the editors wish only to promise that, on their part, neither labor nor pains will be spared to make the paper readable and worthy of the support of Columbia men,—they cannot, however, close without pointing out to the latter that this support is an indispensable condition for that success which the editors are so desirous of attaining.

THE support which we ask and expect is, of course, not only pecuniary in the form of subscriptions, but also literary, in the shape of frequent contributions to our columns. We do not, indeed, ask for extended prize essays or elaborate treatises. What we do desire, however, is letters on subjects of common university interest, light sketches of travel and adventure, poems, items of personal news, and anecdotes. All contributions of this kind will, if in any way serviceable, be heartily welcomed and gladly printed. The name of the writer should, however, always be made known to at least one of the editors—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. We can rarely notice anonymous contributions.

ANOTHER point which we may as well impress upon our readers at the outset is, that, under no circumstances will the SPECTATOR, directly or indirectly, serve as an organ or assistance to any party, faction or clique in what is usually called "class politics." The establishment of the paper was kept strictly aloof from all considerations of this kind, and its subsequent conduct shall be in the same tenor. Where questions arise, however, either out of the petty class-strifes or from other causes, which are of general importance to the College or the university, and on which there may be a difference of opinion among the students, the SPECTATOR will remain independent, but not neutral. The editors hope to have decided opinions on one side or the other of such questions, according to their individual sense of right, and they will certainly express their opinions without fear or favor, not hesitating, in any case, to call a spade a spade. We must apologize to our readers for dwelling at all on this point, but the state of things at Columbia is this day such, that it is of vital importance that the position of the new college paper should be distinctly understood. While, therefore, no special favors are asked, none will be given, and we hope that all parties, in and outside of college may look upon the SPECTATOR as neutral ground, above those unworthy contentions with which so many of our college classes are afflicted.

THE abolition of Class-day is a genuine "Reform." For years the Class-days at Columbia were very weakly supported, and sank into insignificance and ridicule when compared with similar exercises at Harvard or Yale. The fact is, Columbia has not the room for an