

LETTER

TO

*W. Eliot*  
THE PRESIDENT OF HARVARD COLLEGE.

BY

A MEMBER OF THE CORPORATION.

(S. H. C. 11)

etc.



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LETTER

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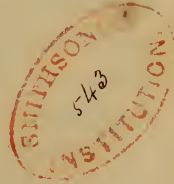
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A MEMBER OF THE CORPORATION. ✓

*Saml. A. Eliot.*



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## LETTER.

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TO JARED SPARKS, LL.D.,

PRESIDENT OF HARVARD COLLEGE.

SIR:

As you have recently been appointed to that distinguished and important office, which, during the whole history of Massachusetts, has been, not only one of the most honorable stations in the community, but one of those which it has always been most difficult to fill, the present moment seems a suitable one to address you on the nature of the position, and the present circumstances of the college. It is, no doubt, in consequence of the difficulty of finding a well-qualified incumbent, in consequence of the multiplied attainments, and the various and seemingly inconsistent powers which are requisite to perform the accumulated duties of the office, that it is esteemed so honorable to any man to attain it; and you must allow me to congratulate you that your merits have been so recognized by the appointing powers, and so cordially acknowledged by the public generally, as to secure to you this position, with such universal approbation. The talents of the wisest man, and the virtues of the best, find an ample field for exercise and cultivation in the office of President of Harvard College; and while he who

faithfully and discreetly performs its duties must be improving himself by laborious effort, he has the reward of knowing that he is contributing to the improvement of others, of many generations, by the good influence he exerts, by the beneficial changes he may introduce, and most of all, by the example he sets of unwearied exertion and generous self-sacrifice.

The President is the centre around which revolves the whole complicated machinery of the college, and he must direct his eye, in rapid succession, upon the system of instruction and discipline of undergraduates,—upon the management of the more advanced schools connected with the earlier institution,—upon the manner in which the various parts, under the direction of many different officers, are respectively conducted,—upon the general principles which are to regulate the whole, and bind all together in one system,—upon the appointments which are so often to be made, the selection of the best men that can be obtained, for a great variety of places,—upon the management of the external affairs of the college, its finances and resources, and its intercourse with the parents of the pupils,—upon its connection with the Commonwealth through the Corporation and Board of Overseers,—and last, not least, upon its relations to its numerous friends, alumni and patrons, who, without direct power over its action, exercise a magnetic influence upon its destiny, not the less efficient because it is invisible, and whose real and affectionate interest in the literary mother of so many illustrious sons, may be greatly augmented or diminished, both in activity and intensity, by the discretion or indiscretion, the

effort or the neglect of the President. For the best discharge of these duties it is sufficiently evident that he must bring to the place a large amount of scholarship, of thorough and extensive learning, a practical acquaintance with human nature, as it shows itself under every variety of age, development, and condition, a knowledge of what is somewhat technically called business, and an extensive familiarity with literary and scientific men and institutions; he must possess a sympathizing heart, that he may acquire the beneficent influence which that alone can give, and, at the same time, firmness, that he may administer a fatherly discipline, or resist projects of useless change; sagacity to discern motives, and charity to judge them; enterprise, to stimulate to improvement, and discretion, to prevent a waste of efforts; and to all these high qualities he must add the personal virtues of integrity, purity, and piety, for without these, he will most assuredly fail, though in all other requisites he were the foremost man of all the age.

As one of the alumni of Harvard, I rejoice most sincerely that, possessing, as you do, so many of the most important requisites for the place, you have been selected for it, and have devoted yourself to its high duties, and its noble incitements. But you are not to imagine that all the difficulties of the post have been pointed out in the preceding sentences. The qualities which have been enumerated are those which will be called forth in the practice of the daily routine of duties, under even the most favorable circumstances; while their very highest efforts will be necessary, to meet the occasional trials of controversy, and the more

constant effects of the ignorance and prejudice which pervade large classes of the community, in respect to the organization, the objects, and the resources of the college, and its effects upon society. It is perfectly astonishing to one who considers the matter, without going very deeply into the natural history of fault-finding, how long and how constantly the college, which was founded for great ends by our progenitors, and has always been an object, not merely of generosity, but of affection and pride, in the secret heart of the people, has yet been the visible subject of little but reproach and blame from every quarter. At one time it is accused of heresy, at another of treason; its organization is deemed the worst possible, its instruction is behind the demands of the age; sometimes too much, sometimes too little is taught; now, attention to purely collegiate studies, Latin, Greek, and metaphysics, supersedes the more important practical pursuits of the day; and now, the ancient classics, the fountains and sources of all real knowledge, are neglected for science falsely so called; and the resources of the college are wasted upon things that have nothing to do with education. But perhaps the most fruitful cause of complaint, is the discipline of the institution, which can, by no possibility, be made to conform to the heterogeneous opinions that are promulgated on every side. One man complains that there is no discipline at all, and that his son has been ruined by the neglect of the officers; another declares it is shamefully severe, and that the prospects of his son have been blighted by an extreme punishment for a venial offence.

These conflicting opinions, which are obviously not



so much the reflection of the real faults of the college, as the results of individual habits of thinking and feeling, are constantly poured into the ear of the President; and it is no small part of his business to justify the ways of the college to private complainants of all these various kinds. They are also frequently expressed in the most public manner, by all sorts of persons, the ignorant and the well-informed, those who are not acquainted with the history of the institution, and those who are;—sometimes by those who hold office under its organization, and sometimes by those who have had no connection with it.

I do not address you, however, to overwhelm you by the contemplation of the difficulties and trials which necessarily belong to the office of President, but to do something, if I can, to relieve you from any needless apprehension of reproach arising from accusations of the college, whether new or old, which however plausible they may appear at first view, are, in reality, unfounded and unjust.

The latest exhibition of this prevalent spirit is contained in the last number of the North American Review; in an article, the writer of which goes pretty deeply into the subject, shows a considerable acquaintance with the wrong side of the carpet, but cannot make out the figures which appear on the other, and who has apparently studied the history of the college to a considerable extent, not with any purpose of charitably hiding its faults, but with what he would consider, perhaps, as the still more charitable design of probing every wound, without much regard to the immediate sufferings of the patient. Before using the

knife, it will be well to ascertain if the supposed injuries are any thing more than imaginary discolorations of the surface, which cannot be even discerned in the clear light of truth and candor.

I believe that much of misapprehension, as to the proper character of the institution, has arisen from the names that have been given to it; and though there has been a good deal of discussion whether it should be called College or University, and the reviewer takes side strongly in favor of the former, yet it does not seem to have occurred to the parties, that neither term fitly describes the institution which was founded by "the Court" of Massachusetts, and the Rev. John Harvard, if the meaning be understood to be that attached to the words in Europe. In England, a college is usually a rich establishment, founded very much like the still more ancient monasteries, upon independent resources sufficient to erect and maintain all the necessary buildings, chapel, cloisters, library, refectory, &c., to furnish the support and compensation of all the officers, and instructors, and commonly, also, of a large portion, if not of the whole of the students. Sometimes, too, fellowships, as they are called, are provided for the entire support of graduates who intend to devote themselves, in celibacy, to the pursuit of particular studies. If this be compared with our establishment, there will be found a difference, not merely in degree, of wealth, or learning, or talent, but in kind, which cannot be reconciled till sufficient funds are provided for the erection and maintenance of all necessary buildings and apparatus, the support of all officers, and of a portion, at least, of the students. The important

bearing of this difference upon the course of instruction and discipline which is possible in the one institution and impossible in the other, will not be overlooked by any one who gives the slightest attention to the subject; and doubtless much of the complaining of the want of discipline and steadiness of system of instruction at our Cambridge arises from its having been always called "a college," which is supposed to be capable of carrying on both instruction and discipline, with a firm and independent hand. This has never been possible with us, because the whole establishment was originally, and four-fifths of it continue still to be absolutely dependent upon the students who frequent it. Those who pay for an article are apt to have some influence upon those who sell it, in all countries, but far more in this than in any other.

On the continent of Europe, "a college" approaches nearer in signification to what we mean by a high school, than to the English meaning of the word; while by a derivative use in the German universities, *collegium* means a private course of lectures, for which a fee is paid to the professor who gives them. Of course, little resemblance can be traced between these uses of the term and ours. Still smaller is the resemblance between the European meaning of the word university, and our application of it. In England, a university is a collection of colleges, associated together by the heads of each, for certain purposes. On the continent, it includes a considerable variety of institutions for education, but is most generally understood as the proper title of the great German schools for professional and advanced instruction of all kinds, where

nothing is furnished to the student but courses of lectures ; where the professors are maintained in part by government, who alone appoints them, and in part by fees ; where the student may attend what lectures he pleases, and may often select his instructor from among a half dozen on the same subject, according to the price, and the estimate he puts upon the respective value of each course ; and where the discipline is little else than that of the city or town police.

It is manifest that our Harvard has so little resemblance to either kind of institution, as known in Europe, that it is not of the smallest consequence whether it is called one, or the other, or either indiscriminately, notwithstanding the unfortunate allusion of the reviewer to the *alias* of a criminal in a court of justice. It is certain that Harvard College, *or* the University at Cambridge has been, through all its past history, continues to be at the present moment, and is likely to be forever hereafter, a peculiar institution, — a New England institution, honorably unlike any of those after which it has been named, and distinguished more for its struggles to live and labor, than for the abundance of its resources ; for its constant endeavor to adapt itself to the wants of the community in which it exists, than for its power over systems of education, or systems of discipline ; for its practical influence upon the leading minds of the country, than for the splendor of its appointments, or the dignity of its offices. John Harvard is said to have founded a college ; but what a difference between the extent of the edifice of which he laid the second stone, and those “twins of learning” established by a man of unmeasured wealth,

power, and worldly ambition, a century before! The difference between the palace of Hampton Court, the Cardinal's own residence, and Harvard's humble dwelling at Charlestown, is not more striking, nor more instructive.

Harvard College, like most other American colleges, has always been, and is still, *poor* in physical resources. What! I hear some one exclaim, with an abundance of New England notions of thrift and wealth in his head, Harvard College poor! when it has been receiving such immense donations from the government of the state, and from rich individuals, for two hundred years and more; when it is by far the richest college in the country, and actually possesses more than \$750,000, besides all the college grounds, and buildings, and books! Yes, I say again,—and I wish to impress the true meaning of the word, and the true causes of the fact, if I can, upon the mind of every reader,—Harvard College is very poor; and is compelled to be a beggar for those necessaries of life, which, if it had been rich, would have been furnished long ago. I will begin my explanation of the relative terms, poor college, and rich college, by stating what is necessary to constitute the latter, in my judgment.

A rich college is one which has funds, well and permanently invested, sufficient to erect upon its own ground, and keep in repair, all desirable buildings, including chapel, library, lecture-rooms, dwellings for the officers and students, dining-halls, cabinet-rooms, and all other proper structures whatsoever; to support and compensate the instructors, and all officers from the highest to the lowest; to support and instruct all

the students ; to furnish all necessary apparatus of instruments, collections and books ; and finally to be able to procure some appropriate luxuries, such as costly and showy books, coins, medals, &c., and such suitable pictures, sculpture, and exterior architectural decorations, as may add to the charm of collegiate life, and to the affection with which a generous mother should and must inspire a generous child.

Magnificent as all this may sound, it is no more than is actually accomplished elsewhere ; it is not more than is effected at West Point ; it is no more than was designed by Stephen Girard for his college ; and it is no more than can be done at any moment for Harvard College, whenever the legislature, or a few scores of wealthy individuals, shall will it. Compare the condition of an institution like the one described, with that of our college, and I think that pauperism and beggary will be acknowledged to be not inappropriate words for its state. About one half of the salaries of the professors in the academic department are paid for by independent funds, and the other half, together with the compensation of all the other officers of the same department, the president, tutors, librarians, proctors, and of all of the servants, janitors, sweepers, and as many as there be, are left unprovided for ; the buildings have been begged, one by one, of the legislature, and no funds exist wherewith to repair them ; books are wanted for the library, but no funds, or next to none, exist to buy them ; collections are wanted, but cannot be obtained ; instruments, but they are again the objects of solicitation. All these things must be charged upon the students, if procured, and the stu-

dents cannot pay for them ; and consequently much that is really necessary in the college is wanting, and things are done, not as they should be, but as they can be ; and while the nurse is famishing for want of sufficient food, the nursling is compelled to pay for an inadequate supply of his mother's milk.

How does this correspond, it may be asked, with the praises which are lavished upon the benefactors of Harvard College, with the eulogies which are constantly passed upon the bounty even of our enterprising forefathers, and the generosity of our richer contemporaries ? If they have been so liberal to the college for two hundred years and upwards, how can it be that the school is still so poor ? The explanation is easy. The state and individuals have, at all times, made donations, which, in respect to their means, were truly generous and noble, but which, considered in reference to their objects, were insufficient and scanty. The views of the public as to the liberality of donations, have naturally been more directed to the extent of the resources from which they were drawn, than to the magnitude of the object to which they were to be devoted ; and it must be remembered that what is great, when regarded from the one point, may be very diminutive when viewed from the other. It is a very liberal act, one deserving of all commendation, for a few individuals to give \$20,000 for the increase of the library of the college ; but a fund of twenty times that amount, like that given to the city of New York, by Mr. Astor, is what is truly needed to meet the exigencies of the department ; to furnish the books that are constantly asked for in vain, to provide for their preserva-

tion, to pay the necessary officers, and to erect and repair the building designed for them. Who can wonder, then, and who can reasonably find fault with the managers of the college, if, even after what are called, and justly called, most liberal donations, they still complain of poverty? They are poor, and they will continue to be poor, until the public shall have so far enlarged their ideas of the nature and design of a college, as to supply, in a permanent manner, all those wants, which are permanent in their nature; and shall relieve the friends of the school from the necessity of begging, alike for new wants and old wants, for needs which are perpetually recurring, and for those which spring up with the new circumstances which rise so fast around us.

It is quite natural and excusable in a person not educated at college himself, and not familiar with institutions for collegiate and professional education, that there should be something more than wonder in his mind at the apparent inconsistency above alluded to. But it is a little different with one who is acquainted with the numerous and vast unsupplied wants of Harvard College, and yet complains of her perpetual asking for aid. He who knows what such an institution should be, and what our college is, if he be a true friend of education, should join in these supplications, should support them with his sympathy and effort, and find no fault that is not thrust upon his notice by its enormity. Whatever is venial he should forgive, what is inexcusable, he should lament and palliate. The only chance for filling up the deficiencies which exist must be derived from the favor of the public; and that favor is scarcely likely to be secured, if her professed



friends can see, or can point out, nothing but errors in her whole history, nothing but blunders in her present condition.

There is quite a long catalogue of the supposed mistakes of successive ages contained in the article in question ; and I propose to examine them all, and ascertain whether the writer is justifiable in his accusations, or whether he has committed an error as great as those which he charges upon others, in making prominent ill-founded complaints.

It is something new in the history of the misdeeds of the college, that it should be charged with receiving too much, or rather too many donations. In the universal dearth of means, it was certainly natural, and, it would seem, not very blamable, that it should receive with thankfulness whatever either government, or liberally-disposed individuals might see fit to give, which would aid, directly or indirectly, in the progress of education. The college was not limited, in its original purpose, or its early practice, to the narrow sphere which the reviewer seems to think is the only one in which it should attempt to move. Preparatory education was not all that it was designed to give, nor all that it did give, from the earliest moment of its existence. The training of pastors for the churches was part of its original object, and the labors of its early presidents were largely bestowed on this professional education ; and scarcely a donation was made to the college in which the preparation of youth for the ministry of the Gospel is not alluded to, or directly mentioned. The conversion of the Indians was one of the objects sought for in the devotion of so large a propor-

tion of the young men at Cambridge to the sacred profession. It had always been an object deeply seated in the hearts of our fathers, stern and cold as they are thought to have been, and one greatly in favor with sympathizing friends of theirs in England. It was an enterprise generously patronized by the most enlightened, as well as humane men, at successive periods, who thought the college a proper recipient of their bounty, and well able to look after its management. The Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, erected a building for the especial purpose of having the Indian youth educated at Cambridge, by the officers of the college. The Hon. Robert Boyle gave a considerable annuity for the sole purpose of employing two missionaries for the conversion of the Indians, the disbursing of which was entrusted to the college; and finally the Rev. Daniel Williams gave a still larger annuity for the same purpose. Some fragments and gleanings of this latter gift are all that remain, the payment of the annuities having been discontinued at our Revolution; and the reviewer can find nothing to say of this pleasant memorial of the real kindness of our fathers, this evidence how much their hearts, and the hearts of their wealthy friends "at home," had been touched by the saint-like labors of Eliot, and by the just sentiment of a heavy debt due from the white man to the red man, except that "it is now a draft upon their [the Corporation's] time and care, it encumbers their treasurer's books, and does not in any way promote the growth of liberal studies at Cambridge." He says he presumes "the Corporation would gladly resign this

trust fund to any person or institution who could legally take charge of it;" and without doubt he would think it better if it had never been accepted, as it is the first of the instances he mentions in which money was bequeathed to the college "for certain purposes that had little fellowship with its original design."

It appears that in this case the fellowship was close and intimate; and not only so, but that the money was bequeathed for one of the noblest purposes, and from the noblest motives, which could actuate a just and generous heart. He who does what he can to discharge the debt of one race of men to another, he who shows the power of generous sentiments by action, and thus does something to counterbalance the heavy load of selfishness and injustice, the conviction of which ought to press upon the conscience of every American who has read the story of the Indians, is not a man whose gifts are to be set aside, in any age, as an incumbrance and a burden; and what shame would have fallen upon our fathers, if they had so much as thought of declining to be the almoners of such a bounty; and what expression of disapprobation would be too strong, if the Corporation should now give up the care of so precious a memorial of the character of our predecessors, because "it is a draft upon their time and care, and encumbers their Treasurer's books." Perhaps once in twenty or thirty years some new project is started with regard to the distribution of the income, which may require a few hours consideration; and it probably takes a half an hour in a twelvemonth for the Treasurer to collect and pay over the proceeds,

and keep the account. When the last Indian shall have disappeared, and the appropriation of the fund to its original purpose shall have become impossible, the legislature will have the power and the right to say what shall be done with it; and though it will be difficult to point out any thing which has more fellowship with the original design of the college, yet no doubt something exceedingly useful and desirable may be effected by it, which shall "promote the growth of liberal studies at Cambridge."

Mrs. Winslow's donation, for the immediate benefit of the town of Tyngsborough, is another of those instances in which the reviewer can see little fellowship with the original design of the college; although it might, possibly, have occurred to him that it was not altogether unbecoming in those who were engaged in providing for the preparatory education of the young, to assist in the still more elementary instruction of others, who might thus be led to enter their own school; nor for those whose duty it is, and always has been, to send forth pastors and teachers, to feel an interest in the support of one of them who might go from their own halls. The reversion to the college, in case of a violation of any of the conditions of the donation, is not so remote a contingency as to add nothing to the value of the college property. Such have been the changes in the state of things in the town, since this donation was made, that it has already been suggested by some of those most interested, that it would be better to suffer the money to revert to the college; and it is certainly extremely probable that at no distant day this will be done. Such a contingency not

only justified the Corporation at the time in accepting the trust, but would have been a strong ground of complaint if they had refused. If "old Harvard is none the richer for these funds," the refusal to accept the charge of them would have made her much poorer, — poorer in that sympathy which she needs herself, and which she should, therefore, show to others ; — poorer in those right feelings which are the best wealth of an institution, as well as of an individual, professing to have a character at all ; and poorer in that extension of views with which the guardians of a permanent institution ought always to reach forward to the future.

These are admitted by the reviewer to be "extreme cases," and it may well be considered a fortunate, and even flattering, circumstance that so careful an investigator could point out nothing worse than these, in the long and curious list of very miscellaneous legacies and donations which have been received by the college during its term of two hundred years of corporate life.

But though these are the worst, they are far enough from being the only errors of management which have been exhibited in the history of the college, in the opinion of the reviewer. All the schools which in the course of time, and the progress of events, have been gathered around it, and placed under the general supervision of the same managers, with the aid of particular officers devoted to each, are greatly injurious, in his judgment. He says Harvard College "is now in a fair way of being smothered under a heap of other institutions, *which have as much to do with the original purpose for which it was founded as with cotton-spinning.*"

It is not that the respective objects of these institutions are mean, unworthy, or of little account. Far from it; most of them are of that high and liberal character which challenges the admiration and support of every well-informed lover of his race, every well-wisher to the highest interests of mankind. But they absorb the time and energy of the governors of the college; they give it a deceptive appearance of wealth, when in truth they only make it poorer; they divert the attention and generosity of the community, which would otherwise be all turned towards the fostering of proper academic studies at Harvard; they borrow its money; they multiply inordinately its occasions for appealing to public munificence, so that the college appears like a horse-leech, whose cry is constantly, 'Give! Give!' they become formidable rivals to those exclusively intellectual pursuits, to that love of letters and sound scholarship, to that general and liberal culture, which should be the peculiar aim of a life at college; and though often seemingly successful at the outset, they subsequently become in many cases a dead weight and an incumbrance, injuring the good name of the college, and lessening its means of usefulness. Let them be confined to their proper place; let each be established on its own independent footing; let not Harvard College be expected to furnish all the machinery, all the management, all the funds, for the cultivation of every science, and for the promotion of every enterprise, be it of an intellectual, a philanthropic, or an industrial character."

This skilfully-constructed paragraph, which it almost takes away one's breath to read, substantially develops

the theory of the reviewer, respecting its true, and what he considers its original purpose ; and shows the faults he thinks to have been committed, as well by those who have endowed the college, as by those who have consented that it should be so endowed. Its admissions are important, and its rhetorical embellishments are such, that in order not to be misled by them, one must have either remarkable coolness, or a little antagonistic warmth. If all the inferences of the reviewer were just, it does not seem that any monstrous evil would have been produced ; but as the greater part of the whole statement is a mere *dictum* of the writer, it would seem that a general negation was a sufficient answer. To most of the assertions of seeming weight in those sentences, it would be perfectly safe to say to the writer in reply, “ you are mistaken ; it is not so ; ” — while others might be partly admitted, as containing a portion of truth, but no manner of harm, even if they were wholly true. But it is not by specific contradictions of particular assertions that the facts in the case can best be explained, and the reasons for the general course of the college can be exhibited. This must be effected by taking a little wider view than the reviewer has done, both of the original purpose of the college, and of those circumstances out of which its present condition has gradually, honorably, and wisely been produced.

The establishment of the college was proposed for the twofold purpose of keeping up an acquaintance in the children with all that knowledge which so many well-educated men brought with them from England, and of perpetuating a supply of learned ministers for

the pulpits of New England. The often-repeated declarations of the founders and early benefactors of the college prove this design so unequivocally, and it is so universally understood and admitted, that it is a cause of no small surprise to see so able a scholar as the reviewer insisting that "Harvard College was instituted for the promotion of *liberal* studies, and for nearly two centuries it was exclusively (!) devoted to this end." The professional tendency and character of the earliest studies in the college is manifest from the records, imperfect as they are, of the prescribed course, in which the acquisition of Hebrew, translation from Hebrew into Greek, lectures on the Scriptures by the President, &c., are prominent; while the result is shown by the fact that, for a long period, the proportion of the graduates who devoted themselves in after life to the ministry of the Gospel was not less than one-third of the whole number. It is scarcely probable that they received the whole of their theological education during the four years of their collegiate life; but it is certain that the foundation of it was carefully laid, and that it was intended to be laid, by "the Court" of teaching and ruling elders who made the first donation, by the *Reverend* John Harvard, who gave the first legacy to the infant seminary, and by the very numerous contributors of sums for the aid of those who were quaintly called "poor scholars," especially of those who devoted themselves to the ministry of the Gospel. So far from the fact is the assertion that for nearly two centuries Harvard College was exclusively devoted to the promotion of what may properly be called liberal studies, that it would be much nearer the truth



to call it an almost professional school at the outset, and that it has been more and more devoted to liberal studies, as it has advanced in years and discretion.

The two mottoes of the college seal, though objectionable if considered as indicating the whole design of the institution, yet show distinctly and strongly the tendency of the age to give it a professional character. "In Christi Gloriam" was the first; and the other, which is now in use, is "Christo et Ecclesiæ." It is to be regretted that such strictly-professional mottoes should have been adopted, and retained so long; but the inference from this single fact would be strong, that the college was not exclusively devoted to "that general and liberal culture," which the reviewer says, "should be the peculiar aim of a life at college."

In less than a century from the establishment of the college, it was endowed with a theological professorship by a generous and truly liberal man, who belonged to the denomination of Baptists. This professorship has been a sore subject to the college, to its friends and its foes, from the hour it was first given till now. It has scarcely ever ceased to be the subject, or the occasion, of difficulty and complaint. But what was the objection to it which was made when Hollis proposed to found it? Was it that it could not be well mingled with those liberal studies, those "*litteræ humaniores*" to which the college had been thus far "exclusively devoted?" Was it that the college was "originally designed" for the cultivation of "classical learning, old-fashioned scholarship, literary pursuits, and the moral sciences," for the extension of which the reviewer thinks that "colleges and universities were instituted?"

Not a whisper of all this. Our fathers did not so understand the "original purpose" of the college, and they would have received such a foundation with unbounded gratitude from a benefactor, who, as Dr. Colman expressed it, "had been one in opinion and practice" with them. But the difficulty was, Hollis was a Baptist, and wished that a candidate might not be excluded from his chair merely because he was a Baptist. There was a horror of Baptists even when they made presents of professorships; and Judge Sewall refused to take "any bribe to give his sentence in disparagement of infant baptism." There have been other contests about this professorship in after times, but never till now was it made matter of reproach to the college that it accepted a donation for a professional purpose. A few years later the foundation of a professorship of mathematics was laid by the same generous spirit; and it is an apt illustration of the course which was taken by the college, its patrons as well as its governors, that provision should be made *first* for the supply of the churches with able teachers, and *afterwards* for the cultivation of "those exclusively intellectual pursuits," which should be the peculiar aim of a life at college."

Five years after the foundation of a professorship of mathematics, two donations were made to the college for the purpose of establishing a professorship of law; and the corporation of that day, little imagining that they were beginning to attend to things "which had as much to do with the original purpose of the college as with cotton-spinning," accepted them; and though one was lost early, the other continues to this day, and now forms a part of one of those institutions which "absorb

the time and energy of the governors of the college." Forty years later a third profession was introduced into the college, by a donation for the purpose of giving medical instruction, and our fathers, still blind to the future, thought they were accepting a real benefaction, and were grateful for it, and for the additions subsequently made to it, by which it was rendered more available.

All these donations, for the three subjects of professional, as distinguished from academical education, generous when considered in regard to the sources whence they emanated, were but small for the objects to be attained. They were insufficient for the maintenance of a professor in either department, and though a professor of theology was immediately appointed, his salary was eked out by fees from the students, and by contributions from the legislature; and it was long before any one was appointed to give either medical or legal instruction, to those in any manner connected with the college.

Suppose, now, for a moment, if it be possible, that our ancestors had taken the view of things presented by the writer in the North American, and that they had said to Hollis, and Royall, and Hersey, successively, "We will not receive your donations, for though they are for objects of that high and liberal character which challenges the admiration and support of every well-informed lover of his race, and every well-wisher to the highest interests of mankind, yet they will absorb our time and energy, give the college a deceptive appearance of wealth, when in truth they will only make it poorer, divert the attention and generosity of the com-

munity from fostering proper academic studies ; and become formidable rivals to exclusively intellectual pursuits, and that love of letters, and general and liberal culture, which should be the peculiar aim of a college life. No, if you want professional schools, let each be established on its own independent footing ; let not Harvard College be expected to furnish all the machinery, all the management, and all the funds for the cultivation of every science, and the promotion of every enterprise."

It is very difficult to carry one's imagination so far as to think of men having charge of an institution for education in this community, eager as it always has been to seize every, the smallest, opportunity for improvement, pursuing such a course as this. It is impossible to believe, or to imagine, that such a course would have been sanctioned, or tolerated for a moment by the public. The members of the Corporation who should at any period have adopted it, would, probably, have been very speedily, unceremoniously, and certainly very justly, removed from seats they were incompetent to fill. Yet it is precisely the course which, if he would be consistent, the reviewer must have recommended. If institutions for professional education ought not to be gathered around the college, still less ought professional instruction to be given in the four short years which are devoted to the "*litteræ humaniores*." It would then, of course, interfere in a much greater degree with the proper preparatory studies of undergraduates ; and if our predecessors committed any oversight in the matter, it may have been that they did not discriminate with sufficient distinctness, when

and how this professional education should be given. But even this is not lightly to be brought against them. They may have supposed that it would be easy to arrange matters with regard to the other professions, in the same manner as had always been done in theology; and that resident graduates would pursue, under the direction of the professors, the studies on the rudiments of which they had entered while in college. They certainly ought not to be blamed for not having foreseen the changes which have taken place in the circumstances of the country so fast that we, who have seen them, can hardly believe them. It is no matter of reproach to them that they did not anticipate the time when many, besides graduates of colleges, would pursue professional studies, and, notwithstanding the deficiency of their early education, would make themselves respectable and respected in their professional career throughout the country. Nor should it be a matter of reproach to those governors of the college who, in a later day, were enabled, by the assistance and countenance of its best and wisest friends, to detach, in some degree, those professorships which were not useful to under-graduates, but which were more particularly adapted to professional education, and thus to leave the course of studies which truly belong to an academic department, freed from the embarrassment of inappropriate labor, and in possession of the entire period of four years, short enough at the best, to be devoted to its proper pursuit.

At successive periods, by the strenuous exertions, not merely of the Corporation, but of bountiful benefactors, of professors and lecturers in the college, and

in short of all its friends, this separation into schools and departments has been effected;—and the additional professorships founded in each by alumni, or by uneducated, but true, friends of education, have put the seal of general approbation upon the movement. In one case the professors urged upon the Corporation the establishment of a medical school, and after long and anxious consideration, the thing was done; and it would be fair and modest to presume, even if we did not know, that it was done for sufficient reasons by the wise and good men who took part in the transaction; and it has certainly been attended by the most useful and successful results, which could have been attained in no other way. In another case, a theological school was established by those who agreed in opinion with the governors and professors of the college, and it was thought judicious, by all parties, that the means of theological instruction at Cambridge, comprising the library, two professorships, and one lectureship, should be combined with other resources, and formed into a school, without withdrawing any thing from the elementary instruction of undergraduates which the professors had heretofore given. If such a school were wanted at all, (and who should decide this against the judgment of the numerous contributors, who probably knew the wants of a community of which they formed so considerable a part,) would it have been wise in them to pass by, and overlook, the advantages actually existing at Cambridge, and doing much less good than they might do, merely for want of opportunity, and attempt to build up an institution elsewhere, and repeat the same necessary

foundations at new cost, while those at Cambridge would be lying unused? Or would it have been reasonable for the Corporation to have refused permission to their professors to exercise their talents, and communicate their learning, in a new school, under their own control, where they could be made far more useful than they could possibly be to undergraduates? Certainly not for the reason given by the reviewer, that the new institution would absorb their time and labor, whatever other grounds may exist, in the minds of some persons, for doubt upon the expediency of the establishment.

In a third case a professorship was founded and given to the college, by an alumnus not altogether undistinguished for ability and judgment, for the express purpose of securing the services of one who was enough, of himself, to teach a whole school; a man whose renown was coextensive with civilization, and the declining of whose services for any such reasons as are suggested by the reviewer, would have been the signal for such a shout of ridicule from the whole cultivated and educated world, as no "seven mortal men" had ever before excited, or could support for a moment. Imagine the Corporation saying to Mr. Dane, "No, sir, we cannot accept your donation, nor Judge Story's services. Colleges and universities were instituted more particularly for the prosecution of those 'liberal studies,' as they are termed, of which law forms no part. If we maintain a law school at Cambridge, our time and labor will be absorbed by it; it will give us a deceptive appearance of wealth; it will become a formidable rival of that school of the prophets which has

heretofore monopolized our care and attention, and we must beg you to establish your proposed school on an independent footing. Harvard College must not be expected to furnish all the machinery, all the management, all the funds, for the cultivation of every science, and for the promotion of every enterprise." It may safely be said that, however great have been their errors, the Corporation never committed quite so absurd a blunder as this would have been.

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 The case of the Scientific School is, if that be possible, still clearer. There was a general state of effervescence and impatience in the public mind, upon the neglect of science in this country, and particularly in this part of it, where the need of it was, perhaps, most strongly felt. The reading man in his closet, the merchant on the exchange, the mariner on the ocean, the manufacturer pondering upon new patterns, the artisan at work upon unyielding substances, and guided by mysterious mechanical powers, all sympathized with the professor in his chair, in the wish that a school might be established, where chemistry, physics, engineering, mechanics, and astronomy, might be thoroughly and practically taught. By a spontaneous and irresistible impulse of the community,\* a large sum was raised for the truly noble purpose of cultivating astronomical science; and by the unhesitating decision of every one interested in the matter, Cambridge was the place for the purpose, and the Corporation was the body to take charge

\* The reviewer says a considerable sum "was subscribed, *after urgent solicitation*, by the merchant princes of Boston and its vicinity." On the other hand, if an experienced solicitor may be allowed to testify, never was less urgency requisite. The whole sum asked for was obtained, in two or three weeks, with a facility which showed the entire preparation of men's minds for the work.



of the undertaking. No questions were asked about it; no other place or management ever occurred to anybody; and it would be difficult now to say where the apparatus could be more appropriately bestowed. Several of the professors, whose time was not wholly engrossed by their collegiate duties, had long been desirous of seeing a school of science established; and the Corporation, hearing the loud call from every quarter, and sensible of its singular adaptation to the wants of the time and the country, were willing to undertake their share of the enterprise, which was at once of “an intellectual, a philanthropic, and an industrial character,” and which did not seem to them at all unsuited, on that account, to their position, or to the purpose for which the college was originally established. The moment the project was suggested to the Hon. Abbott Lawrence, his judgment approved it, his knowledge of the state of the country led him to a perception of its almost immeasurable utility, and his generosity of spirit rendered its establishment certain. This school, at least, may be justly characterized, in the language of the reviewer, as one “which challenges the admiration and support of every well-informed lover of his race, every well-wisher to the highest interests of mankind.” If he quarrel with it because it is connected with the college, and placed under the care of the Corporation, he must quarrel with the professors who so strongly recommended action in the premises to the Corporation, and considered it a duty of the college to take the lead in establishing it; — with that large portion of the public who procured scientific instruments, and required them to be placed at Cambridge; — with

the profound scholars and enlightened statesmen, not intimately connected with the college, who coöperated in its foundation, and rejoiced in its prospects ; — with the singularly munificent benefactors, living and dead, who have testified to their sense of its importance, and the propriety of its position, by giving to the college the means of its support. When he has discomfited all these allies, it will be time for the Corporation to attempt to justify themselves for having undertaken the care of an institution “*which has as much to do with the original purpose for which the college was founded as with cotton-spinning.*” They are not so coldly insensible to the spirit of the age, and of the community in which they live, as to reject the offer of the means of intellectual progress, merely because it is by another path than that of “classical learning, old-fashioned scholarship, and literary pursuits.” Aware of the benefit of even the reflected light of science to the institution to which they are ardently attached, they could never refuse a gift which would add lustre to its name, give a new stimulus and new knowledge to its students, and penetrate the whole atmosphere of the college with the rising brightness of another dawn.

It thus appears, from recurring to a few well-known facts in the history of the college, that these obnoxious institutions have been gathered around it in such a manner that the annexation of not one of them could have been prevented ; even if the reviewer himself could have lifted up his warning voice a century and a half ago, and advised the Corporation to beware of encumbering themselves with donations for the conversion of Indians, to hold back from the treacherous gifts

of Baptists, and lawyers, and doctors, and even from those of a growing and improving public. It is nobody's fault that they are there; but it has generally been considered heretofore that it was a great merit of somebody; and it remains to be seen whether they have been productive of the various evils which the reviewer has ascribed to them.

“They absorb the time and energy of the governors of the college,” he exclaims. If by absorb, he means that they take up all the time of the governors which is given to the entire establishment, there is no need of contradicting such an extravagant assertion. If the more moderate accusation is meant that they consume the larger part of that time, or even the still more plausible charge that an undue proportion of it is given to these, to the neglect or injury of any of the interests of the college proper, the assertion is equally, though not so obviously, groundless. It might be reasonably conjectured, without positive knowledge, that a branch of the institution, which, like the academic department, comprises half the students and instructors, and more than half the funds, would share in due proportion, at least, in the attention of those who are appointed to superintend the interests of each. But, in fact, such is the nature of that department, the pupils require so much more care, the branches of instruction differ from each other so much, the arrangements of study, discipline and accommodation, are so intricate, there is so much greater responsibility to parents and friends, and the public generally take so much more interest in the progress and well-being of those blooming youth than of maturer persons, that it would be perfectly safe

to say that nine-tenths of all the time given to the college by the Corporation are *absorbed* by that department. The other branches of the institution, from the riper age of the pupils, and the peculiar character of the instruction given to them, are much better able to take care of themselves ; the appointments to office in them, one great absorbent of the time of the Corporation, are far less frequent ; and the feeling of that body towards the part of the institution which requires and receives so much the largest proportion of their thoughts, is necessarily one of stronger interest. If any danger were to occur to it, threatening its extinction or serious decay, the most strenuous efforts of the Corporation would be required by the public, and nothing short of a truly *absorbing* devotion of their time and labor would satisfy either themselves or the community. But, with regard to the other departments, though their responsibility may be as immediate, their interest can scarcely be so deep as in the original, the primary school. The mere fact that the management of the advanced schools is necessarily more given up to the faculty of each than that of the academic department can be, accounts for a different feeling with respect to them ; and no reviewer, nor any one else, need apprehend a diminution of the intense filial regard which is and must be felt for his Alma Mater, by every member of the Corporation, whether he passed through one of the professional schools or not. The only danger which can arise on this point, is from a source to which the reviewer does not allude, namely : placing in the Corporation those who are not alumni.

But let us proceed with the list of evils arising from

the excrescences which have gathered around the college. "They give it a deceptive appearance of wealth, when in truth they only make it poorer." If a man be so careless as to look only at the schedule of property, amounting to some \$750,000, and suppose that all of it belongs to the academic department, one would think it hardly fair to consider his dulness the fault of the professional schools; and if he were to mistake the sum above-named for wealth, even if it did all belong to the academic department, he must be one whom it would be more difficult than useful to enlighten. But the reviewer has mistaken the cause of the deceptive appearance of wealth in the college. It is not because other institutions have been connected with it that it is comparatively poor, but because the professorships which have been established *in it*, have been built upon very insufficient foundations; and each one has required an increased assessment on the students, in order to give a salary for which the appropriated funds were inadequate. In former times, the legislature used to do this, from the resources of the state, but in later days the Corporation have been obliged to raise the tax on the students, to comply with the conditions of a donation. This is indeed giving "a deceptive appearance of wealth," — to receive a donation, appoint a professor, and then tax the students more heavily. If the Corporation were to adopt a rule to the effect that they would never again appoint a professor till the funds provided were sufficient for his support, they would take the first step to correct this evil, which has grown up entirely within the academic department, and has nothing whatever to do with the multiplication of exterior schools.

“They divert the attention and generosity of the community, which would otherwise all be turned towards the fostering of proper academic studies at Harvard.” It may not be impertinent to ask how the reviewer knows that. It is by no means a self-evident proposition. It does not follow that, because a man has founded a professorship in one of the advanced schools, he would have given his money to the college, for some academic purpose, if the professional institution had not caught his eye. Nathan Dane founded a professorship in the law school, and selected the first incumbent. The choice of Judge Story was a great part of his motive for doing the thing at all; and there is not the slightest ground for belief that he would have given any sum to the college, for any purpose but precisely that which he selected. The more natural inference, therefore, from what has been done for the professional schools, is that they have afforded an opportunity to meet the particular views and wishes of different individuals; and that all which has been bestowed on them is just so much gained for the general cause of education among us. Look, too, at what has been done for the academic department within the last thirty years, which the reviewer marks as the period of peculiar degeneracy. Is there any evidence that the generosity of the community has been diverted? Quite the reverse. Amid a large amount of donations to the professional schools, the following have been received for the older branch of the college. Three professorships have been founded, the Perkins, the Fisher, and the McLean; the library has been more than doubled,

and the department of books on America, in which it is now far richer than any other library in this country, has been created; the collection of minerals has been vastly increased; the hall for the library has been erected; several sums have been given for the personal aid of the students, and fifty thousand dollars have been given for the education of youth of remarkable talent. If this be neglect, what would be encouragement? No, it is delightful to witness this spirit of growth on every side; to observe that while new opportunities for progress are developed, the earliest and most important are not forgotten; and it gives the very best promise of a sure and steady advance to see that the chain of communication is kept up by the public, from the primary school for the child of three years old, to the professional school which sends forth the young man prepared for the labors and struggles of life.

But the reviewer goes on, "they borrow its money," — and if they repay it again with interest, what better investment can there be for the college? The uses of that money are "twice blest." It helps both those who lend, and those who pay. It enriches two fields of instruction at once, and does, at least, twice as much good as any other money the college possesses. But, of course, there is danger that a professional school, like any other debtor, may not repay what it has borrowed; and it may be useful to inquire what is the probability that the money advanced by the college will not be restored, in either of the two instances, in which only an advance has been made. About \$14,000 were lent to the medical department, two years ago, to complete the erection of the new

building, for which the professors gave a guarantee that the interest should be regularly paid, and a portion of the principal, small at first, but afterwards to be increased, should be returned annually. As every one of the professors of that department has signed the guarantee, and the Corporation, who advanced the money, has the power of nomination of those officers, and may make the signing of the bond a condition of appointment, it would seem that this investment was tolerably safe.

The only other case\* in which college funds have been used for aiding any thing but the academical department, is that of the observatory, as a part of the Scientific School. It was impossible that advances should be so well secured here, as in the other instance; but the action of the Corporation has been by no means so reckless as the reviewer seems to think. No one among us imagined, when the project of an observatory was first started, that it would prove nearly so expensive as it has done. Sufficient allowance was not made for the cost of the instruments, by several thousand dollars, though a much closer estimate might have been made of them than was possible of any other part of the establishment. But the cost of some of the piers, of the dome, of the observer's chair, of the stones of peculiar form required to support the instruments upon the piers, and various indispensable parts of the nice apparatus of an observatory, could not be estimated at all. Whatever could be contracted for, viz. : the house, the tower, and the great pier, upon

\* The \$1600 to the debit of the Scientific School in the Treasurer's last statement are provided for.



estimates made by competent mechanics, were built within such reasonable limits as had been anticipated; and which, though considerably exceeding the amount subscribed, were not so extended as to be a sufficient objection to proceeding. In the entire absence of all experience of the cost of such structures in this part of the country, both among scientific men and mechanics, it cannot be matter of surprise, or of blame, that such new work should be expensive; or that if the thing were to be done over again, it could be done for a smaller sum. The Corporation were not the only one of the many parties concerned who were ignorant of the expense of an observatory; but they were the only persons who knew what resources they had to rely upon, to replace such advances as might be made. As these have never been stated, except in the Treasurer's reports, of which few persons take any notice, it may be well to repeat what hopes the Corporation indulge of being able to repay to the general fund the money which is, for a time, taken from it. The expectation of a profit from the sale of the land, which was purchased about ten years ago for the purposes of an observatory, has been so far realized that the entire cost, with interest, has been obtained from sales already made; and after reserving an ample quantity for the institution, there are 123,500 feet, or nearly three acres remaining, the proceeds of every foot of which should go to diminish the balance against the observatory account. Any one acquainted with the present prices of land in the vicinity of Boston, and with the peculiar advantages of that situation, will be aware

that no inconsiderable sum must be obtained, by careful management of this large property.

The present balance against the observatory includes the cost of a dwelling-house, without regard to the fact that another house, of at least equal value, was restored, by the erection of this, to the use of the college. Eight thousand dollars may, therefore, be equitably deducted from the account, and putting the two things together, the formidable balance may be reduced to about one-third of its present amount. It is not altogether improbable that the remainder may be wiped off by a liberality similar to that which began the undertaking. Indeed, if the institution be so managed as to continue the favorable regard the public now feel for it, it may be considered a certainty that some generous individual, or individuals, will arise, who will relieve the college from any fear of future reproach on that account. That it has been in a condition to acquire such favor among ourselves, and so high a reputation already, elsewhere, is owing to the free expenditure which has placed it in working order, and has enabled the Messrs. Bond to exert their talents and skill in their appropriate and noble work. The expenditure, therefore, was not less necessary, as a financial measure, than it was to promote the progress of science; and surely some effort is due from the college to foster undertakings which "challenge the admiration and support of every well-informed lover of his race, every well-wisher to the highest interests of mankind," when the whole community around them is actively interested, and urging them to do their part in the project.

The next topic with the reviewer is that "they multiply inordinately its occasions for appealing to public munificence." As no especial injury seems likely to befall the college, if this be so, it may be safely left to the consideration of the judicious. If the reviewer imagines that the public would be less wearied by the applications of half a dozen various institutions, than by those of one, in which they had long been accustomed to repose confidence, for different objects, he has less experience than some of his neighbors, in the practice of begging of the public, and must have had less opportunity of observing its effects.

Another objection of the reviewer is that "they [the other institutions] become formidable rivals to those exclusively intellectual pursuits, to that love of letters and sound scholarship, to that general and liberal culture, which should be the peculiar aim of a life at college." The rivalry spoken of may be very likely to exist, but it is not precisely in the place, nor in the manner, implied by the reviewer. The professional and scientific schools neither are, nor can they ever become, rivals of the academic department, in any direct way. They are for entirely different purposes, and pursue their objects in methods each different from the other, and from that of the college. They are for different classes of students, of very diverse ages and character; and they have instructors who, from the inherent incongruity in their subjects of teaching, can never interfere with those of the college. Where then is the rivalry? It may be that a law school, or a scientific school, may rival the college in the estimate of the public of the relative importance of

the studies pursued, or of the merits and rank of those who have been educated in them. And a rivalry of this sort, if it arise, will do no manner of harm, but, on the contrary, much good to each institution, to its students, and its professors. Those who feel a particular interest in either of these elevated and necessary means of education, will have an opportunity of contributing to it according to their means; and there is no fear that either will languish, comparatively, in this community; while the different opinions entertained of the relative importance of each, will tend to correct the over-estimate which every man is apt to make of his own pursuit. None will be tempted to say to the other, "I have no need of thee," nor will any man again compare an institution for any branch of education, with one for cotton-spinning.

Finally the reviewer says these institutions, "though often seemingly successful at the outset, subsequently become in many cases a dead weight and an encumbrance, injuring the good name of the college, and lessening its means of usefulness."

One would think from the terms "often" and "in many cases," that there might be some scores of institutions, thus dragging the college down to ignominy and disaster. In fact, there are just four schools which are under the management of the Corporation, beside what is called now the academic department, and which, for substance, was the original college; and these four schools have otherwise no more to do with each other, or the college, than if they were in different counties, and cannot, therefore, injure its good name, or lessen its usefulness. Two of them are remarkably successful,

and reflect honor upon the college and upon all connected with them, by their well-earned reputation; the third succeeds as well as the limited demand for its instruction probably permits, and has certainly not been wanting in reputation for the ability and learning of its professors; while the fourth has just begun to exist, and nothing ought to be said of it, but that it starts under the most favorable auspices imaginable, and does not threaten, as yet, to be "a dead weight," upon either the reputation or the funds of the college.

A fifth school, that for Agriculture, founded by the late Mr. Bussey, is, at a future day, to be under the same management; and as this is to be in another county, and will give no trouble to any one but the Corporation, it seems unnecessary to prophecy evil of the institution, merely because, a generation or two hence, it is to be under the general control of that body. Let us at least hope that the Corporation of the day will find some means of making it useful to the public, and not injurious to the college.

The reviewer remarks,—"How much of the time, care and effort, which the President and the Corporation would otherwise have given to the undergraduate department, have been absorbed during the last ten years by the Observatory, we have no means of estimating. They are but seven mortal men, after all; most of them are deeply engaged in very laborious professions, and it is to be presumed that they find the management of the college no sinecure." Of course it is no sinecure; but neither is it any such burden that men of active minds and willing hearts, cannot find opportunity to attend faithfully and sufficiently to all

its duties, without sacrificing the interests of one department to those of another ; and the insinuation that such may be the case, however cautiously expressed, is quite unworthy of the journal in which it appears, and of the character of the gentlemen referred to.

The amount of the burden upon the five Fellows, as they are called in the charter of the college, may be, in some degree, estimated by the number of meetings held in a year, which, for the five years from 1843 to 1847 inclusive, has averaged twenty-four and one-fifth. It is not often that the business before the Corporation requires the attention or time of the Fellows in the intervals between the meetings, and the amount required of them is therefore from four to five hours a month. The President and the Treasurer must give more ; the former, of course, devotes almost his whole time, and the Treasurer must appropriate a considerable proportion both of time and thought, to the concerns of the college. But they are both salaried officers ; at least, one has been so till within about twenty years, and must probably again receive a compensation hereafter, and the other has always been so ; and there is no reason why they should not, on the contrary, it is quite necessary that they should give as much time and thought as possible to so valuable an institution.

The increase in the labors of the board by the establishment of the distinct schools, may be judged of, with some degree of fairness, by the increase in the frequency of their meetings. Thirty years ago, when there was no professional school connected with the college, but the Medical, and that was only beginning to be important, the average number of meetings in

five years was twenty-two; showing an increase of just one-tenth in the amount of business caused by the annexation of the Theological, Law, and Scientific Schools, and the great enlargement of the Medical department. It is to be hoped that "seven mortal men" may long continue to be found, who will be able and willing conscientiously and fully to attend to the wants and interests of all the departments, in the general way that the Corporation are called upon to provide for them.

With a passing compliment to the founder of a whole department of the Scientific School, the reviewer has yet nothing but fault to find with it. He acknowledges "it is an experiment, its objects and arrangements making it really the first of its kind in the world," yet he says it borrows its professors from other departments, makes the senior class pay for lectures they formerly attended gratis, and has not yet furnished the only professor whose department is new at the college, that of engineering. He comes to the reluctant conclusion, in view of these facts, "that the Scientific School as yet is a tremendous burden upon the college, and yields to it no advantage or profit whatsoever." Upon what part of the college can it be a burden? *As yet*, clearly upon the Corporation only; and if they are willing to submit to it, and have even interested themselves to procure its establishment, this is a very superfluous lamentation over their trouble. As for the borrowing of the professors of the academic department, it will be time enough to complain of that, when the undergraduates are defrauded of the due proportion of attention from them. The lectures of the Rumford Professor, formerly delivered to the senior

class, were not of importance enough to require serious mention in such a connection. Those lectures, honorable to the professors, as they were, and valuable in other spheres, as they would have been, were not particularly adapted to the improvement of undergraduates; and the senior class has, in fact, suffered no loss, by the transfer of the professor to the Scientific School.

In another part of the article there is a complaint somewhat inconsistent with this; and if it were just, the reviewer himself would be compelled to acknowledge that the removal of the Rumford scientific course to another department was not only on the whole advisable, but a positive and great gain. "So many of the natural sciences have been crowded and jammed into the course of instruction, that the students are wearied and distracted by the number of the heterogeneous tasks imposed upon them, and learn nothing thoroughly. The old-fashioned studies have not been given up altogether; but they have been pushed into a corner, and the student has his option with regard to many (!) of them during a large part of his college course, whether he will pursue them or not. The professors undertake to instruct *in omni scibile* (? *i*); the students get a smattering of every thing and a knowledge of nothing." Alas, poor students! What a miserable place of education is Harvard College! The governors have established so many schools, that your faculties are confused by being obliged to attend upon them all in your four short years, and at the same time you are cheated of your rights, by having your professors, those who were appointed to instruct you, borrowed by the Scientific School. The reviewer seems to imagine all this to be



the case, as it is difficult to account for those sentences upon any other idea. But the truth is, the subjects of study in the academic department remain the same as they were thirty years ago, except that a little more time is given to Botany, Physiology, and Modern Languages, and some attention is paid in the senior year, which, thirty years ago, was not sufficiently occupied, to Political Economy and the Constitution of the United States. Are these moderate additions sufficient to thrust the proper academic studies into a corner, and subject the professors to the charge of attempting to teach every thing, and the students to the obloquy of learning nothing? So far is this from being true, that it is known to every friend of the college, that partly in consequence of the increased requisitions for admission, and partly in consequence of the greater vigor with which the studies are pursued, a better knowledge of Greek, Latin, and Mathematics, is obtained in the first two years than was acquired, thirty years ago, in the whole four; and after this is done, the students are allowed to pursue them still farther, if they choose to do so. If students were permitted to determine for themselves whether they would attend at all to Latin, Greek, and Mathematics, or not, there might be some ground of complaint on the subject; but really, when they obtain what has heretofore been considered a sufficient acquaintance with such things, earlier and more thoroughly than formerly, it seems hard that both officers and students should be exposed to such extremely reproachful language from a professed friend. Every well-informed friend of the college knows that the attainments of the undergraduates, in

all appropriate academic studies, are far higher and more thorough now than they were thirty years ago, though they were not contemptible then, — that the officers of instruction were never more competent, faithful and zealous, and never more deserving of a word of encouragement, rather than of rebuke.

The reviewer shows a certain indistinctness of perception, or is guilty of carelessness in the use of language, in another sentence in this connection. “A young man with no previous training but a common English education, may now *enter the college*, as a “special student in chemistry.” Indeed he can do no such thing. He may enter the scientific school; but that is a very different thing from entering the college, and there is no danger of their being confounded together by most people. The distinction is generally pretty clearly perceived. “The question is,” adds the reviewer, “whether a college or university is just the place where facilities ought to be offered for its attainment.” A college, for the preparatory education of the young, is clearly not a proper place for the thorough study of chemistry; and therefore the governors of the college have been anxious to provide a separate school, where, in compliance with the public demand, proper facilities for it might be afforded. That a university is not elsewhere deemed an inappropriate place for such instruction, is evinced by the fact that the London University provides for exactly such a department.

The reviewer has made two statements among others, in figures, which, though not so important as the subjects already discussed, yet require correction; both because many persons will catch up charges against

the college, in the department of finance, who will care nothing about the rest, and because the reviewer himself requires and expects accuracy even in estimates, and points out the difference between the estimate of the cost of Gore Hall, and its ultimate cost. He says that in consequence of "its size and *grandiose* construction, \$750 have to be annually expended for the fuel that it requires." It so happens that in the last annual statement of the Treasurer, such a sum as that, namely, \$752.72 is charged to the Library for fuel. If he had taken the trouble to look back for a few years, however, he would have found it much less; and the average of the last four years, certainly a nearer approach to the true *annual* charge, than that of a single year, is \$397.13, or not much more than half of the sum he stated. Would it be just to say of the reviewer's statements, as he says in relation to the college estimates of Gore Hall, *ex uno disce omnia*? Again, in speaking of the expenses of the college, he says that in 1835, the "general expenses," not including salaries, were but \$4,843; last year they amounted to \$7,374. The sum of \$4,843.34 is the amount called expenses by the Treasurer of that year, but on the next page of the account (page 12) are five items, all of which would now be included in the expense account, and would make it nearly six hundred dollars more, and another on page 8, which would add four hundred and seventy dollars more. But it is not by the expenditure of a single year that such items can be properly understood. If the average of the expense account of the years 1830-1-2 be compared with the average of 1845-6-7, it will be found that the difference is but

about one-half of that which seems to exist between 1835 and 1847. Again, the reviewer has nearly doubled the amount which he should have stated. Just inferences cannot be drawn from exaggerated premises. The expense account has not always been made up in the same manner, but the two accounts of repairs and expenses now include the same items that were charged upon both in 1835; and the sum of them in that year was \$10,657.39, and in 1848, \$10,797.36. The average of the two accounts for 1830-1-2, was \$10,687.69, and for the years 1846-7-8, it was \$11,427.80, showing an increase of \$740.11, which will hardly be considered as a very extravagant increase in sixteen years.

The reviewer mentions the circumstance that the number of students has not increased in the last thirty years, as one of those facts "significant and unwelcome to the friends of the college; . . . but none the less *facts*." Now, of what is this fact significant? One almost inevitably infers, notwithstanding his acknowledgment that "these facts may all be accounted for without imputing blame to any one," from the very *significant* way in which he enumerates them, that in his judgment they are not only facts, but faults; and that if the college had been rightly managed, they would not have existed. But of what is this particular fact, that the number of undergraduates has not increased, significant? The reviewer himself tells us, a page or two farther on, that "the *sole reason* why they [the halls of the college] are not thus crowded is the great expense of living as a student at Cambridge. For vastly the larger number of the youth of Massachusetts, the effect

of this high cost is just the same as if the institution were a thousand miles off. There the college is, — an admirable institution, and an education within its walls is very desirable; but they are not able to take so long a journey.” Is it possible? Can this last sentence have been written by the same pen which traced the declaration before quoted, that “the students are wearied and distracted by the number of the heterogeneous tasks imposed upon them, and learn nothing thoroughly. The old-fashioned studies have not been given up altogether, but they have been pushed into a corner. . . . The professors undertake to instruct in *omni scibile*; the students get a smattering of every thing and a knowledge of nothing?” It will require all the ingenuity of the reviewer to show these assertions to be consistent with each other; and it may be fairly asked, to which he will adhere. It has been the object of this letter to show on which side is the truth — to show that the students have not been so ill-treated and unsuccessful, that the faculty have not been so unwise, that the governors of the college, the Corporation and Overseers, have not so mismanaged the institution through long years, and many generations, as the reviewer represents; that he is entirely mistaken in some of the assertions which he considers assertions of facts, and that he brings forward other statements very much in the form and semblance of charges and accusations, at least, if he do not mean them for such, when in truth, the things of which he complains are among the deeds and events most honorable to the college in every way; to the forecast and liberality of its

patrons, the assiduity and unsparing efforts of its instructors, and the care of its supervisors to adapt it, as far as possible, to the wants of their time. He has undoubtedly told the truth, and the whole truth necessary to explain the fact, in the assertion that the *sole reason* why Harvard College is not more frequented, is the great expense of living there as a student. If he had contented himself with showing this, and with advocating the plan for a remedy of the evil which he has ably discussed in the last pages of his article, the college would have had substantial reason to be grateful to him for his valuable aid. But he has set in array a series of statements, which, as he himself says, "give a rude shock to our feeling of affectionate admiration for our *Alma Mater*;" and he has done it without any prospect of being useful; for if they be faults or errors, they are irremediable; and as they are not likely to be repeated,—as there are probably no more "other institutions" to be connected with Harvard College, they can serve no purpose as a warning to anybody. He has made assertions which are injurious, and which have now been shown to be unfounded, especially those with respect to the faculty and the students; and though these are inconsistent with other assertions in the same article, yet there can be little doubt that they will leave their sting behind, and that ancient prejudices will be stimulated and embittered by them, and new ones created where none existed before.

You, Mr. President, know whether you have been associated, for many years, with indiscreet Professors, and unimproving pupils, or not; and I trust your

future association with the Corporation and Overseers will enable you to see that they have not, either by design, by carelessness, or by incapacity, smothered Harvard College "under a heap of other institutions, which have as much to do with the original purpose for which it was founded as with cotton-spinning." You will be in a position, yourself, to do much, in case of danger, to prevent the college hereafter from "suffering the fate of the Roman maiden, Tarpeia, and being crushed by the weight of the ornaments of brass, simulating gold, which are heaped upon it." And it is the ardent hope of every friend of Harvard that you may enter on your new career of duty with the cheerful expectation of being useful to a rising institution, and not discouraged by the lamentation that "it is actually poorer, weaker, and less efficient than it was many years ago." If I have contributed any thing to strengthen your faith, and that of other friends of the college, in its stability and progress, to increase the love of the alumni for the good it has effected in times past, and the yet greater good which may be hoped for in time to come, I shall have effected my purpose, and shall be ready to go on, with new zeal, in the performance of the responsible duty in which I shall be associated with you, as

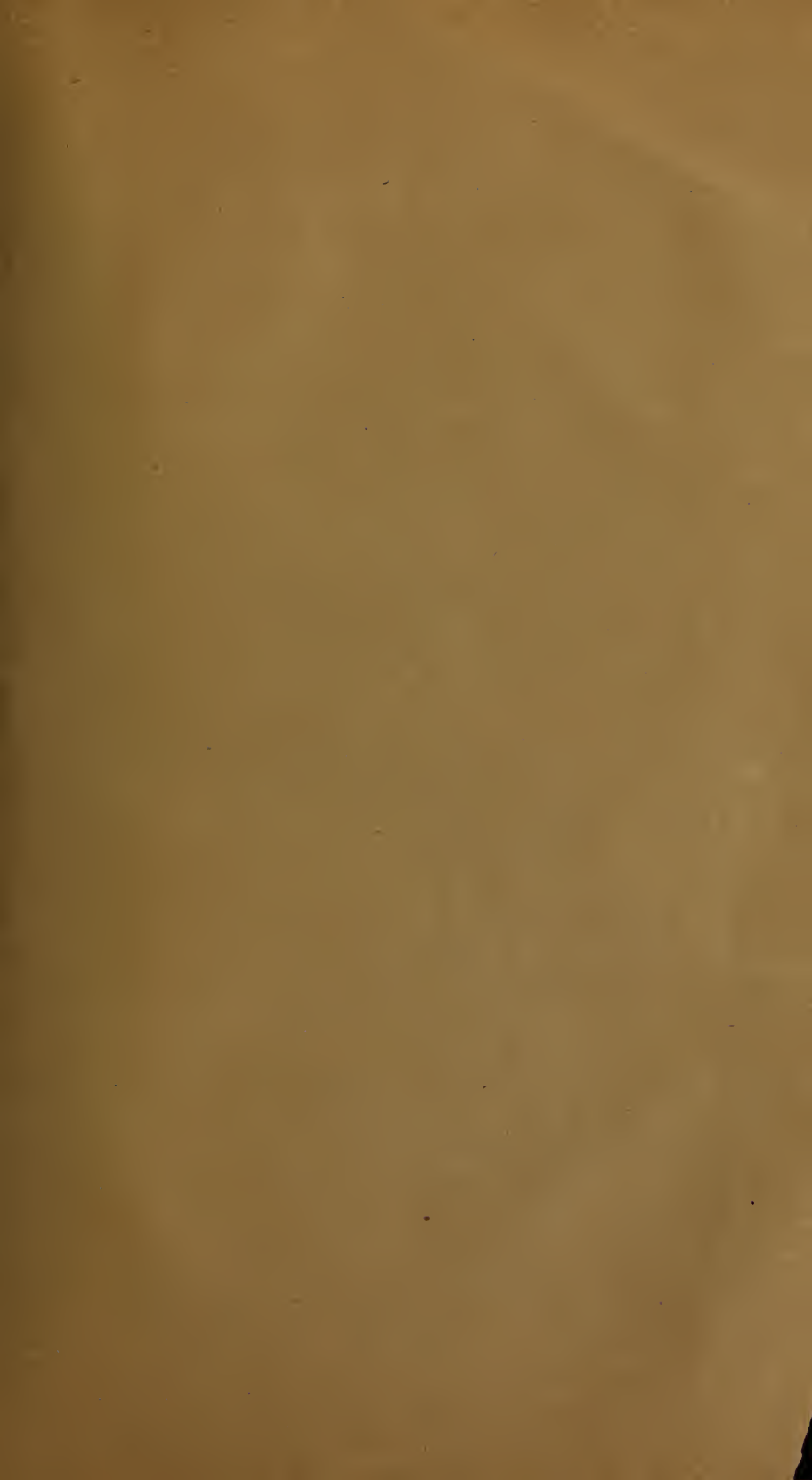
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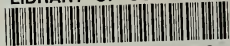








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